

**Off-Highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2009
Holiday Inn Express**

Attendees:

Laurie Cranton, Chair; Corey Robar; Lloyd Wallis; George Pugsley; Ken Reade; Carmen D'Intino; Derick Stoddard, Ex-officio; Laura Barkhouse; Charles Atkinson; Pat Hicks, Ex-officio; Dawn Stegen, Ex-officio; Greg Newell, Ex-officio; Floyd Cock; Raymond Plourde; Peter Labor, Ex-officio; David Dauphinee, Environment Ex-officio; Judith Cabrita; Hugh Gillis, Ex-officio and Kevin Benjamin, Secretariat

Regrets:

Roger King; Rick Gilbert, Ex-officio; Paul D'Eon and James Vance

Meeting Called to Order 9:00 am

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Correspondence, Updates (Laurie Cranton)

The minutes of July 21, 2009 were approved as amended by consensus

Updates:

OHV Enforcement Officers:

At our previous meeting there was some concern about the OHV enforcement commitment. Derick commented on the scheduling process for all Conservation Officers. Laurie updated the committee on a meeting he had with Brian Gilbert, Executive Director Regional Services. Brian has agreed to attend the September MAC meeting to further explain the roles the OHV Enforcement Unit along with all Conservation Officers and their commitment to the OHV file.

Brushy Hill:

An agreement has been made between the landowner, ATVANS and SANS to keep the SANS 101 trail open until August 31, 2010 or until a new route is established. Laurie will be communicating with the local OHV community as well as the provincial associations and be bringing them together to work toward identifying a new route which will satisfy all of the groups.

Trail Mapping:

Meetings were held with DNR staff to discuss the various trail mapping projects that are ongoing within SANS and ATVANS. It was determined the best quality GPS information to be used when mapping trails is sub 5 meters. This information will be able to produce quality maps and provide the necessary information to DNR when working with trail designations. It was also determined that there is a large quantity of information being gathered and that there should be a central repository where this information is gathered and managed.

Correspondence:

Laurie read correspondence received from Sou Wes Nova ATV Association, Cumberland Trails Association, John Cameron and Melanie Ryan.

Recommendation: It was recommended the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be contacted to inquire about their land disposal process. The OHVMAC would like to be included in the land disposal process especially if there is an OHV interest.

Action: Laurie / Kevin

Reports:

Enforcement – Ken Reade:

The Enforcement Committee met and identified some key areas for discussion;

Standard Trail Crossing Sign:

The Enforcement Committee has furthered discussed the need to have a standardized highway trail crossing sign. The Committee **recommends** a letter be written to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal through the Minister requesting that a trail crossing sign along with the trails policy become a priority within the department. **Action:** Laurie

Trail Monitoring Equipment – The committee has added Mr. Bill Bishop to the Enforcement Committee. Mr. Bishop will operate and monitoring equipment and collect the data. ATVANS owns the equipment. Through Mr. Bishop the Enforcement Committee will assist with the management of the data.

Drivers ID card – The committee suggested that when an OHV operator has successfully taken the OHV Safety training that a code be added to the operator’s driver’s license or ID card as an indicator of having completed the training. This will aid the enforcement officers in identifying who has the training.

Safety Training – The Committee suggests the OHV safety training be broken into two parts; theory and practical. The theory portion would be generic and the practical part would be specific to OHV type.

DNR Enforcement – Derick Stoddard:

Derick circulated the OHV Offences report for the second quarter, April – June 2009.

DNR – Kevin Benjamin:

Kevin indicated that the request for an additional \$119,000 for trails projects has been approved. Some outstanding projects from 2007 and 2008 have had final audits complete and the final 20% payment has been requisitioned.

Education – Paul D’Eon

Unable to attend the meeting

Trails Sub-Committee – Laura Barkhouse

No report at this time, next meeting scheduled for September 11, 2009

New Business:

Ogden Round Lake

Ogden Round Lake is a protected Wilderness Area. It was brought to the attention of the committee by Raymond Plourde that an attempt is being made to develop a new trail across the protected area to provide a connection to the Abandoned Rail Corridor. Ogden

Round Lake is part of the original 31 protected areas and OHV traffic is strictly prohibited. It was **recommended** that a letter be written to the Minister making him aware of this potential situation and that the Off Highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee by full consensus opposes any trail development along with OHV traffic within the protected area. **Action:** Laurie

Minister's Visit:

The Honorable John MacDonell, Minister of Natural Resources joined the meeting. The Minister was introduced to the members of the committee and participated in conversation about a number of OHV issues the committee wished to discuss.

It was **recommended** that two letters be written to the Minister regarding the OHV registration sticker and the exemptions to the OHV Infrastructure Fund and how these two items need the support of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.
Action: Laurie

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 29 and Wednesday September 30, 2009 commencing 9:00am.

Meeting Adjourned 2:00pm