

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES – LICENSING DIVISION**

Teleconference Locations:

2nd Floor, Conference Room A
2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan 48864-5955

AND

1504 West Washington Street, Suite B, Marquette, Michigan 49855

**SKI AREA SAFETY BOARD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

October 3, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended, the Ski Area Safety Board met in Regular Session on October 3, 2008 at the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services, 2nd Floor, Conference Room A, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan, 48864; and by teleconference at the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services, 1504 West Washington, Suite B, Marquette, Michigan, 49855.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Call at 1:03 p.m.

Present:	Michael S. Call	Chairperson
	William C. Topham	Vice-Chairperson
	James P. Kiefer	Member
	Vernon S. Barber	Member
	A. James Vander Spoel	Member
	Joel Woods	Member
Absent:	Richard D. Starkey	Member
Staff:	Joyce A. Karr	Director of Licensing
	Ann Millben	Licensing Administrator
	Lori Porubsky	Assistant Administrator
	Angela Diro	Secretary
	Barrington Carr	Acting Director of Enforcement
	D. Mark Doman, P.E.	Inspection Manager
Visitors:	Tim Cypher	Ski Trikke

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD MAY 9, 2008

MOTION: After discussion, Mr. Topham moved to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2008 meeting. Mr. Woods seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Legislative Update

Ms. Millben provided the board with a copy of the new Administrative Rules now in effect. Mr. Call stated that Senator Pappageorge has a bill in front of the Natural Resources Committee. If there is a Public Hearing regarding this bill he felt, that some members of the Ski Area, Mr. Doman and himself should attend. Mr. Kiefer stated that he concurs with Mr. Call that he and Mr. Doman should attend.

Mr. Doman believes that the timing is impractical to fully comply with the rule changes this year, but would like to encourage ski areas to comply as much as possible this year. Mr. Woods stated that giving them a year to comply is similar to the situation with the changes to the ANSI signs. Mr. Topham asked if the Ski Areas have been notified. Mr. Doman replied that they have not yet been notified, that he would be writing a letter to them explaining the changes. Ms. Millben asked what financial burden would be imposed on ski areas due to the changes. Mr. Doman replied that the financial burden would come from developing and implementing a training program as well as additional equipment need. Mr. Woods stated that ski areas would have problems when it comes to finding flashers and alarms that will work on snowmobiles. Ms. Millben stated that non-compliance would be handled on a case by case basis.

Enforcement

Ski Trikke Statement

The information package distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting contained a draft reply to Mr. Cypher regarding Skki Trikke that was brought up at the May 9, 2008, Board Meeting. This deals with whether or not a user of the Skki Trikke at Michigan ski

areas could be defined as a skier. Mr. Cypher was present to address the Board. He stated that there have been two changes to the Skki Trikke. First, the leash has been shortened from six feet to four feet and the belt attaches to the 3-point portion of the Skki Trikke. Additionally the belt is now a 2-inch wide ballistic nylon belt. Mr. Call asked for Mr. Doman's opinion, Mr. Doman replied that he would like to evaluate the Skki Trikke in a mock situation on a lift. Mr. Woods believes that Mr. Doman and Inspector Pettyjohn should evaluate the Skki Trikke now that the additional safety devices have been added. Mr. Kiefer believes that the decision to allow Skki Trikkes should be made by each ski area and suggested changes to the letter. Mr. Doman confirmed that the decision made by the individual Ski Areas. Mr. Woods stated that Skki Trikke fits the definition of a skier and that lifts could operate at full speed. Ms. Millben confirmed that the Board has accepted Mr. Doman's opinion.

Statistics

Mr. Doman discussed the season summary. He noted that there were currently 53 ski areas operating in Michigan. He added that 3 would be combining but operating separately, Big Snow Resorts, Blackjack and Big Powderhorn.

Mr. Doman stated that 1.5 areas are to reopen, Hiawatha Slopes and Shanty Creek (Summit) side of Schuss/Shanty. He added that there are three new lifts, two chairlifts have been removed, six formerly non-operating lifts are scheduled to reopen and, three non-operating lifts that will not reopen. Mr. Doman stated that there are a total of 304 operating lifts for the 2008-2009 season.

Mr. Doman pointed out that there is a problem with broken studs on flanged Riblet Tower Bases and the Department is working with the areas to evaluate the situation in Michigan. To date 61 of 135 operating fixed grip chair lifts are Riblets, one third (41 lifts) are expected to have tower base flange bolts based on knowledge and the data in load test reports, 5 lifts are unknown at this time and as many as 600 towers are potentially affected. Inspections are being reported to the Department.

Green Circle Trail Marking "Easier" or "Easiest"

Mr. Doman brought up a question from Tim Meyers and Chris Williams regarding the trail marking terms "Easier" or "Easiest". He investigated and found that areas in Michigan use both the terms as the degree of difficulty in wording that go with the green circle symbol. The Statutory Rule 408.81(2) (5) term is "Easiest" and the State needs to require ski areas use "Easiest" the next time they replace signs. Mr. Doman said the he and the inspectors can talk about implementing this at their meeting on October 24, 2008.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Woods asked if it could be researched as to whether terrain parks are included in the present act. If it is not, could the Board propose a change to the act? Mr. Doman stated that they were considered in the signage portion of the act. Mr. Kiefer stated that if it was necessary an Attorney General Opinion could be requested. After discussion, the Board decided to create a sub-committee to include Mr. Woods, Mr. Vander Spoel, Mr. Topham and Mr. Doman.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was motioned by Mr. Woods and seconded by Mr. Kiefer that Mr. Call remain as Chairperson and Mr. Topham remain as Vice-Chairperson the motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The 2009 meeting dates for the Ski Area Safety board will be on April 24, 2009 and October 2, 2009 both at 1:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Woods moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Topham seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

_____/s/_____
Michael S. Call, Chairperson

_____4/24/2009_____
Date

_____/s/_____
Ann Millben, Licensing Administrator

_____4/24/2009_____
Date