



Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 21st, 2021

via Zoom

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

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

Public: Jake Walcisak (Taylor County), Jerome Donohoe (Elk Farmers Association), Adam Harden (NOHVIS), other members of the public

1. Call to order – 9:00 AM by Rob

2. Agenda Repair

- Move public comments to after Council member matters.

3. ACTION ITEM: Review and finalize Council's comments on DNR's ATV and UTV Trail Guidelines

(draft attached to minutes)

- Discussion on highlighting the importance of our trail system to tourism in Wisconsin, bringing in travelers from outside the state. Ultimately no change proposed to the draft letter.

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

4. Council members' matters

- None

5. Public Comments

- **Jerome Donohoe (Elk Farmers Association)**
 - Prions that spread CWD could be present on the trails and move to other areas of the state. To help stop the spread of CWD, machines should be kept clean. Consider including reference to this (and other invasive species spread) in the ATV and UTV Trail Guidelines.

6. Adjourn

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

December 17, 2021

To: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Staff

DNRFWPPRGuidance@wisconsin.gov

Re: Comments-ATV and UTV Trail Guidelines Document

The Wisconsin Governors Off-Road Vehicle Council (ORV Council) appreciates the opportunity to submit our comments on the proposed ATV and UTV Trail Guideline draft.

The ORV Council recognizes all the effort of the Wisconsin DNR Staff and all the Stakeholders that provided input drafting this document.

The Council has been hearing for numerous years from the thousands of ATV and UTV users in Wisconsin that they would like to see a more diverse trail system that includes both developed trails and trails that are primitive and provide more of a challenge to operate on.

We see our charge as ORV Council Members to provide a mix of various levels of trail development. There currently is over 42,000 miles of ATV and UTV Routes throughout the State, in addition, the more developed ATV and UTV trails in the Level 1 and 2 categories are the majority of currently existing trails in Wisconsin. The less developed trails of the Level 3 and 4 categories are underrepresented. These lower developed ATV and UTV trails are being sought after by many riders that seek a more challenging experience.

Wisconsin Administrative Code states that ATV and UTV Trails do not exceed twelve feet in width, the draft document guidelines have a trail width of up to sixteen feet. The Council would like to see the ATV and UTV Guidelines adhere to current Administrative Code.

It is the ORV Council's opinion that a diverse, sustainable, and environmentally responsible trail system can be developed, but this will take planning and challenging work being done by all parties. For the trail sponsors, land managers, grant specialists, and ATV and UTV trail users this is an achievable goal, that we can all work toward accomplishing.

Please feel free to call or contact us for clarification or questions you may have about our input and comments.

Rob McConnell

Wisconsin Governors Off-Road Vehicle Council

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