

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Motorized Recreational Vehicle Committee

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	12/14/2019	9:00 am	Portage County Public Library
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair, Dave Larson at 9:00 am
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B. Roll Call & Introduction

ATTENDEES	In attendance: Wayne Schmidt, Dave Larson, Stephanie Blazich, Ron Krueger, Gary Mertig, Al Morotz, Scott Sinz, Michael Kohl, Matt McHugh, Brad Martinson, Richard Marti Citizen: Mike Young, Lori Heideman, Randy Harden, Bryan Much DNR: April Dombrowski, Brigit Brown, Cathy Burrow (Liaison)
EXCUSED	Dan Beauchamp, Steve Guhrke, Tom Avis
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	Randy Harden - WATVA , Mike Young, Lori Heideman, Bryan Much

a.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Approve - motion by Ron, second by Al - motion carries
ACTION	Approved

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Chair Larson read the current mission statement: The mission of the Motorized Recreational Vehicles Advisory Ad Hoc Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to provide citizen input on the use and management of motorized recreational vehicles on public and private lands, on behalf of all those who utilize these resources. The committee will review current and proposed policies for motorized recreational vehicles on public and private lands and provide recommendations that take into account the wide range of public and private property user's interests. Further the committee will explore opportunities to engage and collaborate with existing motorized vehicle organizations and will promote the safe and responsible use of motorized recreational vehicles.
ACTION	Leave as is - motion by Scott, second by Matt - motion carries

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	<p>1. Randy Harden - 45-20-19 ATV/UTV handout given, safety certificates already in place. AI - Death in snowmobile class removed operations side of classes. No plan to add this back in. Ron - who's doing the "road test"? Get people on the machine to be tested. Randy - ASI is a hands on program that teaches but there is a disconnect from trying to merge the programs. Difference in state in manufacturer law.</p> <p>2. Randy Harden - 13-02-19 is not supported by WATVA (hand out). Social and Emotion differences. Ron- Larger animals aren't effected because you are not recognized as a human on a Motorized vehicle. Small animals just scurry. Brian Agrees. Brigit - misinformation: in resolution. There is no trail proposed for UTV/ATV/Snowmobile trails across the park. Lori Heideman - Snowmobile club states that laws are in place. Facts and Myths book follows this handout. They side with WATVA (name needed).</p>
ACTION	N/A

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

DISCUSSION	<p>Nancy - 13-02-19 - Ron move to reject, mike second. Discussion: Scott- we already do this and have our state lands protected from free riding. Bridget - Master Planning for all trails being plotted. There are lots of points where public input is open. State parks have provisions in state law that make quiet zones in state parks. Everything is factored together to make the trails. Ron- resolution: we have a lot of trails already in place where there are quiet places and also places where the noise is allowed and monitored. Wayne - process of acquiring public land vs selling public land. Bridget - ability to acquire land has changed. "cage match" across departments trying to use the pot of money to acquire land. Where, restrictions, costs, all make things limited. This all goes through a planning process with public input and criteria through the department. Dave - we have to share our resources. Bridget - went though state and talked to public and owners on what they wanted to see with public land and what they thought was missing. They do surveys across Wisconsin looking for what outdoor activities have people been participating in. They took the info and take these into account when they are doing the master plans. New trail development has been with willing partners (WATVA, mountain bike clubs, etc.). Working on making a regional network that is tangible and affordable. They don't want to force but wait for public to want these things in place. Scott - send Nancy letter saying we are already doing this and to reach out to local clubs. Rejected.</p> <p>Mike Young - 45-02-19 - background: retired conservation warden. Do a large school event that helps to get kids into new outdoor activities, hunting, fishing, ATVS/Snowmobiles, etc. No rules for a designated event in laws. Only rules for ATV and not snowmobiles. (on handout) where is the designation for a guardian. Snowmobile road test used to always be required. Death in program caused this to be removed. Parents don't always know what they are doing when they are trying to teach. Sport shops setting up operations for these classes. Motion to accepts AI - second Michael.</p> <p>Discussion: Wayne -need to get to a point to make it work. Need written test and then practice with driving to then get certified. We don t have the instructor power for this. Ron - DNR instructors getting on the sleds. No longer provide these. How to you get certified as an instructor. April - must go through training, background check, and apprentice ship. Mike - 18 year instructor. Parents aren't teaching the kids. Wants more hands on with the atvs. Put governor on the machines so they are controlled. AI - we need course set up with no obstacles in open field, orange cones, etc. Some sort of state mandated course set up like motorcycle classes. Scott - we need to get the kids out there and be enjoying the outdoors. Motion carries.</p>
ACTION	<p>13-02-19: Rejected. An author not present, chair will send letter stating committees action</p> <p>45-02-19 - Approved. Motion to accepts AI - second Michael. Author was present and notified before he left.</p>
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. DNR LIAISONS REPORTS

BRIGIT BROWN, APRIL DOM-BROWSKI, & CATHY BURROW

DISCUSSION	<p>Bridget - trails/facilities: people brought lawsuits towards the parks service because of dog training and UTV for Sauk Prairie. Electric Bikes- governor signed into law that gave them their own section of state law. DNR is working on implementing plain language towards these on state land. Won't affect the already in place laws. Use of public and dept land. Off Highway motorcycle code was adopted this week. Leg provides grants programs, sound measurement programs, rules, etc. Could be enacted by Aug 2020. DNR is having meetings with steak holders to share land, promote land and make a basis and try to avoid lawsuits. DNR is optimistic with moving forward. Office of Outdoor Recreation has been put in motion. Consultant has been helping to move this forward.</p> <p>April - Off Highway Vehicle is vacant. Interviewing next week for new admin. Hopefully by new year we will have direction. We need to get this program up and running and moving forward. Chief is looking to retire and will be replacing. Retiring rate is about 50% this year so big transition. 2020-2021 strategic planning. 6 goals are still relevant. New things to be tackling - training with programs and wardens, campaigns with riding enforcements and sound regulations, and really pushing for zero alcohol with the programs. Continued efforts with working with partners and working with the Wisconsin Dept of Transportation. Looking at things from all angles good and bad. Bringing world together with DOT & DNR. Snow came in quick and they are having to switch to Snowmobiling quick with new campaigns. Combined all reports for one Off Highway report. Wants to only tell on story. Trail signage handbook available on website. Pausing on print because of potential revision and not wanting to waste money. They keep data reports on injuries that are reported. Interactive map to see where trouble areas are and get GPS points to see repeat spots. Reports are available online to public. Updated are made quick. Ron - deaths 17/18 were no helmets(private land).</p> <p>Cathy - How to run and fund the trails, maybe get a grants person involved. Registration money, gas tax percentage, trail passes. People can be against it when they don't know it's self funded so we need to educate and spread the word that users are funding the opportunists. Snowmobile and ATV money can only be used for each as such. This grant program is setting aside money for storm damage, rehabilitation, and new development. Limited on how much can actually be spent. Snowmobile trail pass is generating a lot of new money in the last 4 years and is allowing the upgrade and development of new snowmobile trails. North 194 miles approved. South 418 mils approved. 230,000 registered snowmobiles in Wisconsin. Need to make a new administration code - this was adopted and approved on Tuesday to move forward and put in place in August 2020. 4,000 registered off highway motorcycles (\$70,000 in revenue). These grant accounts also help to fund partners, state parks and forestry, wardens, and admins. These are in state budget and allotment can change if passed. Making sure granted trails are legal. Volunteers are huge with helping with storm damage. FEMA is used to try to get reimbursed but reaching an agreement is a process. Grant program has to sit back and basically do nothing until FEMA is done otherwise FEMA will not help with repair money.</p>
ACTION	No action required.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. WATVA CURRENT ISSUES

RANDY HARDEN

DISCUSSION	<p>Randy - Partners work together to really pull everything together. Ate - 318,334 UTV - 89,607 (95,000 are roughly private agriculture use - one time registers). County ordinances adopted by other counties would help. Road routes are being used more and becoming more popular due to linking trails and the wants of the public. Turning more to transportation than recreation. Slowly trying to work things out. Recreation wardens working with recreation groups for welcome events. Working with them to show high visibility and offer safety checks on vehicles and users. Education with no threat to users. Bills are in place (handout) and are proposing to be changed (handout - 10 points). Make consistent rules between roads and trails. 40 ft rule - ATV/UTV shared trails are moving forward with this rule because of legislation.</p>
ACTION	No action required.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**D & G. ORV COUNCIL & ROAD LEGAL 4 WHEEL
DRIVE ORGANIZATION**

RANDY HARDEN

DISCUSSION	Randy - council working well to keep the peace and everyone happy. There are a lot of moving pieces that have to come together and that's why things take time with the master plans. Piece together all information before bring this to all parties. Cathy - Main focus is to expand riding opportunities. Southern part of the state doesn't have much places to expand. Bridget- Looking at expanding in the state parks and are an ATV/UTV camping area. (4WD low speed trails handout)
ACTION	No action required.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

E. OFF HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLES

BRYAN MUCH

DISCUSSION	Bryan - Alcohol problems with users. Sound testing is being regulated very heavily. Sound testing kits available. Code letting them implement the Motorcycle program for Aug 2020. What needs to be done to help routes and trail systems. Cheap trails because they are small - were able to start on some new trails in Vilas county(different level trail loops).Tigerton also has a new trail system. Create public trials motorcycle courses with purchasing rocks and logs to place together. Changing trail use on certain weekends and dates to incorporate new opportunities without more land and resources. GPS guided tours available with economic advantages. There are no formal hands on training for Offroad. The programs is too thin and small so they rely on youth programs to train. Bridget - laws are being rewritten so old mines can be used for riding.
ACTION	No action required.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

F. AWSC/SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL

LORI HEIDEMAN

DISCUSSION	Lori Heideman - 50th anniversary this year! 600 clubs and over 40,000 members. KAOS member with Kids is working out well. Cleaning up verbiage in budget bill to use money how fit. GPS all trail systems in Wisconsin to track miles. Financially doing well and able to fund new trails. \$300/mile for maintenance. All 72 counties were open at one point last year for trails.
ACTION	No action required.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

H. NEXT MEETING

DISCUSSION	Next meeting date: September 19, 2020 place to be determined.
ACTION	No action required.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Dave Larson - machines are changing and registration stickers are hard to place on the machines without rules. 4 answers from 4 wardens.
ACTION	No action required.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion Wayne - second Ron at 2:00 pm
SUBMITTED BY	Stephanie Blazich
DATE	01/05/2020