



Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 7th, 2022

DNR Rhinelander Service Center, 107 Sutliff Ave WI and via Zoom

Council Members Present: Rob McConnell (Chair), Mike Biese, Bobby Donahue, Ed Slaminski, Daniel Thole, Jim Wisneski

DNR Staff: Jillian Steffes, Kurt Byfield (Zoom), Jeremy Holtz, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci

Public: Randy Harden (WATVA), Adam Harden (NOHVIS), Todd Bierman (Vilas), Holly Tomlanovich (Vilas), Susan Tollander (Burnett), Travis Wollenberg (Oneida), Cody Brauner (Langlade), Dave Kafura (WCFA), other members of the public

1. Call to order – 10:00 AM by Rob

2. Agenda Repair

- None.

3. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the Dec 2021 meeting by Jim, 2nd by Dan. **Motion carries.**

4. Elections

- Dan nominates Rob McConnell as Chair of the ORV Council, 2nd by Jim. 2nd call for chair, 3rd call for chair.

Motion by Mike (2nd by Bobby) to close nominations for Chair of the ORV Council and cast unanimous ballot for Rob McConnell as Chair. MOTION PASSED

- Rob nominates Mike Biese as Vice Chair of the ORV Council, 2nd by Jim. 2nd call for vice chair, 3rd call for vice chair.

Motion by Dan (2nd by Dave) to close nominations for Vice Chair of the ORV Council and cast unanimous ballot for Mike Biese as Vice Chair. MOTION PASSED

5. Public Comments

- **Randy Harden (WATVA)**
 - Many new machines and riders joining the sport. Trail ambassadors program is also growing with new volunteers. 11 new safety signs have been made to help educate the public in the field. Most viewed sign on FB is “Trespassing is illegal”. 2nd most popular was “Am you too big” regarding UTV weight and dimensions to be legally registered. #3 was “Donuts are tasty however on the roads and trails they’re downright nasty”. #4 “Seatbelts save lives”. #5 “Highlights ON on road and trails”. Etc. Check out Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association on FB to see all of the signs. Clubs seems interested in getting these on their trails.
- **Adam Harden (NOHVIS)**
 - Thank you for your support of the trail ambassador program by supporting the funding of grant applications to purchase communication equipment. Volunteers are helping with large scale events to ensure safety, with the use of these units. Looking to expand moving forward.

6. Chair Report – Rob McConnell

- There were four fatalities over Memorial Day Weekend, and 2 more individuals in critical condition. Wisconsin is on pace to meet or exceed last year’s fatalities of 47. We need to continue to get the word out and promote safety and training. Promote helmets, seatbelts, & safety certification.

- No legislation likely to be proposed this year as it's an election year.

7. DNR Report

- HANDOUTS
 - Spreadsheet of FY23 Grant Requests
- We have \$2.5 million in maintenance requests and \$2.8 million in rehab/development requests this year, for a total of \$5.3 million in requests. Slightly less than our 5-year average of \$6 million. We won't know our available funds until August, but last year we had \$5.8 million available for grants awards.

8. Information and Action: Trail/grant issues

a. Action required on grant, storm damage and/or amendment requests

Motion to recommend funding Oneida Co's emergency storm damage request by Jim, 2nd by Mike. **Motion carries.**

Motion to recommend funding Burnett Co's cost increase requests to ATV-4304 and ATV-4305 by Jim, 2nd by Dan. **Motion carries.**

b. Review ATV/UTV grant applications for completeness; request additional information if needed.

- Questions on individual projects recorded in separate document (spreadsheet of projects)
- Throughout review of the applications, Council members expressed concern about the increase in requests for paving roadway crossings of trails. These are often required by DOT for state highway crossings, but historically not needed for county, town and local roads. May also be necessary for steep grade changes. But local communities are asking counties to apply for funding and pave approaches to minimize gravel drag onto asphalt, or crumble of road at the edges. The trails are somewhat responsible, but ATV/UTV riders contribute approx. \$3 million a year to DOT in gas tax revenue. Can those funds be utilized to assist? Concern that if ATV Trail Aids becomes the primary funding mechanism for these, the requests over time could be significant.

Motion to recommend funding paving approaches up to 14' x 12' at 50% on unless special circumstances apply by Mike, 2nd by Jim. **Motion carries.** (NOTE - see subsequent motion overriding this one)

- Special circumstances could include requirement by DOT to do this in order to develop the trail, or elevation/grade changes, etc.
- [DOT requires](#) a paved approach of 14' wide by 20' long, with triangular expansion where apron meets the road.

Motion to recommend funding paving approaches up to 14' wide x 20' long at 50% on unless special circumstances apply by Mike, 2nd by Jim. **Motion carries.**

- Special circumstances could include requirement by DOT to do this in order to develop the trail, or elevation/grade changes, etc.

9. Council Member Matters

- Jim – Oconto received a grant for dust control 90k in 2020. Update –crusher fines put down in Nov 2020 and touched up in 2022. Sodium chloride sprayed spring 2022, 2 more applications to come. Spent \$60k so far, will update when things dried up.

- Bobby – My township opened up routes, citizens are confused by signage (different graphic but same color). Not always sure what is an ATV route and what is a Snowmobile route. Use different color? ANSWER: Both are green, as are road routes, that may be dictated by DOT to some degree to identify recreational transportation corridors. Currently the color is set by law.
- Rob – Should groomer use be tracked more thoroughly than it is now, like Snowmo? An ATV version of SNARS? Further discussion is needed, Council members and DNR tasked with contemplating and revisiting in future.
- Mike – Welcome to Ed. Thank you for the Vice Chair nomination.

10. Housekeeping Matters

- Snowmo Council are reviewing the equipment rates. Shouldn't have a major impact on ATV, but since ATV tends to adopt snowmo rates, Snowmo Council invites a rep from ORV to join them in reviewing rates. Jim volunteers.
- Dale's Weston Lanes may not be able to accommodate us this summer for the funding meeting. Jillian will look for an alternate location in the same central area.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Dave, 2nd by Mike. **Motion carries.**