



Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 31st, 2022
Dale's Weston Lanes, Weston, Wisconsin
And via Zoom

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

DNR Staff: Jillian Steffes, Cathy Burrow, Kurt Byfield, Annie Loechler, Jeremy Holtz, Jeff Pennucci

Public: Randy Harden (WATVA), Adam Harden (NOHVIS), Rebeka Luedtke (WCFA), Dave Kafura (WCFA), members of the Snowmobile Council (Bev Dittmar, Dale Mayo, Sue Smedegard, Mike Holden, Don Mrotek), and members of the public

1. Call to order – 8:00 AM by Rob

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Motion to approve July 2022 minutes by Jim, 2nd by Dan. **MOTION PASSED**

3. Agenda Repair

- None

4. Chair & Vice Chair Report

- **Rob McConnell** - With the growth of the program, we're seeing some increases in illegal activity as well. Will need to work on legislation to address that. Fatality report is down this year compared to this time last year, so that's positive.

5. Public Comments

- Randy Harden (WATVA)
 - The Trail Ambassador Teams have manned 9 welcome centers recently for rider outreach.
 - WATVA has held 3 regional meetings with clubs in 2022
 - In 2023, we would like to introduce a mentoring program, with guided rides to demonstrate responsible riding. Also plan to do presentations and schools about helmet use.
 - WATVA is meeting with WCFA to brainstorm 2023 legislation, including...
 - Spending cap increase
 - Possible per mile rate increase for trail maintenance
 - Co Law Enforcement increase from \$750,000 to \$1.2 million per year.
 - Increase in State Warden positions.
 - There will be a VIP Ride at Dyracuse on 9/30 to connect with legislators.
 - Will be meeting with Wisc Tavern League to talk about open intoxicant language.

6. DNR Report

- **Jillian Steffes (Grants)**
 - HANDOUTS
 - ATV/UTV Registration Summary for Last Years
 - ATV/UTV Trail Aids Program Financial Statement
 - Available Funding for 2022-23
 - Spreadsheet of FY23 Grant Requests
- **Marty Stone (Law Enforcement)**
 - None provided. Marty is retiring in October, Jake Holsclaw has been hired as his replacement.

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

- a. Below are recorded explicitly noted comments/questions. Funding motions and more details on each project available in the **meeting attachments**.

App #	County	Discussion/Questions	Motions
Amendment Requests			
85 - 88	Multi		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.
Rehab			
1 – 46, 52	Multi Counties		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.
New Year Round Trails			
32	Iron		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.
New Summer Trails			
35 - 43	Multiple Counties		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.
44	Forest Co Potawatomi	Applicant has received a federal grant. Proceed with that funding, come back to us if you need additional, or have a different project in need of funding.	No action taken.
45	Polk	Need response from County on questions.	No action taken
Winter Trail			
47 - 51	Multiple Counties		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.
Troute			
53	Oconto	Meets the letter of the law but not the spirit, funding this would make many more county forest roads eligible for funding. Not ready to take on funding significantly more county roads.	Not funded, see funding sheet for details.
Intensive Use Areas			
54 - 55	Multiple		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.
New Support			
56, 13	Multiple Counties		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.
Maps			
57	Douglas		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.
Acquisitions			
58	Rome, Tn		Funded, see funding spreadsheet for details.

Communication Equipment			
59 - 60	NOHVIS	<p>Request for additional information by Council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Report on radio use from 21-22 season. How often used, where stored between events, problems experienced, etc. 2) Additional info on Safety Enhancement Program & how those funds are spent 3) Additional info on the Trail Ambassador Program 4) Concerns about Obsolescence. How long will these remain useful? 5) See a copy of the agreement between NOHVIS (radio owner) and Club (borrowing entity) <p>Also, would clubs who are borrowing the units be willing to cost share? Counterpoint – the trail ambassadors are already volunteering their time, this is a tool to help them reach out to riders.</p>	Not funded, see funding sheet for details.

8. ACTION ITEM: Review of and adoption of equipment rates

- Snowmobile Council adopted several changes to equipment rates. Jim was involved in the discussions at the Snowmobile Equipment Ad Hoc Committee. Winter Grooming units were increased by \$10/hour across the board. Several non-grooming equipment rates were also changed to address changes in the DOT equipment rates, and labor was increased from \$8/hour to \$9/hour.
- Specifically looking at the ATV Spring/Summer/Fall Trail Grooming Drag Rates, Jim proposes increasing Class 1 from \$10.50/hr to \$11/hr, Class 2 from \$8/hr to \$9/hr, and eliminating Class 3 as it exists already under equipment rate 9205

Motion to adopt revised Equipment and Labor Rates as adopted by the Snowmobile Council, as well as by Jim, 2nd by Ed. **MOTION PASSED**

- Mike Biese would like to see a rate for a hydraulically operated, industrial strength pull behind magnet, such as “SUPERMAG”. Purchase price is about \$12k to \$20k. This equipment would be very helpful in cleaning up all of the old railroad spikes left behind on rail grade trails. His club gets complaints often about spikes damaging vehicles. A club in the U.P. has used this equipment to great effect.
 - No rate currently exists, let’s work with Snowmobile Council and come up with a way to calculate a rate. Will revisit with the Council at a future meeting.

9. Council members’ matters

- Ed Slaminski – Snowmo Council indicated they are not in favor of funding parking areas, but they do provide a great value to the user and community. Perhaps ORV Council should talk to Snowmo Council to explain the value. If the community were willing to chip in instead of asking 100%, may be more palatable.
- Rob McConnell – WATVA may attempt conversation to get DOT to cover some expenses related to roads and maintenance, as they collect over \$3 million in year in gas tax revenue from ATV/UTV use. We’d also like to get the spending cap increased, and potentially put in a line item to transfer some of that surplus to a DNR-led motorized rec area project.

10. Housekeeping matters

- Future Agenda Items – Wednesday, December 7th
 - Revisit communication equipment topic. Would like annual activity report, location/custody info, copy of lease agreement.
 - Discuss the topic of paying to pave road approaches
 - ATV version of SNARS
- Jillian will report back to Council on the comparison of maintenance awards vs actually spent. Of those that spent all their maintenance, how much did they feel like they needed?

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Dave, 2nd by Jim. **Motion carries.**