Mead Wildlife Visitor Center, Milladore, WI

Agenda Item	Key Points	Outcomes, Next Steps, Assignments	
1. Call to Order	Members Present: Rob McConnell, Chair; Bryan Much, Vice-Chair; Jim Wisneski; Ernie Pulvermacher; Dave Traczyk; Bobby Donahue Absent: Adam Harden Others Present: Cathy Burrow, Faith Murray, Jillian Steffes, Ed Slaminski, Ann Loechler, Gary Eddy - DNR; members of	Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. Introductions around the room were made.	
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting	the public	Bryan Much moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, second by Ernie Pulvermacher. Motion Passed Unanimously.	
3. Agenda Repair	None		
4. Chair Report	Rob discussed the long list of agenda items and explained they were items on the Council's agenda for the past 2 years. The council would be doing some prioritizing, would be wrapping-up, deferring and/or taking action on the items. Rob explained that he had been to several more ROA meetings, the most recent in Baraboo. And that ATV trail issues he is currently involved with are the Pine River Trail in Richland County and the Hillsboro Trail in Vernon county.		
5. Department Reports	Gary Eddy: • 27 Current ATV/UTV Fatalities. ○ Tied with our record high. ○ Annual statistics tracked through the end of calendar year. ○ 17 – occurred on public roads ○ 1 – frozen waterways ○ 2 – public trails ○ 6 – private property ○ 12 – speed related ○ 11 – confirmed as alcohol related ○ 24 – were not wearing a helmet • Legislation ○ One bill was enacted which allows local gov'ts to open state highways to ATV travel if that portion of state highway has a		

- speed limit of 35 MPH or less. This would not require DOT approval.
- The other bill has not passed yet. That bill involves reducing the ATV route signing requirement. For example, if a jurisdiction has designated all their roads as ATV routes then signage is only required at the jurisdictional lines to notify the public entering their jurisdiction that all roads are open. If a jurisdiction only has certain roads open, they would need to sign it at the beginning and end and anywhere it intersects a road that is not a route. There are several other requirements related to various signing situations.
- Recreational Safety and Enforcement Section (REES) update.
 - The DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement completed its program review of the REES. Several changes were made to the section and positions within the section.
 - o The section has been renamed the Recreational Safety and Outdoor Skills section.
 - The Recreational Safety Warden position has been renamed "Recreational Warden" and their duties have been modified so that it is more focused on enforcement.
 - The non-enforcement duties that made up a large percentage of their position related to managing/assisting the volunteer safety instructors. These duties will now be handled by newly created Outdoor Skills Trainer position. These positions will hopefully be filled by people with public education and/or outdoor education backgrounds.
- Trail Signing Handbook
 - Almost finalized. Need to add in new language for recently enacted legislation. Also, waiting for other legislation to conclude that would affect signing requirements. Upon completion, the handbook will be sent to the ORV, SRC and OHM councils for comment.

Cathy:

Gave an update on the Trail Standard team, the DNR internal team had started drafting a guidance on 11/9 in Eau Claire. The starting document was the DNR Trails Handbook and the team is drawing heavily on resources from the partners involved who include this council, WCFA, WATVA, County representatives and an ATV park rep.

Plan is to finalize a draft and then send out to partners for review and comment before another meeting to discuss.

7. Council agenda items

- Long term easements and or land purchases for trails: Requested by Jim Wisneski regarding access to a bridge the county was looking to build.
 Request is to know if it's possible to use Grant money for long-term easement and if there are any restrictions.
- Council member contact info
- Campground funding limits
 Discussion surround the idea of support facilities
 perhaps not rising to the level that should receive
- Per code a lease may be acquired to secure a trail. Maximum width is 1 rod (16.5" feet) and maximum payment is \$.10/rod.
 Note: Per Chapter 23, Wis. Stats., leases under 3 years are eligible to be paid from maintenance, 3 years of longer may be applied for in the "Acquisition" category.
- Remove home address from Council directory. Other Councils do not list it. **Note**: this is done.
- MOTION: Bryan moved to indicate that the Council will begin consideration of support facilities (campground, parking lot, trail head, etc.) at 60% cost-share. That percentage may go up

100% of funding from ATV. Particularly when the ATV users are not the primary beneficiaries of the facility.

• Revise update grant guidance

- Enhancement vs. rehabilitation of trail surfaces
- Site Visits
 Discussion regarding formalizing the site visit process as official Council business, coordinating visits through the Chair, requiring a report, etc. This would make the visits eligible for expense reimbursement by Council members.

User preferences
 Discussion regarding trails becoming homogenous.

- Trail features
- Formal request to ATV Association on winter use

to as much as 100% depending on the circumstances of the specific project. Second by Jim.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

 It was suggested that the Council revise the written guidance (posted with the March 1, 2016 minutes http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/ATV/ORV AdHocGrantApp Requirements.pdf) for trail grants based on some of the information developed during the DNR's trail guidance project.

Note: Cathy mentioned the DNR team is working on an update to the Motorized Rec. Application form 8700-159.

- Deferred until the DNR Trail Guidance is complete.
- MOTION: Bryan moved to reimburse travel expenses for council Members who choose to do site visits in coordination with Council Chair. Second by Ernie.
 Motion passed 3 yes; 2 no.

NOTE: Several items need to be attended to before this could be implemented.

- 1. The Council's budget would need to increase which may require inclusion in a biennial budget bill.
- 2. A process needs to be created and documented to guarantee consistency.
- 3. DNR management will need to review the recommended process.
- Bryan shared the results of a user survey that he did as part of the DNR's Trail Standard effort. He felt the Council hasn't done a good job considering user preferences based on the data collected in the survey. This is posted with the minutes. The Council tabled this item until they can review and evaluate the results of the user surveys.
- Combine with user preference discussion.
- MOTION: Bryan moved to forward the letter he passed out to WATVA for their consideration with minor changes if needed. Second by Jim.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Maintenance vs. Rehab
- Bridge funding get the worst first
- Recap discussion ORV-SNO Council on bridges

Funding meeting schedule

- Trail standards project with DNR
- Equipment rates
 Discussion regarding limiting funding to equipment that doesn't exceed weight limits, no action.
- Federal Land trail guidance development levels

NOTE: The letter has been sent, a copy is posted with the minutes.

- It was decided to roll this into the funding guidance discussion.
- The Council would like counties to know they will look favorably at bridge rehab projects this year.
- Bryan recapped the meeting, results were:
 - Both Councils would like Counties to sign their bridges with weight limits where known and not allow heavier equipment on the bridges.
 - ORV Council will consider bridges at a load of up to 25K lbs. if warranted based on circumstances.
 - All joint funded applications will be considered first at a 50/50 cost share and change based on circumstances and discussion.
 - Possibly both Council's will publish in their magazines the bridge issue. Bryan shared a draft of the issues that should likely be covered in such an article.

Note: Minutes of the joint meeting are posted on both Council's web pages.

• The ORVC would like to hold their funding meeting prior to the Snowmobile Recreation Council's (SRC) funding meeting.

Note: The SRC funding meeting is already scheduled for a Sunday and Monday in August but this will be on the agenda at the SRC's Feb. meeting and it may be possible to accommodate.

- This was discussed previously in the meeting during the DNR report and the user preference topic. A user survey is posted with the minutes.
- Both Council's need to coordinate rates before changes are made.
- Bryan shared Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management
 Objectives and pointed out the Trail Class Matrix. Posted with the minutes.
- It was discussed that the proliferation of routes has made it

		necessary to think about how routes are signed.	
	Funding route signs	Rob asked all Council members to let him know which of these topics they'd like to take up in more detail at the next Council meeting.	
8. Council members' matters	 Dave wants to look at maintenance vs. rehab and possibly consider increasing maintenance based on that discussion. Jim agreed the maintenance rate should be looked at. Bobby discussed that both ATVs and UTVS are getting bigger and some now exceed legal standards for registration in the state. This is an enforcement issue that the DNR is working on. Ernie echoed Bobby's thoughts from earlier in the meeting regarding the fact that machines are getting larger and heavier and the Council needs to keep that in mind when making decisions. 	Bryan moved to take steps to use an automated system to track maintenance expenses for ATV/UTV grants similar to what the snowmobile program is doing. Second by Jim. Motion Passed Unanimously	
9. Public Comments	Jon Schweitzer, Jackson County: Discussed that he must design his trails for the biggest, heaviest piece of equipment which is the UTV and that its hare to provide a varied user experience when the design has to accommodate that big and heavy of a piece of equipment. Feels the time might be right for the Council to pursue a funding increase for ATV. (increased registrations) Would be good to get all the county coordinators together for a council. Jane Severt, WCFA New legislation: Hwy going through a municipality at 35 mph or less Paying landowners: they get something from the club Is the 60% for campsite funding written in statute/code somewhere. Note: Statute says: "up to 100%" Request for handouts to be shared with audience. Thought it was odd that the Council would send a letter to WATVA asking them to pursue a legislative change. Council clarified, they are charged with looking out for the ATV riders and making funding recommendations which is difficult to do for Winter ATV trails when usage is not known. Wished that WATVA, WCFA and Council still worked together on things and included each other. Council has the same wish. Rusk County citizen offered opinion that ATV money was being used to build logging roads in his county. Mike Peterson, County Trail Coordinator and WCFA member Would like handouts to be shared with audience Would like public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Note: Council by-laws include standard agenda with public comment at the end of the meeting.		
10. Other Matters for the Council &	Request from Oneida County for a \$387 amendment to ATV-3362 as that was the amount the county was short for the completed project.	Bryan moved to fund Oneida County's request for a cost agreement \$387 on ATV-3362. Second by Jim. Motion Passed Unanimously	

Housekeeping	
11. Adjourn	Bryan Much moved to adjourn, second by Dave Traczyk.
	Motion Passed Unanimously.