

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Motorized Recreational Vehicles

Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/20/2020	6:30 PM	ZOOM Video Conference
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chair Dave Larson @ 6:33 PM
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b. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Gary Mertig, Dave Larson, Dan Beauchamp, Ronn Krueger, Al Marotz, Wayne Schmidt, Mike Kohl, Brad Martinson, Brett Weir, Steve Gehrke
EXCUSED	Stephanie Blazich
UNEXCUSED	Tom Avis, Richard Marti, Matthew McHugh
GUESTS & WI DNR LIAISONS	Randy Harden & Hank Wozniel, WATVA; Rob McConnell, OHV Counsel; Bryan Much, Off-Road Motorcycles; Dave Newman, AWSC; Mike Young, retired conservation warden. Committee DNR Liaisons - Brigit Brown, Martin Stone, Jillian Steffes; WCC Liaison Kari Lee-Zimmermann.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Motion to accept as written by Brett Weir, second by Wayne Schmidt. Passed unanimously.
ACTION	N/A

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Chair Larson read current mission statement then offered suggested changes to be more inclusive. Cited examples I.E. E-bikes, drones, power watercraft, personal mobility devices, etc. Discussion. Committee thought to replace word "vehicles" with term "equipment and devices". Navigable waters needs to be included with private and public lands.
ACTION	Motion by Wayne Schmidt, second by Brad Martinson to amend mission statement per discussion. Motion passed unanimously. New mission statement and committee title will be on next DLC Committee agenda. Chair Larson to work with WCC Liaison and move forward.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	Randy Harden updated committee on WATVA events & legislation. Hank Wozniel concurred with Randy. Rob McConnell stated this year saw influx of new riders and trail program is healthy. Bryan Much stated two new off-road motorcycle trails are opening. Problems on trails are being fixed as time and money allow. Tigerton has large rock to climb with motorcycles. Dave Newman commented about Blue Mound State Park, the 40 foot rule and light dimming. Above Motorized Recreation Association leaders commented on tonight's resolution # 450320 dealing with requiring in-person safety training. Mike Young, retired Conservation Warden, spoke in favor of resolution to require in-person safety training. He strongly encourages it for all user groups.
ACTION	N/A. Informational only.

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. CITIZEN RESOLUTION # 450320, REQUIRE IN-PERSON SAFETY TRAINING

MIKE KOHL, AUTHOR

DISCUSSION	Mike Kohl reviewed his resolution and pointed out his perceptions of the lack of in-person safety training. Pointed out that online only training does not work well for all students. His resolution would bring back in-person safety training with a hands on approach. Discussion. Multiple committee members are certified DNR safety instructors and agreed with the need for hands on safety training. Many comments were brought forward regarding the short comings with on-line only training. It was pointed about the resolution had some confusing language. Al Marotz, Committee Vice Chair, will work with author Mike Kohl on clearing up the language in resolution.
ACTION	Motion by Al Marotz, second by Mike Kohl to advance with the committee's recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE - MIKE KOHL & AL MAROTZ TO FINE TUNE FOR WCC DISTRICT LEADERSHIP. DEADLINE - NOVEMBER 19, 2020.	

B. DNR LIAISON'S REPORTS

BROWN, STONE, STEFFES

DISCUSSION	<p>Lt. Martin Stone, LE - To date in 2020 there have been 31 fatalities & year isn't over yet. There is an increase in number of students in DNR safety classes and trail pass sales. New state initiatives are being implemented in safety message signage in problem areas to increase safety on trails. Risky behavior on land & waterways that include speed & alcohol is increasing. Only 4 out of 31 fatalities had DNR safety training. There are more violations on trails and roads.</p> <p>Brigit Brown, Recreational Trail Management - COVID has equaled a boom increase in outdoor activities as well as motorized equipment sales. Maintenance on trails & upkeep on bridges is increasing. She explained E-bikes and the classifications. The state is developing plans on how to use them on state trails and properties. Discussed how trails and bridges need constant maintenance.</p> <p>Jillian Steffes, CFA & Grants - Jillian reviewed matching grants for cities, counties and clubs. State now has more than 340,000 ATV's & UTV's.</p> <p>All 3 liaisons fielded multiple questions from Committee members.</p>
ACTION	Information only. No action required.
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LARSON

DISCUSSION	Committee meetings for the foreseeable future will be held by ZOOM video conferencing. Members prefer ZOOM over standard conference calls. There is desire to return to in-person meetings when conditions return to a more safe "normal" times. Brett Weir reminded committee that we have tools to fulfill mission and need to focus on practicing current safety guidelines.
ACTION	N/A
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	Many members reiterated need for hands on safety training. Chair Larson had been contacted by WCC delegates asking him to inquire about new laws pertaining to two up riding & need to use lights on private property. Response is that safety is top priority over personal inconvenience. With new rules most law enforcement will start with education before proceeding to citation. Individuals with questions are strongly encouraged to contact Warden Stone or their local warden for clarification.
ACTION	N/A

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	8:45 PM. Motion by Brett Weir, second by Mike Kohl. Motion passed.
SUBMITTED BY	Al Marotz, Acting Secretary
DATE	10/25/2020