



Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Via Zoom

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

DNR Staff: Jillian Steffes, Annie Loechler, Faith Murray, Jeff Pennucci

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

1. Call to order – 9:00 AM by Rob

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Draft minutes from January 19, 2020 are posted online.

Motion to approve minutes by Dan, 2nd by Dave. Motion carries.

3. Agenda Repair

None

4. Elections

- Adam nominates Rob McConnell as Chair of the ORV Council. 2nd call for chair, 3rd call for chair.

Motion by Dan to close nominations for Chair of the ORV Council and cast unanimous ballot for Rob McConnell as Chair. MOTION PASSED

- Rob nominates Adam Harden as Vice Chair of the ORV Council. 2nd call for vice chair, 3rd call for vice chair.

Motion by Dan to close nominations for Vice Chair of the ORV Council and cast unanimous ballot for Adam Harden as Vice Chair. MOTION PASSED

5. Chair Report – Rob

None

6. DNR Report – Jillian

- Next meetings
 - June 16th (Application Review) at 10:00 AM in location TBD (Rib Mountain or Tomahawk).
 - Sept 1st (Funding Meeting) at 9:30 AM in Weston
- Vehicle registrations continue to rise. Currently over 118,000 UTVs and 333,000 ATVs for a total of 451,000 machines. UTVs now make up 25% of the registered machines but growth continues among both ATVs and UTVs.
- Update on Langlade Co Wolf River Bridge – ATV access continues to be undecided.
- No public comments or feedback as of yet on the new funding category ranking sheets
- Need Council recommendation on how to prioritize new funding categories (item 8 of agenda)

7. Information and Action: Trail/grant issues

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

- None

8. Information and Action: Review of Funding Categories and Priority Ranking

Council members proposed the following funding category priority ranking;

1. Maintenance of existing approved trails and facilities
2. Rehabilitation of existing bridges and major rehab of trails, including relocation
3. New year-round ATV/UTV Trails
4. New summer ATV/UTV Trails
5. New winter ATV/UTV Trails
6. New routes (Trail-Route Hybrid)
7. New development or major rehab in Intensive Use Areas
8. **NEW CATEGORY – Safety Signage**
9. **NEW CATEGORY – Digital Information**
10. **NEW CATEGORY – Communication Equipment**
11. **PROPOSED UPGRADE, PREVIOUS LAST PRIORITY - Land acquisition**
12. New development or major rehab of Support Facilities
13. Map production

Motion to approve the proposed new category ranking order by Bobby, 2nd by Jim. Motion carries.

Additional discussion on envisioned content of safety signage...messages like “Helmets required”, “Buckle up”, “Don’t drink and drive”, etc. Not intended to fund stop signs, etc.

9. Information and Action: New Funding Category Application Materials

- Review of current ranking tools.
 - i. [Radio Communication Equipment Ranking Tool](#)
 - ii. [Safety Signage Ranking Tool](#)
 - iii. [Statewide Digital Information Application Ranking Tool](#)

10. Information and Action: Road Route Issues

Ongoing pressure and concerns from local units of government who want \$\$ to pay for road maintenance and repair due to use by ATVs/UTVs. No easy solution. But as an FYI, according to a 2015 Federal Highway Admin report, the average ATV/UTV uses approximately 55 gallons of fuel annually. Of that, the DNR Trail Aids program keeps the revenue generated from the gas tax on only 25 of those gallons. The gas tax revenue generated by the other 30 gallons goes to the Department of Transportation (DOT). At \$0.309/gallon on an estimated 30 gallons in 311,799 actively registered ATVs/UTVs in spring of 2019, that works out to nearly \$2.9 million in aids to DOT from gas tax revenue by ATVs/UTVs. That number will increase with the increasing # of registered machines.

11. Information and Action: Dust Control

While maintenance funds can be used to pay for dust control, stand alone grants have historically not been awarded for dust control, as the expense to the program could get quite high. Dust issues usually create problems for houses/businesses near the trail, not the trail riders themselves. Dave T proposes considering funding dust control under the category of Support Facilities. Council would like to see a report a few years down the road on how each individual proposal worked. Council can make funding recommendations with a contingency on a follow up report by the recipient.

Motion to accept dust control requests under the Support Facility category by Dave, 2nd by Bobby. Motion carries.

12. Council members' matters

Jim Wisenski – Langlade's Wolf River Bridge added cost for increased width pending response from contractor.

Adam Harden

- Tune in to the WATVA Facebook tonight for our next episode of Trail Tales TV. We will be discussing what it means to be part of a local club, how they usually operate and what kind of commitment it means to be part of the club. We will also discuss how vital our clubs are to our trails staying open throughout the state.
- On September 11th 2021 the Kettle Moraine ATV Club, along with WATVA, will be hosting a charity ride for Make-A-Wish. The ride starts in West Bend and has multiple destinations to explore throughout the day, spanning five counties. The Trail Ambassador program will be participating by helping patrol the road routes and reporting issues to local law enforcement. Wisconsin Emergency Management will also be assisting the trail ambassadors throughout the day.

Bobby Donahue – What happened with the study by DNR for ATV/UTV park in SE portion of the state? Topic has fallen by the wayside with turnover in staff in DNR Parks program, but State Trails Council will continue to push. Cost of land seems to be primary obstacle to establishing a park in that part of the state.

13. Public Comments

Randy Harden – WATVA

- Efforts to reach out to youth riders. Will have a presence at Youth Expo in 2022 in MacKenzie Center
- Safety signage like "Helmets under 18" "Lights On", "Safety Certificate" etc. may help educate youths. will also help.
- Issues with individual speed limits and rules on road routes. Some debate among legal opinions on if towns can legally set their own speed limits and rules.
- Efforts continue to increase the spending cap for grant funds.
- UTV weight may increase from 2,000 to 3,000 lbs per proposed legislation. Looking for co-sponsors, hopefully by April 1st.

14. Housekeeping matters

A save the date will be sent regarding the June 16th and Sept 1st ORV Council meetings. DNR will aim to have to get PDFs of applications online by June 1 at the latest. Actual budget for funding projects won't be available until August.

15. Adjourn

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