



Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 31st, 2023
Dale's Weston Lanes, Weston, Wisconsin
And via Zoom

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

DNR Staff: Jillian Steffes, Jacob Holsclaw, Cathy Burrow, Kurt Byfield, Pat Anderson, Jeremy Holtz

Public: Rebeka Luedtke (WCFA), members of the Snowmobile Council (Sue Smedegard, Mike Holden, Don Mrotek), and members of the public

1. Call to order – 8:30 AM by Rob

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Motion to approve previous minutes by Dan, 2nd by Jim. MOTION PASSED

3. Agenda Repair

- None

4. Chair & Vice Chair Report

- **Rob McConnell** - Thank you to the applicants, very detailed this year. May need to put some sideboards on troutes and clarify what we'll do in the future.

5. Public Comments

- **Rob McConnell (WATVA)**
 - Working on some legislation including open intoxicant legislation.
 - Working on an economic impact study, has a survey online (watva.org) or on paper to be distributed to riders.
 - There will be a VIP Ride at Dyracuse in September to connect with legislators.
- **Rebekah Luedtke (WCFA)**
 - WCFA worked with legislators to help raise the Aids to Local Law Enforcement from 750k to \$1.3 mil annually, and increase UTV Maintenance funding from \$200/mile to \$400/mile

6. DNR Report

- **Jillian Steffes (Grants)**
 - **HANDOUTS**
 - ATV/UTV Registration Summary for Last 5 Years
 - Non-Resident Trail Pass Sales – 5 Year Summary
 - ATV/UTV Trail Aids Program Financial Statement
 - Available Funding for 2023-24
 - Spreadsheet of FY24 Grant Requests
 - County Coordinators Workshop is scheduled for Oct 5th. Target audience is county staff who work with the motorized recreational trails and associated grant programs.
- **Jacob Holsclaw (Law Enforcement)**
 - Last season rec patrols received 73.13 % reimbursement for the statewide grant. For the last 4 years ATV funding for sheriff's department patrols has been capped at \$750,000 statewide. Recently in the last budget this has been raised to \$1.3 million. With current patrol requests this should get closer to 100% reimbursement.

- Last season 41 agencies participated in the ATV patrol grant program
- 30,859 total ATV hours for rec patrols and Conservation wardens
- 3 positions focused on ATV enforcement and program efforts – specialized “RW” positions – currently working on position descriptions – splitting RW team into 2 so additional RW supervisor.
- The Saving Lives Initiative is a statewide effort to prevent deaths and injuries across all types of outdoor recreation, including hunting, ATV/ UTV, snowmobiling, boating and more. Majority of our safety messaging and enforcement efforts revolve around helmet use, seatbelt use, arresting intoxicated operators, and educating public for youth operation concerns.
- “Think Smart Before You Start” safety campaign held August 4-6. Citation numbers take 30 days or so to roll in. 1400 miles patrolled and almost 500 ATVers contacted.
- 22 ATV / UTV fatalities so far this year. 21 total in 2022.
- Top reasons for fatal ATV / UTV crashes – Alcohol use, excessive speed, careless operation – however if the occupants involved in these fatal crashes had been wearing helmets, seatbelts, or both many would still be alive today.
- Top 3 ATV / UTV citations
 1. Illegal operation ATV_on highway – 384
 2. Operate or ride without headgear – 295
 3. Registration – 209
- Top 3 OHM citations
 1. Unauthorized operation on roadway – 45
 2. Safety certificate – 15
 3. Operate OHM on public property posted closed or prohibited by law – 9
- Safety education is a priority. In 2022 – 12,723 students graduated ATV safety
- Open intox legislation – ongoing

7. Discussion & Action: Funding Paved Approaches

- Last year, the Council passed a motion recommending funding paving approaches up to 14’ wide x 20’ long at 50% unless special circumstances apply. Examples of special circumstances include where this is a requirement by DOT to develop the trail, where it may be needed due to elevation/grade changes, etc.
- Original motion discussed, Council consensus supports original motion as it gives a starting point of 50% but flexibility to give more. Consensus that this cost share motion applies to public roads, not private drives.

8. Discussion & Action: Dust Control

- HISTORY – In the past, the Council has stated they will not recommend funding projects whose purpose is dust control.
- In 2022, Oconto trialed “Durablend” product, a synthetic polymer that pulls moisture out of the air. Did two applications over spring + fall initially, and a half-application in 2023. Company recommendation was 3 applications to give a good base, then just need spot treatments in the future. Half of the expense in Oconto was to build a base that met the company’s specs needed before application. Some of the dust control benefit may just have been from the proper base construction. Oconto doesn’t feel that the maintenance funds is enough to cover the cost of the product.

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

- See meeting attachments for detailed list of projects and motions.

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

- Snowmobile Council did not suggest any changes this year, and adopted the same rates as last year. ATV will do the same, with one exception (below).
- Washburn Co asks the Council to consider raising rates. Per NR 64.14, equipment rates may not exceed DOT rates. Dept (& Council) can set labor rates. Having different equipment rates from snowmo would be logistically difficult to manage. But a summer-only labor rate could be manageable.

Motion to adopt summer labor rates of \$12/hour as by Ed, 2nd by Jim. MOTION PASSED

11. Elections

- Were held in June, not needed at this time.

12. Council members' matters

- None

10. Housekeeping matters

- Future meeting agenda items should include Troutes, Campgrounds, an ATV-version of SNARS, and possibly additional rates discussion.
- Next tentative meeting date – Nov 8th (*later revised to Oct 24*)

12. Adjourn

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