



Off-Road Vehicle Council Meeting Minutes

July 15th, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Council Members Present: Rob McConnell – Chair, Adam Harden – Vice Chair, Bobby Donahue, Mike Biese, Dan Thole

Council Members Not In Attendance – Dave Traczyk, Jim Wisneski

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Ed Slaminski, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci, Cathy Burrow, Kurt Byfield, Faith Murray, Cathy Burrow

Public attendance: members of the public

1. **Call to order at 9:00 am**
2. **Agenda Repair**
 - None
3. **Chair Comments**
 - None
4. **DNR Reports and Updates**
 - Suggestion by DNR that the Council work on rating/ranking for trail rehab projects in order to indicate a priority ranking within the category, and potentially put limits on funding, if that is the desire of the Council.
5. **Information and Action: Trail/grant issue**
 - A. **Action required on storm damage and/or amendment requests**
 - None
6. **Information and Action: Council Recommendations to DNR on Implementing Grant Funding Changes from Legislation ATV/UTV SB-583 AB-652**
 - Vice Chair Adam Harden shared some draft, preliminary ranking sheets for the new funding categories to facilitate discussion (attached).
 - **RADIO COMMUNICATION FUNDING CATEGORY**
 - Discussion included awards based on county's need, if the county should have off road trails to be eligible, give weight to where cell coverage is poor, potential fiscal caps by applicant or category. Council members generally in favor of making cellular phones ineligible, to focus on radio equipment. Also likely will not fund tower construction. Applicants will hopefully be utilizing existing tower infrastructure.
 - **STATEWIDE MAP FUNDING CATEGORY (digital or print map)**
 - Note the key word of STATEWIDE. Anticipated primary use will be development of a delivery vehicle for map information – an “app” or printed map.
 - **PRODUCTION AND PLACEMENT OF SAFETY SIGNAGE**
 - Basic definition of eligibility of scope – signs should be placed on off-road trail systems and at public trailhead/trailside facilities. Only safety and regulatory signs are eligible. Signs promoting sponsorship, etc. are not eligible.
 - **FUNDING ORDER**
 - How will these new categories fit in the funding priority order, in relation to the other trail aids funding categories? Not yet settled, will discuss at future meetings.

7. Information and Action: Bridge Load Limits and Cost Share

- Current guidance is for funding up to 14,000 lb load limit bridges, but many bridges are being proposed at 25,000 lbs. General impression is that the cost difference is minimal.
- ORV Council will follow Snowmobile Council's policy to not replace perfectly functional bridges simply to accommodate larger equipment. But if bridge is being rehabbed/replaced, the new structure may be for a higher load limit by means of the Council recommending a variance be granted.
- Currently we do not have a "bridge inventory" for ATV Trail bridges.
- Are counties required to post the load limit on the bridge? Perhaps not legally, but it is in their best interest to do so for liability reasons. If ATV is paying for the rehab/development, the Council would like to make posting the load limit a REQUIREMENT of the grant funds.

Motion to adopt policy of funding up to 25,000 lb load limit for new construction and major rehabilitation, and require weight limit be promptly posted on both ends of the bridge by Bobby, 2nd by Dan. MOTION PASSED

8. Council member items

- Bobby – Adding seating to machines – will Law Enforcement focus on manufactory intent, or after-market accessories? Comment by Randy Harden (WATVA) – legal opinion states manufactory intent.
- Poor education of buyers by some dealers is a concern, when it comes to which larger UTVs can be legally registered and ridden on the public trails.

9. Public Comments

- Randy Harden (WATVA)
 - WATVA is working with JFC to increase the grant program's spending cap, may come up in the next session.
 - WATVA would like to have a meeting with dealers, manufacturers, trail managers, and other interested groups on the topic of UTV weight.
 - Trail ambassadors are patrolling less due to COVID. Those that are out are observing poor behavior from new riders, emphasizing the value in the trail ambassador program. New ambassadors are being trained, and Randy encourages new folks to sign up for the program.

10. Housekeeping Matters

- None

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mike, 2nd by Adam. MOTION PASSED