



Off-Road Vehicle Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020
Dale's Weston Lanes, Weston, Wisconsin
And via Zoom, MediaSite

Council Members Present: Rob McConnell – Chair, Adam Harden – Vice Chair, Dave Traczyk, Jim Wisneski, Bobby Donahue, Mike Biese (via Zoom), Dan Thole
DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Cathy Burrow, and connecting by Zoom - Ed Slaminski, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci, Kurt Byfield, Faith Murray
Public attendance: members of the public

1. **Call to order at 8:30 am**
2. **Agenda Repair**
 - None
3. **Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting**

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Jim, 2nd by Dan. MOTION PASSED

4. **Chair Comments**
 - Vice Chair Adam Harden – Thank you all for your participation.
5. **Public Participation**
 - **WATVA (Randy Harden)**
 - UTV weight and width continues to be an issue, dealers are selling vehicles that can't be registered in Wisconsin. Legislation may be introduced to increase the allowable weight, but width is unlikely to change.
 - Speed has also been an issue on the trails. On routes, speed limit is as posted for vehicles unless posted otherwise.
 - Annual meeting has been moved to April 2021.
6. **DNR Reports and Updates**
 - **GRANT REPORT**
 - **HANDOUTS**
 - Fiscal Year End Report for FY20
 - ATV/UTV Development Funding Available for FY21
 - Vehicle Registration Summary for Last 5 Years
 - Spreadsheet of FY21 Grant Requests
 - Grant requests exceed the amount of available grant funds under the spending cap this year. The funds exist in the account but we cannot access them due to the Chapter 20 spending cap.
 - **LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT**
 - With the close of 2019 brings the first full year of the Dept. of Natural Resource's re-organized Recreation Warden Team. The Recreation Warden Team is comprised of 10 wardens (2 stationed in each region) who specialize in recreational vehicle crash investigation, specialized recreational vehicle enforcement, and off-highway vehicle training operations for conservation wardens. We expect the Recreation warden team to continue to provide great service to the citizens of Wisconsin.

- Wardens have realized an ever increasing number of ATVs & UTVs using Wisconsin's trails and roadway routes this year. The sport continues to expand.
- To date this year, 2020, Warden's and their partner law enforcement agencies to date investigated 14 fatal ATV incidents, 13 fatal UTV incidents, for a total of 27 fatal incidents so far this year.
 - Of the 13 fatal UTV incidents, none were wearing their seatbelts.
 - Of all the incidents only two were wearing helmets, both ATV related.
 - This compares to 22 total fatal ATV/UTV incidents in all of 2019.
- In an attempt to expand safety messaging, the Department purchased a digital message board, similar to those orange message boards used in construction zones. This will allow wardens to post safety messages in real time at trail heads and other high use areas in an attempt to reduce crashes and to provide for over-all safe ATV/UTV operation.

7. ACTION ITEM: Review of and funding recommendations for grant applications

- Below are recorded questions/comments/discussion and the motion. Details on each project available in the meeting attachments.

Grant Number	County	Discussion/Questions	Motions
Amendments			
92			Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
Unnumbered	Tri-County	\$18,077 increase request	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
Rehab			
1	Oconto	Rehab 12 Locations, split with RTP	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Mike Motion carried.
1A	Oconto	Rehab Nicolet State Trail	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
2	Oconto	Nicolet State Trail – RTP Split	Motion to approve: By: Mike, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
3	Oconto	Troute Rehab	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
4	Oneida	Little Rice Trail	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
5	Lincoln	Scenic Loop Rehab	Motion to approve: By: Bobby, 2nd: Jim Motion carried.
6	Taylor	Pine Line Rehab #4	Motion to approve: By: Mike, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
7	Taylor	Pine Line Rehab #5	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.

Grant Number	County	Discussion/Questions	Motions
8	Langlade	Neva Knight Culvert	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
9	Langlade	Hwy T Bridge	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
10	Langlade	CTH K and 153 Maple Syrup Bridge	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
11	Jackson	Crawford Hills Park. Please Report Back	Motion to approve: By: Dan, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
12	Jackson	Waterbury Rd Area	Motion to approve: By: Bobby, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
13	Burnett	Trail 45 & 121 Rehab	Motion to approve: By: Dan, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
15	Burnett	Trail 925W Re-Route	Motion to approve: By: Bobby, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
16	Burnett	Trail 130 Bridge	Motion to approve: By: Dan, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
17	Burnett	Trail 925W Bridge Replacement	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
18	Douglas	Wild River Culverts	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
19	Polk	Gandy Culvert	Motion to approve: By: Bobby, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
20	Sawyer	Trail 8 Boedecker-Seely Fire Tower	Motion to approve: By: Dan, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
21	Sawyer	Trail 5 ReRoute	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Mike Motion carried.
22	Sawyer	Trail 11. Discussion on rider preferences of smooth vs. technical in this area	Motion to approve: By: Dan, 2nd: Jim Motion carried.
23	Sawyer	Discussion over cost. County indicates trail may be shut down by Forest Service and private landowner due to trail condition.	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
24	Washburn	WRT Rehab	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.

Grant Number	County	Discussion/Questions	Motions
25	Washburn	Tranus Rehab. Discussion about in wet areas, they try to widen the trail and provide smooth and rough/wet riding opportunities side by side.	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
New Year Round Trail			
28	Sauk	SRR2	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
New Summer Trails			
29	Sauk	SRR1	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
27	Sauk	BB1	Motion to approve: By: Bobby, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
30	Oneida	US Hwy 8	Motion to approve: By: Mike, 2nd: Jim Motion carried.
31	Oneida	Cruisers Road to Woodboro	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
32	Woodboro, Town of	Woodboro Lakes Wildlife Area	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
33	Barron	Cedar Lake Ext	Motion to approve: By: Mike, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
34	Rusk	Weigor Trail. Council encourages county to also apply for RTP funds	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
35	Sawyer	Trail 3 ChitChat	Motion to approve: By: Bobby, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
36	Forest Service	Wildcat Conversion	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
New Winter Trails			
37	Oconto	Nicolet	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
38	Waupaca	Trail SE	Motion to approve: By: Bobby, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
39	Taylor	West	Motion to approve: By: Dan, 2nd: Jim Motion carried.
40	Florence	GIS Corrections	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.

Grant Number	County	Discussion/Questions	Motions
41	Lincoln	Alta Springs	Motion to approve: By: Mike, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
42	Lincoln	J to Langlade	Motion to approve: By: Mike, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
43	Clark	Trail CM	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
44	Douglas	Trail 727	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
New Trout Applications			
45	Oneida	Enterprise Block. Discussion on eligibility requirements. Trail must connect trail to trail, or trail to services. If proposed troute connects to a route that is not open to ATVs, it cannot meet that definition	Motion to approve those sections that meet definition: By: Dave, 2 nd : Bobby Motion carried.
31B	Oneida	Cruisers Rd	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
46	Taylor	Trail to trail connectors	Motion to approve: By: Jim, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.
47	Vilas	Wood Duck Lk, Snipe Lk Fire Ln. Does not appear to connect to identified services, therefore does not meet definition.	
Intensive Use Areas			
14	Barron	Rehab parking lot	Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Dan Motion carried.
New Support			
48	Florence	Restroom/Shower at West Bass Lake Campground	
49	Vilas	Phase 3 of Torch Lake Campground	Motion to fund projects 49 and 50, and set aside remaining funds for future needs: By Jim, 2nd: Dave Motion carried.
50	Douglas	Trail 4/41 Privy	
51	Shell Lake, City of	Shell Lake Campground Trailhead	
Maps			
52	Douglas		Motion to approve: By: Dave, 2nd: Bobby Motion carried.

This concludes the review of applications and funding recommendations.

8. Information and Action: Council Recommendations to DNR on Implementing Grant Funding Changes from [2019 Wisconsin Act 183](#), Legislation ATV/UTV SB-583 AB-652

New funding categories of Radio Equipment, Safety Signage and Statewide Digital Information Applications should be available for funding requests as of April 15, 2021.

Discussion on Communication Equipment – focus would be on two-way communication systems. Intent in drafting legislation was for use in trail ambassador program, but not exclusive use. Tower construction and cellular phones would not be eligible under the program.

Discussion on Safety Signage – purpose would be purchase and placement of safety signage on trails or trailheads – proper use of safety equipment, reminder about safety regulations, etc. Design and color needs to be consistent with the Signage Handbook.

Discussion on Statewide Digital App – professional labor and contracted services to develop a digital application (such as mobile app, or website). Grant funds would be for services free to user. Any paid/add-on features would have to be developed without grant funds.

9. Council member items

Dave Traczyk – Let's talk more about dust control, and the spending cap that limits the amount of the program balance that can be spent on grant projects.

Dan Thole – no comments

Jim Wisneski – Any interest in doing a SNARS equivalent for ATV? And thanks for approving the Wolf River Bridge.

Rob McConnell – Seal coating is becoming more popular, FYI

Adam Harden – Dust, speed and lack of education (helmets, etc) are an issue in the sport. Spike in users but education of those users not keeping up.

Bobby Donahue – Concerned about education of users, should begin with the dealer.

Mike Biese – Echo comments on safety and education needed with new users. Misinformation being spread on social media. More miles of trail would be ideal, though routes are also sometimes necessary.

Public Comments

Ed Slaminski (DNR) – Retiring soon, has been working with the grant programs for 13 years, and will continue to be a motorized user.

Don Mrotek (Snowmo Council) – FYI, GPS units will be required in the future, 700 units needed yet in the groomers. Thank you for your cooperation on funding joint projects.

10. Next meetings

- Ad hoc committee of the Council may meet Nov 5th to discuss the new funding categories. Meeting will be organized by members of the Council.
- Next official Council meeting will likely be in the winter of 20-21, date TBD.
- Topics for future meetings include dust control, priority ranking of new funding categories vs. existing categories, and increasing the Chapter 20 spending cap for grants.
- Need to formally approve Equipment Rates for 20-21.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Bobby, 2nd by Mike. MOTION PASSED