



Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 1st, 2021

Rib Mountain Municipal Center, Rib Mountain, Wisconsin

And via Zoom

Council Members Present: Rob McConnell (Chair), Adam Harden (Vice Chair), Mike Biese, Daniel Thole, James Wisneski

DNR Staff: Jillian Steffes, Kurt Byfield, Faith Murray, Jeff Pennucci

Public: Randy Harden (WATVA), other members of the public

1. Call to order – 10:00 AM by Rob

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Draft minutes from March 23, 2021 meeting are posted online.

Motion to approve minutes by Adam, 2nd by Jim. Motion carries.

3. Agenda Repair

None

4. Public Comments

- Randy Harden (WATVA)
 - A bill increasing the weight limit of UTVs from 2,000 lbs to 3,000 lbs has passed the Senate and Assembly, waiting for Governor's signature. MN had a similar weight bill but it was vetoed.
 - The OWI bill hearing is scheduled for next week.
 - Legislation was introduced to undo the changes recently made to address two-up vehicles, that bill may be considered in the fall.
 - Legislation was introduced to make whip lights legal again minus red and blue. That bill may be considered in the fall.
 - The state budget did not include additional funding for county rec officers.
 - The state budget did include an increase to the spending cap of approx. \$600,000. A higher increase (closer to \$1.5 million) was hoped for but not included.

5. Chair Report – Rob

- Grant requests exceed available funds (due to the spending cap) this year. Some projects may have to be funded at less than 100% this year. Cost increase requests will probably be coming in due to the increasing cost of materials, we may want to set aside money for mid-year increase requests.

6. DNR Report – Jillian

- HANDOUTS
 - ATV/UTV Registration Summary for Last 5 Years
 - Spreadsheet of FY22 Grant Requests
- More funding requests this year that we typically see – in an average year we receive requests between \$5 and \$6 million. This year, we have \$7.4 million in requests.

7. Information and Action: Trail/grant issues

a. Action required on grant, storm damage and/or amendment requests

Motion to recommend funding Langlade Co's cost increase request to ATV-4297 by Jim, 2nd by Mike. Motion carries.

b. Review ATV/UTV grant applications for completeness; request additional information if needed.

- Questions on individual projects recorded in separate document (spreadsheet of projects)

8. Council members' matters

- Discussion on the 100% cost share of campgrounds. Council members would like applicants to provide documentation on what # or % of campground users are ATV/UTV riders.

Motion to establish policy for future years that support facility applications over \$50,000 be funded at no more than 80% by Jim, 2nd by Mike. Motion carries.

- Multiple council members expressed desire to get more riders to join clubs
- Multiple council members expressed desire to see more natural terrain trails. WATVA frequently receives requests from riders wanting to know where the non-gravel trails are located. Discussion on how Jackson County is a good example of sandy trails. Discussed how to encourage these types of trails – provide higher maintenance for natural terrain trails? Could trail managers offer graveled main corridors but native soil challenge course loops?

9. Housekeeping matters

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mike, 2nd by Dan. Motion carries.