

Off-Highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2009
Holiday Inn Express

Attendees:

Laurie Cranton, Chair; Corey Robar; Lloyd Wallis; George Pugsley; Ken Reade; Carmen D'Intino; Peter Labor, Ex-officio; Derick Stoddard, Ex-officio; Laura Barkhouse; Paul D'Eon; Charles Atkinson; Jim Vance and Kevin Benjamin, Secretariat

Regrets:

Roger King, Raymond Plourde, Pat Hicks, Ex-officio and Rick Gilbert, Ex-officio and Hugh Gillis, Ex-officio

Meeting Called to Order 9:05 am

Welcome, Approval of Minutes, Updates (Laurie Cranton)

The minutes of May 26, 2009 were approved by consensus.

Laurie reviewed action items from the May 26, 2009 minutes.

Updates:

International Snowmobile Congress:

Laurie Cranton, George Pugsley and Kevin Benjamin attended the International Snowmobile Congress held in Summerside, Prince Edward Island from June 10 -13, 2009. The event was well attended with delegations representing all Provinces and Territories along with a number of the US States and European Countries. A highlight of the Congress was the visit and address to the delegation by the Prime Minister.

Brushy Hill:

Discussion is ongoing with all parties to try and find a workable solution in an attempt to provide a motorized trail route in this area to allow for the continuity that presently exists. The Ad-Hoc committee co-chaired by Laurie Cranton and Stan Slack continues to look at all options as to where the route could be located.

SANS / ATVANS Trails Use Mediation:

Laurie has had an initial discussion with Jim Neil and he is willing to work with both organizations in an attempt to find a workable solution. Laurie is just waiting to get the go ahead from both groups before moving forward to the next step.

Reports:

Enforcement – Ken Reade:

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

Theft of Signs:

- needs to be an identification of the locations in which signs are frequently stolen
- there needs to be a media blitz regarding stolen signage
- statistics of charges being laid along with the fines associated with the possession of stolen signage should be included in the media
- install monitoring equipment in problem areas
- create an anti-theft pamphlet which could be an insert as part of hunting and fishing licenses
- stolen signs are a safety issue

Trail Warden Program:

- expand the roles of the trail wardens (may be difficult around enforcement issues)
- improve data collection, this information is needed to evaluate the program and to see if the program is being effective

Equipment:

- there seems to be a need for more equipment to assist with enforcement i.e.: monitoring equipment
- the sub-committee will review the effectiveness of monitoring equipment and report back to the MAC

12 OHV Officers:

- the current OHV Enforcement Unit are being tasked with other responsibilities which is taking away from their OHV Enforcement
- these 12 Officers are suppose to be dedicated to OHV Enforcement

- It was explained how the Officers are assigned their responsibilities as well as reporting and accountability to their Supervisors
- NSORRA expressed support to encourage the OHV Enforcement Unit spend less of their time working on other programs
- The task force report indicated that the 12 member Enforcement Unit was a priority

It was recommended that a meeting be coordinated with Brian Gilbert, Executive Director, Regional Services to discuss the 12 member Enforcement Unit, the Task Force Recommendations and the allocation of Staff resources.

Action: Kevin to coordinate meeting.

DNR Enforcement – Derick Stoddard:

Derick presented two statistical reports, April – December 2008 and April 2008 – March 2009.

The revenue generated from charges laid should be reflected within the Infrastructure Fund.

DNR – Kevin Benjamin:

Cheques for the Infrastructure Grants have been requisitioned and they will be sent to groups as soon as they are prepared.

DNR continues to work on a number of OHV related projects.

Education – Paul D'Eon

Paul provided a brief update from the OHV Conference which was held in Truro on May 29 & 30, 2009. There was discussion regarding future OHV Conferences and Trails Conferences. Should they be held every year, every two years or should they be combined?

Trails Sub-Committee – Laura Barkhouse

No Report at this time. Next meeting scheduled for June 26, 2009.

New Government Briefing:

The MAC is on the list to meet with Minister MacDonnell. In the mean time Laurie is working on a presentation for the Minister of which he circulated a draft outline as to the content.

It was also noted that there is a need to have a presentation made to the MAC regarding the Colin Stewart Forest Forum.

Strategic Plan Action Items – Paul D’Eon and Jim Vance:

The afternoon was spent developing action items for the strategic plan.

Next Meeting: Tuesday July 21, 2009 commencing 9:00am

Meeting Adjourned 3:15pm