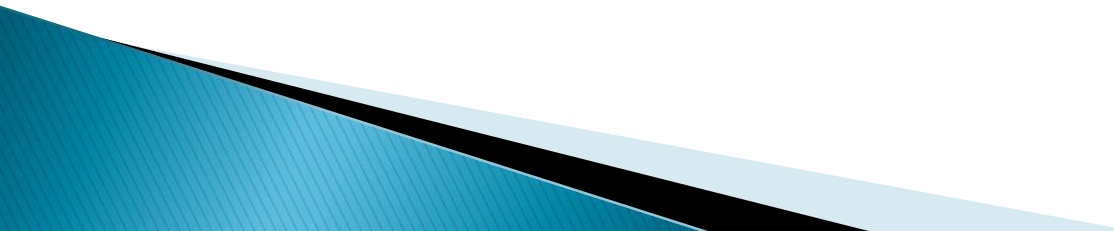
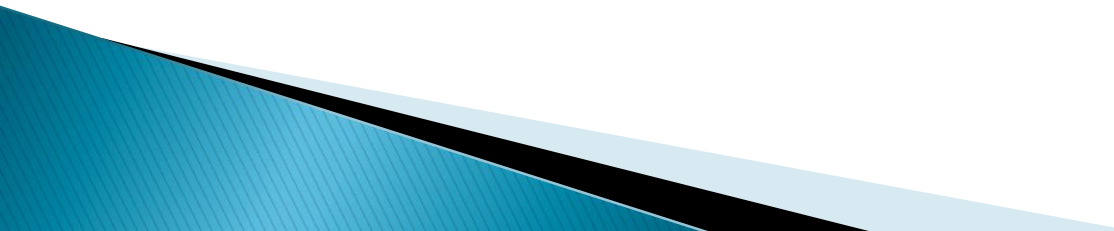


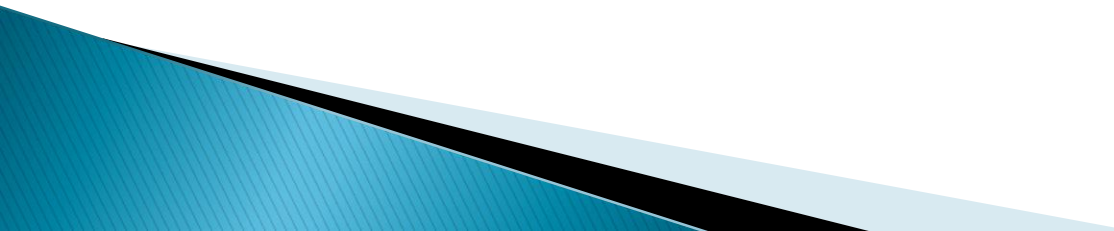
Club & County Relationships

- ▶ Snowmobile Trails Aids Program
 - ▶ DNR website: Snowmobile Trail Aids
 - ▶ <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SnowmobileTrails.html>
 - ▶ Guidelines for the Snowmobile Trail Aids Program
 - ▶ <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/cf/CA0002.pdf>
- 

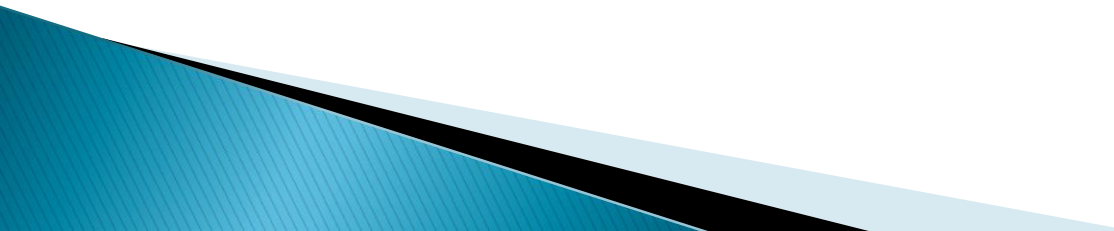
Snowmobile Trail Aids Program requires County involvement

- ▶ Only Counties or Tribes can apply for grants
 - ▶ Allowed under S.23.09(26) Aids to Counties for Snowmobile Purposes
 - ▶ This is not an entitlement program for clubs – Clubs need to be responsible
 - ▶ Grant program to reimburse clubs for work that benefits the trail system
 - ▶ Funded by revenue collected by the state from the snowmobiling public
 - ▶ Rules have to be followed!
- 

Responsibilities of the County


- ▶ County Board resolution and application required on or before April 15
 - ▶ Maintain a trail system map in GIS format
 - ▶ County provides a Coordinator
 - ▶ Provides liability Insurance
 - ▶ Counties contract with Clubs/Associations
 - ▶ County can decide who they contract with
 - ▶ Grant funds are distributed through the County Government
- 

Additional County Requirements

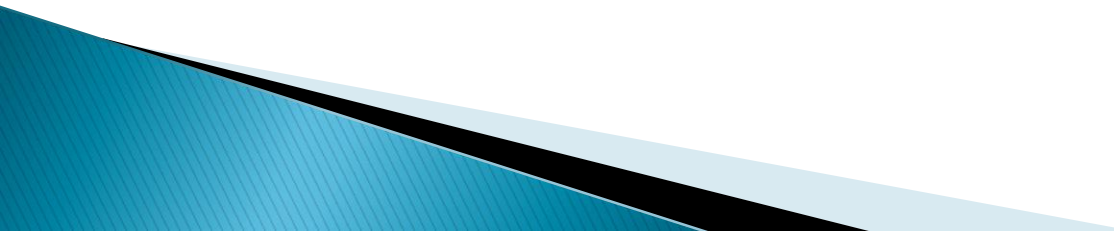
- ▶ County has final approval of SNARS entries
 - ▶ Certification that all easements, permits and agreements are secured
 - ▶ Are encouraged to inspect trails and signage
 - ▶ Submit project applications
(bridges, trail rehabilitation and new miles)
 - ▶ Grants are awarded to the county
 - ▶ All bridges, structures and signs purchased by program are county property
- 

**Counties can enter into
contracts with Individual Clubs
or
with a County Alliance or
Grooming Association**

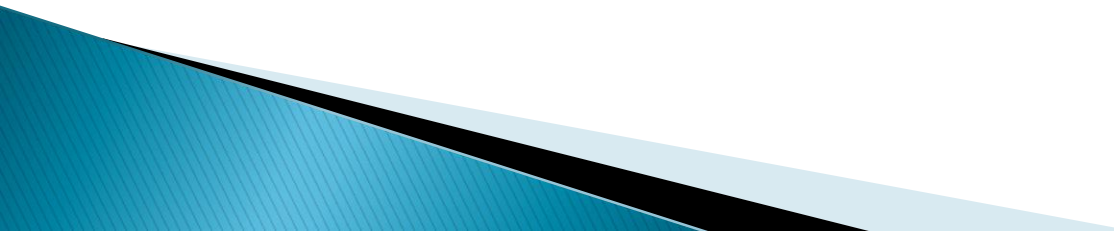
How individual clubs operate and the benefits

- ▶ Clubs own and operate equipment
 - ▶ Local decision when to groom
 - ▶ Clubs receive all funding
 - ▶ Clubs can be large scale too – multiple groomers
 - ▶ Clubs deal directly with the County
- 


How County Grooming Associations operate & benefits

- ▶ Consist of multiple clubs (some or all)
 - ▶ Alliance owns equipment
 - ▶ Club members sign, brush and contact landowners
 - ▶ How funding is shared varies
 - ▶ Improved efficiencies
 - ▶ More options for grooming
 - ▶ Allows for better Equipment
- 

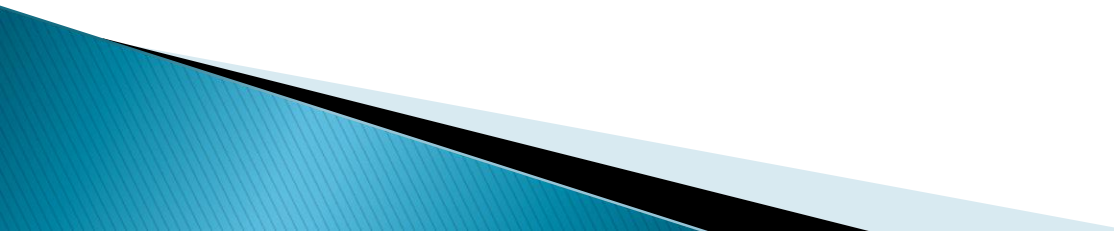
Working with your County Coordinator

- ▶ For many coordinators this is a part time position
 - ▶ They have other jobs in the county
 - ▶ Many have little knowledge about our program
 - ▶ Encourage your coordinator to meet regularly with clubs
- 

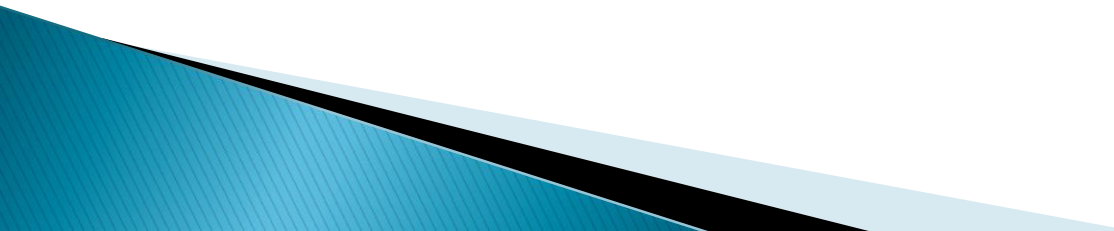
Liability

- ▶ **County Insurance**
 - Counties carry a liability policy
 - Is fundable through the program
 - ▶ **Club/County Assoc. Insurance**
 - Liability required– Protects club
 - Comprehensive – Insures equipment and buildings
 - Not fundable
 - Representation if club or landowners would be named in lawsuit
- 

Landowner Immunity

- ▶ WI Statutes 895.52 – Recreational Immunity Statute
 - ▶ Protects Landowners
 - Landowner Partnership Letter
 - ▶ Protects Counties/Clubs too
 - ▶ Are considered “occupiers” or “occupants” with landowner permission
- 

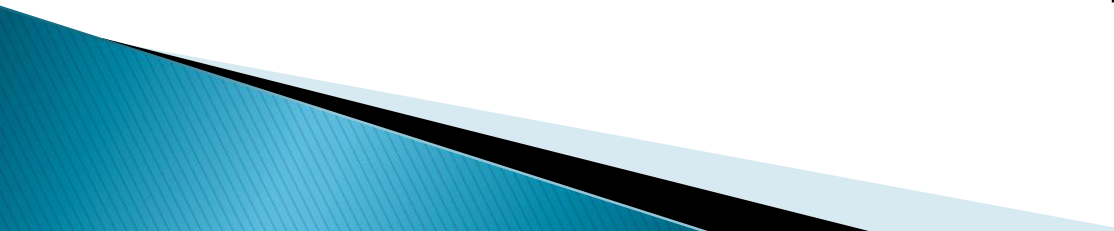
Examples of Case Precedence

- ▶ Smith v. Sno Eagles Snowmobile Club, Inc, 1987
 - ▶ Messman v. Kettle Range Snow Riders, Inc, 1996
 - ▶ Oberman v. Dane County, et al 1998
 - ▶ Florence County case pending
 - ▶ Many cases are dismissed
- 


Landowner Agreements

- ▶ Written agreements – advantages
 - Many Counties require
 - Includes location of property and Owner's name & address
 - Protects clubs and landowners
 - Protects Landowners property & removal of vegetation/trees
 - Defines County owned property such as bridges, signs, etc.
 - Addresses opening/closing dates

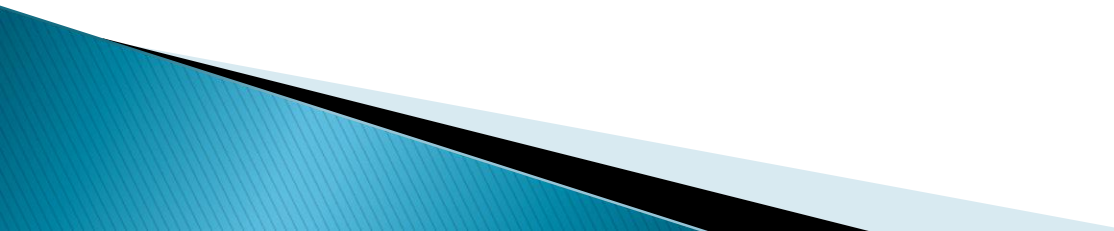
Landowner Agreements

- ▶ Verbal agreements
 - Are Allowed
 - Need documentation/certification
 - ▶ Secure landowner permission before trail placement & work
 - ▶ TRAILS ARE NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR LANDOWNERS
 - ▶ Treat them with respect
- 

Contracts with Counties

- ▶ Written by County Attorneys – vary widely
 - ▶ Contracts can be with each Club or with Alliances/Grooming Associations
 - ▶ May Include:
 - Trails covered by contract
 - Contract period
 - Landowner permission acquisition procedures
 - Reporting in SNARS and reimbursement rates
 - Maintenance responsibilities and requirements
 - Requirement for proof of insurance
 - Indemnification clause protecting the County
 - ▶ Should not hold individuals responsible
- 

DNR Contracts for State Properties

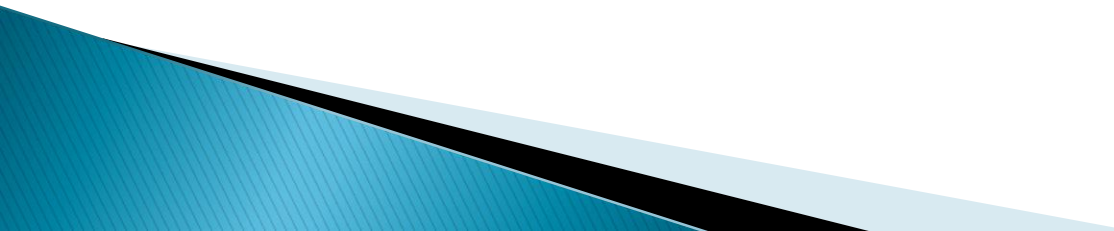
- ▶ Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Contract, Form 2200-125
 - ▶ Requires a Snowmobile Land Use Permit, Form 2200-114
 - ▶ Should include a review of the trail – before and after season
- 

Trail Opening & Closing Procedures

- ▶ Requires communication between clubs
- ▶ Set up a procedure in advance
- ▶ Notification of the public
- ▶ Notify proper County agencies
 - County Law Enforcement
 - DNR Wardens
- ▶ Use the Travel Wisconsin Website
- ▶ Can help eliminate trespassing & ease landowner concerns

County Law Enforcement Program

- ▶ How to get your Sherriff Dept involved
 - County Rec Officers is funded by Snowmobile program
 - Program manual
<https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/le/LE503.pdf>
- ▶ Importance of Communication with County Law Enforcement and DNR wardens

- ▶ Put personalities aside, we all need to work together!
 - ▶ Communication!
Communication!
Communication!
- 

QUESTIONS?