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April 6, 2005

Facsimile and U.S. Mail

Chuck Spoden, Regional Director
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1201 East Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Mr. Spoden:

To reiterate our outstanding request for data submitted to you on December 7, 2004 and to summarize review of this request from yesterday's telephone conversation, MRR requests data under the Minnesota Data Practices Act described and enumerated below:

I. The landowner permission list provided MRR by your office on 10/11/04 (included in packet mailed to you yesterday) contains the names of at least two landowners who never gave written permission for the trail to cross their land, several who withdrew their permission in years prior and some who are deceased. Property owners who have or have had the trail on their land are not on the current list. Despite the lack of a bona-fide landowner list, as required in signed grant-in-aid agreements, the DNR has been disbursing state trail funds to the Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club for many years. The following data is requested:

- a. **Copy of the most current list of landowners whose property is crossed by snowmobile trail for which the Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club receives state funds**
- b. **Copies of all signed affidavits from landowners whose property is crossed by snowmobile trail for which the Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club receives state funds**
- c. **Copy of DNR policy for verifying that written landowner permission has actually been granted, received and submitted by snowmobile or ATV clubs before DNR staff approve Minnesota Trail Assistance Program Grant-in-Aid Applications and Agreements and disburse state funds**
- d. **Copy of DNR policy regarding the public funding of snowmobile and ATV clubs when it is discovered that a club receiving these funds is out of compliance with state grant-in-aid requirements and agreements**
- e. **Copy of DNR policy regarding the public funding of snowmobile and ATV clubs when it is discovered that a club receiving these funds is found to have submitted inaccurate or false information**
- f. **Copies of any Minnesota statutes governing the DNR disbursement of state trail funds to snowmobile and ATV clubs**

II. Regarding disbursements to Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club we request the following data:

- a. **Copies of signed Snowmobile Trail Assistance Program Grant Applications for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004**

- b. **Copies of all snowmobile trail grooming logs submitted by the Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004**
 - c. **Copies of all *Requests for Reimbursements* submitted by the club for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004**
 - d. **Copies of all DNR checks or other disbursements to the Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004**
 - e. **Copies of any DNR communications (including letters, e-mail and meeting notes) with the Hermantown Nightriders Snowmobile Club regarding compliance or lack of compliance with grant-in-aid agreements**
- III. Regarding proposed development of a permanent “missing link” state snowmobile trail between the Munger State Trail and North Shore State Trail we request the following:
- a. **List of all permanent easements or copies of individual permanent easements purchased by the DNR including addresses and other contact information for each property and property owner and date and dollar amount of purchase. Be sure to include all permanent easements purchased in Hermantown, Rice Lake Township, the City of Duluth and any other community.**
 - b. **Copies of all communications (including letters, e-mail and meeting notes) generated since October 1, 2004 within the DNR regarding development of a permanent state snowmobile trail**
 - c. **Copies of all communications (including letters, e-mail and meeting notes) generated since October 1, 2004 between the DNR, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and members of the Hermantown Snowmobile Trail Committee**
 - d. **Copies of any list or notes containing data regarding landowners who have been, are being or will be approached to sell a permanent easement. Be sure to include data on all property owners that have been, are being or will be approached in Hermantown, Rice Lake Township, the City of Duluth and any other community.**
 - e. **Copies of all communications (including letters, e-mail and meeting notes) generated since October 1, 2004 between the DNR and property owners the DNR is approaching or has approached regarding the purchase of permanent easements across such properties for the purpose of developing a permanent state snowmobile trail. Be sure to include data on all property owners that have been, are being or will be approached in Hermantown, Rice Lake Township, the City of Duluth and any other community.**
- IV. Many property owners who have withdrawn their permission for a temporary snowmobile trail cite the noise, bad behavior, fumes and extreme speeds of snowmobilers as well as trespass on their property. Finding a single linear string of property owners to sell permanent easements for a state snowmobile trail will subject adjacent property owners (many who may have the trail in close proximity to their homes) and whole neighborhoods to these unwanted effects. We request the following data:
- a. **Copies of DNR policies that require DNR staff to consider the needs and concerns of property owners adjacent to land on which temporary or permanent snowmobile and/or ATV trails are sited**

Please call me at 218-740-3175 with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brown
Executive Director