



## Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 16th, 2021

via Zoom

**Council Members Present:** Rob McConnell (Chair), Mike Biese, Daniel Thole, James Wisneski

**DNR Staff:** Jillian Steffes, Kurt Byfield, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci, Cathy Burrow

**Public:** Jake Walcisak (Taylor Co), Clint Meyer, Dave Kafura (WCFA), Members of the public

#### 1. Call to order – 9:00 AM by Rob

#### 2. Agenda Repair

- None

#### 3. Chair Report – Rob

- New ATV/UTV Trail Guidelines were released by DNR, comments due by 12/23 so that is the reason for this last minute meeting. Would like to get a collection of comments from Governor's Council

#### 4. DNR Report

- **Jillian Steffes – DNR Community Financial Assistance**

- The ATV/UTV Trail Guidelines document was not written by the Governor's ORV Council nor were they given an opportunity to review or comment in advance. This meeting is to give the Council a chance to comment prior to the document deadline. Some details of the guidelines are in conflict with our administrative code, and would not be fundable under the grant program.

- **Brigit Brown – DNR Parks**

- The ATV/UTV Trail Guidelines need to be followed for projects on DNR lands, but are advisory for projects on non-DNR lands. Document was developed collaboratively with county trail managers, DNR Parks, engineers, representatives of WCFA and Governor's Council, DNR WMS, etc. This is a guide, not "standards".

#### 5. Public Comments

- **Jake Walcisak (Taylor Co)** – Who from ORV Council was involved in drafting?
  - Rob – Involved in 2017-2019 drafts, but haven't seen subsequent revisions. Other participants were John Schweitzer, Randy Harden (WATVA), Mike Petersen, Bryan Much (OHM), USFS, Doug Johnson (State Trails) and more.
- **Dave Kafura (WCFA)**
  - RE: Sept meeting. Unfortunate that Adam Harden chose to resign from the Council. Legal Council from DNR should come in and explain code of ethics to Council members. Adam could have stepped out of the meeting while the rest of the Council discussed the project.
- **Email Comment** - Railroad grade from New London to Green Bay would make a nice ATV trail.
  - Brigit Brown – That property is not for sale at this time.

#### 6. ACTION ITEM: Review and discuss DNR's ATV and UTV Trail Guidelines

- Appreciate the content expressing the importance of a diverse range of trail surfaces and challenge types.
- MATRIX – Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4. Level 1 trails are quite well represented by the 40,000 miles of road routes that already exist. Concern that this matrix will encourage more Level 1 trail grant requests. Perception held by Council members is that user demand is for Level 3 and 4. But building sustainable trails that will last for years without damaging environment is also highly important. Ideal trail will be something that will satisfy trail managers and Forest Certification, will be sustainable, and will satisfy the users rider experience requests.
- Rob will draft a statement from the Council.

- Administrative code limits trail width to 12'. May be difficult to fund Level 1 and 2 as-written in the guidelines.

**7. Council members' matters**

- None

**8. Housekeeping matters**

- None

**9. Adjourn**

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