



Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Rib Mountain Community Center, and via Zoom

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

DNR Staff: Jillian Steffes, Jake Holsclaw (LE), Cathy Burrow, Kurt Byfield, Jeremy Holtz, Jeff Pennucci, Annie Loechler

Public: Dave Kafura (WCFA), Todd Bierman (Vilas), Adam Hardin (NOHVIS), Randy Harden (WATVA), and other members of the public

1. Call to order – 10:00 AM by Rob

2. Agenda Repair

- Adding an agenda item to allow Nathan Matter (Groomer Tracking Systems, LLC) to talk about the snowmobile database he created for DNR's Snowmobile Trail Aids Program

3. Chair Report

- **Rob McConnell** – None

4. Public Comments

- **Todd Bierman (Vilas County)**. There is currently no Council rate for graders, just using DOT rate. Council may want to consider adopting one.
- **Dave Kafura (WCFA)**. Commend you on the June meeting to get things reviewed and prepped for August. Education of the grant applicants is important, would like to see a training session. Also, education is needed of the DNR regulators on these projects, some projects have been held up by reviews by DNR staff on wetlands, etc. Finally, pointed out incorrect process on motions/2nd and dialog at August meeting.
- **Randy Harden (WATVA)**. (*presentation happened during item 6b after discussion on radios ended*)
 - Working on legislation to increase Co LE Aids to be increased by \$550k annually. DNR LE doesn't have sufficient hours/staffing to do the work alone, and Co LE needs additional funds to do their share.
 - Also requesting legislation to increase DNR LE Aids by 5 FTEs.
 - Finally, working on legislation to increase UTV Maintenance increased by another \$200/mile

5. DNR Report

- **Jillian Steffes (Grants)**
 - **Handouts**
 - **ATV/UTV Registration Numbers for past 5 years**
 - **Non-Resident Trail Pass Sales for past 5 years**
 - **Pending Grant Requests**
 - Several funding requests for your consideration today.
 - Welcome to Jake Holsclaw (Law Enforcement), who is replacing the now-retired Marty Stone.

6. ACTION ITEM: Review of and funding recommendations for grant applications

- a. Funding motions and more details on each project available in the subsequent pages of this document.
- b. Additional Discussion on NOHVIS funding.
 - i. Additional info was provided to Council Members electronically about the Trail Ambassador program. NOHVIS is a non-gov entity that runs this safety program.
 - ii. NOHVIS receives funding via a safety enhancement grant or service contract via DNR Law Enforcement in the amount of \$297k every 2-years for use in training, updates, patrols, outreach, etc. That amount has been the same since 2002. Funding covers the management of the program, and considerable volunteer hours needed to implement the trail ambassador program.

- iii. Perhaps funding of communication equipment fits better under the safety enhancement program if funding is sufficient. General sentiment was in agreement that this was true, but at this time the statute puts the funding mechanism under ATV Trail Aids. Future legislation may happen to shift this for future years.
- iv. The ATV Trail Aids program typically doesn't pay for acquisition of equipment. Council members would prefer to approve an hourly reimbursement rate for communication equipment use. To be discussed at a future meeting.
- v. Comments from Jake Holsclaw on how funding for Law Enforcement means DNR LE can't be out in the field as much as might be needed, so County LE and the Trail Ambassador program do provide a valuable asset to helping with education and safety support. Jake has seen the radios in use and support their use in the future.
- vi. Council was unable to support a motion to fund the projects. No action taken.
- vii. NOHVIS has requested DNR fund their grant request regardless of Gov Council recommendation. Department will review the request and make a decision if the grants will be awarded for FY23.

7A. Agenda Repair – Groomer Tracking Systems, LLC Snowmobile Reporting System DB aka “SNARS”

- Began working on GPS units in Vilas as a pilot 11 years ago.
- Along the same time, worked with DNR and the Counties to develop a tabular database (DB) reporting and tracking program.
- Fully transitioned into GPS units in all groomers last year. Automatically reports time spent grooming
- Customers have been asking for a similar program for ATV trail maintenance. Barron Co for example has installed GPS units in all of their summer trail maintenance machines.
- Groomer Tracking Systems (GTS) is available to develop a custom database for use by the ATV Trail Aids program if desired.
- Transparency is a good selling point, everyone can see what the money is being spent on. Also makes review of expenses by DNR faster and easier. Increased speed with reimbursements from DNR.
- If GPS units are a part of an ATV database, we'll need to know in a GIS format where the trails are. Groomer Tracking Systems will create an updated GIS layer annual via the use of the GPS units, but it will be copywrite protected by GTS. In general, GTS is willing to share that data back with the Co and Club to help with trail management and map production.

7. Council members' matters

- Jim W. – Is there a way to speed up the grant process?
 - DNR provided an explanation of the grant cycle timeline (see attachment flow chart). Due to the volume of materials, the timing of funding cycle, resource reviews (wetlands, archaeological, endangered species, etc) there isn't really a way to move any faster. We advise applicants to plan for construction the season FOLLOWING the application year. So applications submitted April 2023 should be for construction 24-25.
- Mike B – Would like to set a rate for the roller magnet.
 - His local club has fundraised \$14,000 for purchase of one, will use in the spring. After crunching numbers, \$8/hour sounds reasonable given purchase price, useful life, scrap value, etc.

Motion to add 'Roller Magnet' to class 9205 in the equipment rates by Mike, 2nd by Jim. Motion carries.

8. Housekeeping matters

- Develop an hourly rate for radios (communication equipment) at a future meeting.
- Council members – what would you like to see in a “SNARS” version?
- Next meeting in February via Zoom

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Bobby, 2nd by Ed. Motion carries.