



Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday Oct 9th, 2019

LOCATION: Village of Tigerton - Village Hall, 221 Birch St., Tigerton, WI 54486

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

Council Members Absent: Adam Harden (excused)

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

Public: Liz Reilly (Tigerton ATV Park Manager)

1. Call to order – 10:00am by Rob

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Not done yet

3. Agenda Repair - Council Member Introductions

Daniel Thole – From Cameron WI, formerly an auditor now a CPA, involved with motorized trails since moving to the north, '95-'08 Chair of Wild Rivers Trail Commission.

Dave Traczyk – From Hurley, WI, currently a CPA, involved in WATVA since it's founding, previous president of WATVA

Mike Biese – From Appleton, WI, began racing at the age of 15, has been involved in Langlade County trails and now on the Board of Directors for Forest County ATV Association.

Rob McConnell – Originally from Superior, now in Reedsburg. Involved in WATVA since the 90's, has ridden mini bikes, dirt bikes, ATVs and motorcycles since he was young. Currently VP of WATVA.

Jim Wisenski – From Mountain, WI, returned USPS post master. Began ATV'ing in 2008, joined the local club in 2009, worked to open road routes to connect to Nicolet State Trail.

Bobby Donahue – From Wisconsin Rapids. Involved in motorized rec entire life, parents started a motorized rec dealership in the 60's and it's been operating ever since.

4. Chair Report – Rob

- Has received a letter from former council member Bryan Much, outlining issues he is concerned about. On file.
- National Off Highway Vehicle Council has done a study looking at motorized rec. Revenue from motorized rec currently exceeds hunting/shooting/trapping in average with \$9 billion in revenue
- The face of the sport is changing, huge growth in road routes, hopefully we can continue to make sure there are still some challenging off road opportunities with minimal development.

5. DNR Report – Jillian

- Signage Handbook has been published, no printed copies yet available but we are looking into it, need to find the funding.
- The Snowmobile GIS/GPS effort discovered that there were 460 *fewer* miles the on-the-ground than what was being written in the grant agreements. That funding was recouped and redirected to funding some of the "new miles"

- Snowmobile Council met in October approved over 600 “new miles”. More review will be needed by the grants staff before we increase maintenance contracts (verify they are in compliance with minimum standards, etc)
- Discussion on DOT approaches, email correspondence with DOT shared with council members. DOT is requiring the material of the approaches matches the road materials.

6. Embarrass River ATV Park Presentation

Opened in 1997 with the construction of a bridge over the Embarrass River. Campground and trails has expanded over the years, now has approx. 70 total camping sites (some electric) with 25 miles of trail including challenging terrain. In the past 2 years, the park has done a trial of off-road trail riding for road vehicles. Currently developing 2.5 miles of Off Highway Motorcycle development, completion expected next year. Disc golf course also recently added, good infrastructure for families. Currently no club entity to support the park. Looking for ideas on promotional opportunities.

7. Action on grants, storm damage, amendment requests

STORM DAMAGE

App #	County	Discussion/Questions	Motions
S4	Tri County (Cheese Country)	Split 50/50 with snowmobile (snowmobile already approved). More solid cost estimate will be sought before grant is written.	Motion to approve by Jim, 2 nd by Bobby. Motion carries.
S5	Taylor	Trees down, cost share with snowmo already approved.	Motion to approve by Mike, 2 nd by Bobby. Motion carries.

Dyracuse Application for Acquisition – Town of Rome is still working on a development proposal for recent pending acquisitions, and is also working on an appraisal for the most recent proposal. Council is still interested to hear how many new miles of trail will be possible with recent/pending acquisition. Also interested to hear what the annual attendance is, and current miles of trail. Town has no new info to share at this time, no action taken on the pending acquisition application.

8. Trail Maintenance Rate Discussion

Working on new legislation to raise UTV funding from \$100/mile, with additional funds for summer AND additional funds for winter. Legislation may also include clarification on UTV width/measurements, headlight requirements, etc.

9. Council Member Matters

Jim – City of Gillett has recently installed new bathroom facility to support ATVers utilizing the Nicolet State Trail.

10. Public Comments

None

11. Housekeeping Matters

WATVA Annual Meeting - April 3-5 in Stevens Point. Will include collaboration with other motorized sports groups including Off-Highway Motorcycle and Snowmobiles.

Next Meetings – June 17th (initial application reviews), and August 26th (funding meeting)

12. Adjourn

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