



**Off-Road Vehicle Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Zoom Meeting

Council Members Present: Rob McConnell – Chair, Adam Harden – Vice Chair, Dan Thole, Dave Traczyk, Jim Wisneski  
Council Members Not In Attendance – Bobby Donahue, Mike Biese  
DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci, Kurt Byfield, Faith Murray, Cathy Burrow  
Public attendance: Randy Harden (WATVA), Hank Wozniel (WATVA), Rebekah Luedtke (WCFA), Sandra Green (Wood Co), Holly Tomlanovich (Vilas County), and more.

1. **Call to order at 1:00 pm**
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Adam, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave. MOTION PASSED**

3. **Agenda Repair**

- None

4. **Chair Comments**

- None

5. **DNR Reports and Updates**

- Updated on current FY budget (see meeting attachments)
- New Funding Categories from Legislation ATV/UTV SB-583 AB-652
  - Department proposes that potential applicants to the new funding categories of Radio Equipment, Safety Signage and Statewide Digital Application utilize the existing grant application (with an April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline) AND a category-specific worksheet with more info on eligible expenses, intent, etc. First year will be approached as a pilot year. Draft worksheets shared with Council members, will be posted online shortly for public comment and distributed to potential applicants.

6. **Action: Review and Adopt Snowmobile Council Equipment and Labor Rates 2020-2021 Season**

**Motion to approve equipment rates adopted by Snowmobile Council by Adam, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan. MOTION PASSED**

7. **Information: Legislation to Increase ATV Trail Aids Grant Program Spending Cap**

- The Department submitted a budget issue paper request to increase the spending cap. As of our September 2020 meeting, the grant requests exceeded the amount we were authorized to spend under the spending cap, yet \$5.6 million remained in the ATV/UTV account. WATVA is also working with legislators to increase the spending cap.

8. **Information and Action: Trail/grant issue**

- A. Action required on storm damage and/or amendment requests**

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

Grant Number	County	Discussion/Questions	Motions
<b>Storm Damage</b>			
93	Oconto	Storm Damage from July 2019, after FEMA contributions	<b>Motion to approve:</b> By: Adam, 2nd: Dave <b>Motion carried.</b>
<b>Amendments</b>			
94	Tigerton	Increase to cover maintenance expenses on intensive use area.	<b>Motion to approve:</b> By: Dave, 2nd: Dan <b>Motion carried.</b>
95	Wood	Additional labor and equipment expenses incurred during course of project	<b>Motion to approve:</b> By: Adam, 2nd: Dan <b>Motion carried.</b>

#### 9. Council member items

- **Dan Thole**
  - The spending cap increase is necessary.
- **Dave Traczyk**
  - Dust Control – In the past, the Council’s stance was that dust control should be handled under maintenance, not additional stand alone funding. Dust control is most often necessary to protect nearby uses such as motels and neighbors. Moving forward, Dave proposes considering dust control requests that cannot be covered by maintenance under the “support” category. A lower priority than actual trail rehab, but still potentially fundable. We may also want to make it a requirement that grantees report back ~ 1 year after the project completion to report on it’s success. Council members encouraged to think about this and revisit the topic at the next meeting.

#### 10. Public Comments

- **Randy Harden (WATVA)**
  - Overweight UTVs have been an issue, there are potentially thousands of UTVs in WI that exceed the 2k weight limit and cannot legally be registered. WATVA and WCFA have collaborated to try and come up with a proposal to satisfy all parties, work is ongoing.
  - Polaris has come out with a new electric machine, but weight of the unit is unknown.
  - Problems have been reported of some irresponsible riders damaging road routes and trailheads with donuts. Signage and outreach has been attempted, and law enforcement has been contacted, but no arrests have yet been made. If the riders can be caught they could potentially be charged under Statute 86.02 which allows for the county who’s jurisdiction the offence took place in to seek 3x the \$ in damages. Future efforts to halt these damages may involve trail cameras, trail ambassadors, continued education and outreach, etc.
  - WATVA continues to work with AWSC and DOT to address the 40’ rule. No action yet.
  - Many requests from communities about funding to maintain roads (routes), but the ATV/UTV Trail Aids program is not setup that way.
  - WATVA’s Annual Meeting will be April 16-18, 2021 in Stevens Point. Regional meetings are also scheduled in August.
- **Rebekah Luedtke (Wisc County Forests Assoc)**
  - Introduction, been in the position for a bit over a year.
- **Holly Tomlanovich (Vilas Co)**
  - Local concerns about dust control, would like more information.

## 11. Housekeeping Matters

- **On Future Agenda**
  - Dust Control – Fund stand alone grants? In New Support?
  - Funding Category Priorities – how do the new categories of Radio Equipment, Safety Signage and Statewide Digital App fit in with the existing categories of Rehab, New Trail, etc?
- **Next Meeting – Save the Date for March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**
  - Meeting may be in-person, or may be Zoom. To be determined.

## 12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Dan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Adam. MOTION PASSED

DRAFT