

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Motorized Recreational Vehicles Committee Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	09/08/2018	09:30 AM	Rome Public Library Nekoosa, WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair Dave Larson at 9:30 AM
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B. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDEES	Gary Mertig, Dave Larson, Gene Knoll, Ron Krueger, Pearl Holmstadt, Al Marotz, Wayne Schmidt, Matt McHugh, Gary Feller; DNR Liaisons Brigit Brown & Gary Eddy
EXCUSED	Mike Kohl, Pete Mueller, Steve Gehrke, Stephanie Blazich
UNEXCUSED	N/A
GUESTS	Randy & Ann Harden - WATVA; Bryan Much - ORM; Gary Hilgendorf - AWSC; Jill Reese

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Chair Larson asked to switch agenda items I & J.
ACTION	Motion by Marotz, second by McHugh to approve. Unanimous.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Chair Larson read committee mission statement. Committee did not recommend any changes.
ACTION	N/A

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Jill Reese stated she was at WATVA VIP Ride yesterday & learned about meeting. She is interested in committee's scope.
ACTION	N/A

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. UTV/ATV GUIDANCE PROJECT UPDATE

BRIGIT BROWN

DISCUSSION	Brigit was unable to release the details of this project because it was not yet posted but she did go over the contents. The draft should be done by the end of the month and finalized by the end of year. Report covers new & existing trails; all on a case by case basis. There was considerable discussion on signage of trails & routes. Randy Harden said there are multiple issues with signage - color, arrows, design, etc. Gary Eddy explained that route signs & trail signs are not the same. Municipalities are responsible for signs on public land.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. FATALITIES/ACCIDENT REPORT

GARY EDDY

DISCUSSION	Gary Eddy reviewed the report with the committee. Report is on the DNR website. There were 27 fatalities last year. Lack of using safety equipment is a main theme in the fatalities and that fatalities on public trails are minimal. Alcohol is a major issue.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. REGIONAL TRAIL REPAIR UPDATE

BRIGIT BROWN

DISCUSSION	Brigit went over the trails that were closed due to storm damage and stated it would be a rough year. Many of the bridges/railroad trestles/culverts are in disrepair. It's difficult to get contractors to do the repairs & we need the funds as they are very expensive to repair/replace. DNR has some heavy equipment but not as much as past years.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

D. ATV/UTV CAMPGROUND - SHELL LAKE

BRIGIT BROWN

DISCUSSION	Shell Lake is developing a new campground next to the Wild Rivers Trail. State grants will cover approximately 70% with the village funding the balance. Campground is designated for trail users but will be available to all campers.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

E. NEW TRAILS

BRIGIT BROWN

DISCUSSION	Plans for the Northern Highlands in Vilas County is to involve local snowmobile clubs & County partners. Chippewa County extended their trail system by 13 miles. Difficult to get new trails in southern part of state. Cost of repairs to existing trails limits amount of money for new trails.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

F. WATVA CURRENT ISSUES**RANDY HARDEN**

DISCUSSION	We have the traditional ATV trail program. There is a new trend moving towards road routes. How do we educate and manage these? Some thoughts/concerns are: winter trail pass to measure use; OWI is an issue & if person is ticketed for OWI it does not tie into their driving privileges/license; open containers are legal on ATV/UTV so we need to educate people to be responsible and perhaps have signage to help; people are not dimming their auxiliary lights; should be more law enforcement presences. Signs & rules are different on the trails than they are on roads.	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

G. ORV COUNCIL**BRYAN MUCH**

DISCUSSION	There are limited trail opportunities in southern part of state. They'll put money towards it. They want a large sized park & are willing to commit to it. Willing to support towns & municipalities. As for user preference; it is hard to please everyone. Issues identified gravel surface, dust control, equipment size & stress on aged bridges. ORV Council is diligent & members go out to review proposed projects.	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

I. SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL/AWSC**GARY HILGENDORF**

DISCUSSION	AWSC has 40,000 members. Members pay \$10 for trail pass and non-members pay \$30. They implemented SNAR and will be implementing GPS in groomers. AWSC is made up of all 620 snowmobile clubs in state. Club members do bulk of work maintaining trails and bridges. Estimated bridge repair costs of ~ \$2,000/foot. On January 1st the Snowmobile Council will report to Joint Finance Committee. LED lights are becoming concern.	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

H. OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLES**BRYAN MUCH**

DISCUSSION	Impact was good in Vilas County where local club put on program at school. Looking to get permission for a 30 mile trail in Northern Highlands. The Highway Department oversees placement of signs on roads. New Tigerton ATV park will add a motorcycle trail. It will start small and likely expand. Boulder Junction had a rally which brought in commerce/tourism. Eau Claire has a club starting. Sauk Prairie is still in place to share trail, same location but not same time. ORM always puts emphasis on "All the gear all the time".	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

J. PROGRAM REVENUE IDEAS**DAVE LARSON**

DISCUSSION	Need to continue ways to bring in more revenues to support programs. Discussed possibility of increased use of trail passes on other users.	
ACTION	N/A	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

III. Member Matters

DISCUSSION	<p>Al Marotz - 1. We need to have multiple use trails. 2. Manufacturers are building machines bigger and the consumer is buying for comfort but trails and bridges aren't equipped for them. People will need to decide when purchasing them if they want to ride on trails or road routes. The bridges from the 1800's are going to require major renovations, just a matter of time. 4. DNR selling off heavy equipment doesn't make sense. 5. Online safety courses without hands on experience is not good.</p> <p>Pearl Holmstadt - Teaching recreational safety classes without having hands on experience is liking teaching drivers education without behind the wheel training.</p> <p>Ron Krueger - 1. In agreement with bringing back hands on training. 2. Is Committee name suitable?</p> <p>Wayne Schmidt - in winter we would like to see people on trails and spending money. We need the tourism dollars.</p> <p>Gary Feller - Price County roads are open.</p> <p>Matt McHugh - Hands on training is necessary as lives are at stake.</p> <p>Dave Larson - !. Tractor safety requires hands on training to get certified to work on farms. 2. With upcoming hunting seasons, asked Gary Eddy for brief overview of weapon transport on recreational vehicles. 3. Thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting.</p>
ACTION	

IV. Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED	1:48 PM. Motion by Ron Krueger, Second by Al Marotz
SUBMITTED BY	Pearl Holmstadt, Acting Secretary
DATE	09/16/2018