



# Off-highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee

May 8-9 2007  
Halifax, NS

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- Attendees:** Laurie Cranton (Chair), Glenn Joudrey (Vice Chair), Jamie Wolverton (SANS), James Vance (NSTF), Raymond Plourde (Environment), Paul D'Eon (Safety/Training), Laura Barkhouse (Member at Large), Robert Connell (Enforcement/Police), Charles Atkinson (Industry), Roger King (Member at Large), Dr. Mike Howlett (Health)(day one)  
Ex-officio: Susan Hruszowy (for Patricia MacNeil, DNR), Peter Labor (DEL) (day two), Bernie Clancey (DTW), Derick Stoddard (for John Mombourquette, OHV Enforcement/Conservation Officer), Jennifer Annett (Secretariat), Pat Hicks (Manufacturers)
- Guests:** Judith Cabrita (Tourism), Floyd Cock (for Landowner), Krista Chapdelaine, Diane LeBlanc, Jennifer Gavin (DNR Communications) (day two), Mike Trinacty (DHPP Regional Rep – Valley) (day one), Debby Smith (DHPP Regional Rep – South Shore) (day two), Corey Robar (for Dave Fraser, ATVANS)
- Regrets:** Dr. Howlett (day two), Ted Scrutton (DHPP), Peter Doucet (ORRA), Dave Fraser (ATVANS), David Barrett (Landowner), Peter Labor (DEL) (day one), Vacant (Municipal), Vacant (Municipal)

## ----- Agenda Topics -----

Tuesday May 8 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

<b>8:30 AM Arrival, Coffee, Muffins</b>		<b>30 min</b>
9:00 AM Welcome, Review of Action Items, Approval of Minutes, Reports (Chair, Secretariat, Fund)	Laurie Cranton, Jennifer Annett, Susan Hruszowy, Others	1 hr
10:00 AM OHV Infrastructure Fund (Other Projects)	Laurie Cranton	1 hr
11:00 AM Fall OHV Workshop	Laurie Cranton	30 min
11:30 AM Community Consultation	Mike Trinacty	1 hr
<b>12:00 PM LUNCH</b>		<b>1 hr</b>
1:00 PM Presentation to Government	Laurie Cranton	1 hr 30
2:30 PM Policies/Procedures for New Regulations	Laurie Cranton, Ted Scrutton, Susan Huszowy	1 hr 30
4:00 PM Adjournment for the day		

MINUTES – May 8-9 2007

----- Minutes -----

Tuesday May 8 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Welcome, Review of Action Items, Minutes, Reports

Laurie Cranton,  
Jennifer Annett,  
Susan Hruszowy  
Others

1 hr

**Discussion:** Chair welcomed members and guests.

Chair provided his report. OHV Infrastructure Fund announcement on May 6/07. Trails Program press release May 7 for \$700,000. Ministers’ meeting occurred May 2<sup>nd</sup> to review recommendations from April and March. SANS request may be reviewed again in 2008.

Action items reviewed. Minutes were approved, with changes from SANS member.

Secretariat provided her report.

DNR provided Fund report and update on the status of permit sticker discussions. Currently approximately \$360,000 in fund not allocated.

Action items:

Susan to get legal advice from DNR solicitor to see if electronic copies of recommendations can be circulated. (to be marked confidential and in PDF format only)

Person responsible:

Susan and Jennifer

Deadline:

June 12/07

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OHV Infrastructure Fund (other projects)		Laurie Cranton	
<p>Discussion: The committee discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail Warden Program</li> <li>• Mapping of funded trail projects</li> <li>• Communications/advertisements</li> <li>• Trail rehabilitation/decommissioning</li> <li>• Environmental education/safety</li> <li>• “Established Trails’ education</li> <li>• Hiring professional services or request for proposals to lead projects</li> </ul> <p>Full consensus was reached for the committee to review briefs (1-2 pages and/or a presentation) from interested parties for issues or request for special project funding. Priorities will be in three categories.            1. Mapping &amp; Tourist Information    2. Education    3. Community Enforcement</p>			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
Trails subcommittee to recommend next steps for mapping OHV trails.		Laura	June 12/07
OHV Workshop		Laurie Cranton	
<p>Discussion: Dates of the provincial workshop should coincide with OHV organizations directors meetings in the fall if possible. DHPP has offered to help cover some costs. OHV Infrastructure Fund can possibly help. There may be funding available from other sources. Members supportive of the concept.</p> <p>Note: DHPP is also sponsoring regional workshops in the summer.</p>			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE			
Community Consultation		Mike Trinacty	
<p>Discussion: Mike presented slides. He reviewed his experience. No ideal way to consult the public! Formats: surveys, focus groups, stakeholders meetings, and public meetings. Meetings are not a decision making event. The volume as well as the silence in a meeting are good indicators of participants’ interest in the topic. Strengths and weaknesses with each type of consultation. Broader consultation normally costs more. 20-30 % response rate pretty good. Need to consider who the community is. Scripted/objective surveys help manage possible surveyor biases. Two or more forms of consultation/topic help capture multiple viewpoints. Focus on issues not user group polarization.</p>			
Action Items: NONE		Person responsible:	Deadline:

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Presentation to Government		Laurie Cranton	
<p>Discussion: Need key messages/topics such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Process flaws</li> <li>2) Advice/solutions/ options to move forward</li> <li>3) Impacts of the changes on the action plan and the committee</li> </ol> <p>The Chair will present. Some members should attend to help answer questions (SANS, ATVANS, health, environment, landowner, enforcement possibly.) Focus on key issues.</p>			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
Prepare presentation to Government with notes from the discussion		Laurie	June 12/07
Policies Procedures for New Regulations		Laurie Cranton, Susan Hruszowy	
<p>Discussion: Need to better define “established trail”. Committee brainstormed words to clarify the definition. For example: <b>Established trail means (one or more)</b>—verifiable permission, sustainable, properly built, signed, mapped for OHV use, managed, construction standards, hard packed, right of access, enforceable, different classes of trails. <b>Established trail does not mean:</b> ruts going wherever, verifiable permission NOT given, beaches, bogs, dunes, wetlands, streams, parks, wilderness areas, nature reserves, water supply areas, user does not know whose land they are on, unmanaged/cultivated land, cemeteries, golf courses, or highways.</p>			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
Committee to provide input to DNR for the “where to ride” fact sheet after DNR sends it to them. DNR to consider notes from brainstorming session.		Susan and committee	June 12/07

Meeting Adjourned: 4:10 PM

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----- Agenda Topics -----

Wednesday May 9 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

<b>8:30 AM Arrival, Coffee, Muffins</b>		<b>30 min</b>
9:00 AM Subcommittee Update: Trails	Laura Barkhouse	45 min
9:45 AM Subcommittee Update: Communications	Paul D'Eon, Krista Chapdelaine, Diane LeBlanc, Jennifer Gavin	30 min
10:15 AM Subcommittee Update: Enforcement	Robert Connell	30 min
10:45 AM Protected Areas Presentation	Raymond Plourde	1 hr 15 min
<b>12:00 PM LUNCH</b>		<b>1 hr</b>
1:00 PM Community Consultation	Debby Smith	30 min
1:30 PM Community Consultation – Discussion	All	30 min
2:00 PM Summary of New Recommendation(s) to Ministers, Next Steps	Laurie Cranton	1 hr
3:00 PM Adjournment	Laurie Cranton	

----- Minutes -----

Wednesday May 9 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Subcommittee Update – Trails Laura Barkhouse

Discussion: Trails meeting notes and correspondence from Steve Vines were circulated. Proposed Trails Program deadlines are June 15/07 and August 17/07. Questions raised – who will conduct final inspections? What are the full project costs/contribution to trail development/maintenance, and can these costs be evaluated periodically? As a guideline, \$500,000 will be considered for allocation for June 15/07 proposals.

Next meeting May 31/07.

Action items:

Get copies of final applications and program descriptions to locations discussed. To be printed double sided, white paper.

Person responsible:

Jennifer, Susan, Sandy

Deadline:

May 15/07

A full consensus was reached to recommend to the ministers funding to help implement regional trail development workshops that will cover topics relating to 3 OHV groups, SANS, NSORRA, ATVANS.

Laurie

June 12/07

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Subcommittee Update: Communications

Paul D’eon, Krista  
Chapdelaine, Diane  
Leblanc, Jennifer Gavin

Discussion: Diane provided an overview of the role of communications for DNR and within government. Krista circulated a proposed communication policy for the committee. Krista’s job with the committee is complete. Diane proposed a 1 year plan with support from Jennifer Gavin and Lucas Wide. Committee asked again about getting a communications staff to commit to attending at least 1 of 2 days of the monthly meetings. Diane wants to be more thorough at sharing progress of government communications. Some committee members are ready to step up communications in their organizations. Concern was also expressed over the lack of progress on the OHV handbook and the Action Plan (2005) not being on the OHV website.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Full consensus to recommend dedicated support for help with communications.	Laurie	May 15/07
DNR and DHPP to provide monthly updates on government progress on communications.	Diane to arrange via Jennifer Gavin and Lucas Wide	June 12/07
Report back on progress of the communications plan.	Paul	June 12/07

Subcommittee Update: Enforcement

Robert Connell

Discussion: Minutes of the first meeting were circulated and reviewed. Robert Connell and Wayne Rock are co-chairs. Some discussion was had about potential content of the Trail Warden Program for OHVs. Next meeting is May 17/07. A question was raised regarding interaction with the Department of Justice on OHV enforcement ideas to discuss feasibility.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Identify an environment representative for the subcommittee.	Peter L.	June 12/07
Proposal to be made on the Trail Warden Program (1-2 page brief and/or presentation with budget).	Robert	June 12/07

Protected Areas Presentation

Raymond Plourde

Discussion: Slides were presented. Overview of protected areas history from international to national to provincial level. Government is to reach 12% protected areas by 2015. (currently at just over 8%). Opinions on forms of access often at odds. Legislation is clearly for low impact access and recreation. Hunting and fishing allowed. Vehicles are not. Primary goal for these areas is the preservation of native biodiversity. Public opinion polls have found high level of public support for protecting wilderness areas and similar desire amongst urban and rural folks to protect wilderness areas and wildlife habitat (70%+). Habitat fragmentation is a big issue in NS. Multiple habitat stressors - roads, clearcutting, mines, quarries, agriculture, urban sprawl, cottage developments, etc. Use of off-road vehicles, particularly ATVs, have added significantly to the stress on wildlife and the fragmentation of remaining wilderness and wildlife habitat. Slides shown of significant damage from illegal ATV use in protected Wilderness Areas province-wide. OHV Taskforce recommended clearly banning recreational OHV use in protected Wilderness Areas. Government's OHV Action Plan commits to amending legislation to restrict recreational OHV use in Wilderness Areas. Despite this, government has not yet done so. Significant discussion was held around closing the so-called "loophole" that would allow the minister of environment to issue permits for recreational OHVing in protected Wilderness Areas in contradiction of the primary purpose of the Act (note: this clause has never been used).

Action items:

Full consensus to recommend that government amend the Wilderness Areas Protection Act as discussed today.

Person responsible:

Raymond and Laurie

Deadline:

June 12/07

Community Consultation

Debby Smith

Discussion: Slides were presented and circulated. One size does not fit all! Building trust and relationships pays dividends down the road. You need to define your community that is, community of interest (i.e. a club) and/or geographic community (i.e. Yarmouth). Identify: Purpose, Principles, Desired Outcomes and then choose your consultation process. Policies can outline an overall vision (i.e. trail must be shared recreation use) but community should still be consulted to help with further decision making. Sample rails to trails projects were discussed. Inconsistency in application of consultation policies has been problematic.

Action items:

NONE

Person responsible:

Deadline:

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### Community Consultation Discussion

Discussion: Deferred to a future meeting.

Action items:

NONE

Person responsible:

Deadline:

### Summary of New Recommendation(s) to the Ministers, Next Steps

Laurie Cranton

Discussion: Three recommendations were reviewed (communications support, regional trails workshop funding, and protected areas). Further discussion was also had around established trails.

Action items:

NONE (already recorded as action items.)

Person responsible:

Deadline:

### Other Information

Meeting Adjourned: 3:35 PM

Next Meeting: June 12, 2007 in Halifax (9:00 am – 4:00 pm).