



Off-highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee

April 10-11, 2007
Halifax, NS

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- Attendees:** Laurie Cranton (Chair), Glenn Joudrey (Vice Chair), Dave Fraser (ATVANS), Jamie Wolverton (SANS) (day two), Peter Doucet (ORRA) (day one), James Vance (NSTF), Raymond Plourde (Environment), Paul D'Eon (Safety/Training), Laura Barkhouse (Member at Large), Robert Connell (Enforcement/Police), Charles Atkinson (Industry) (day two), Roger King (Member at Large), Dr. Mike Howlett (Health)
- Ex-officio: Susan Hruszowy (for Patricia MacNeil, DNR), Patricia MacNeil (DNR) (day one), Peter Labor (DEL), Bernie Clancey (DTW), Ted Scrutton (DHPP), John Mombourquette (OHV Enforcement/Conservation Officer) (day one), Derick Stoddard (for John Mombourquette, OHV Enforcement/Conservation Officer), Jennifer Annett (Secretariat)
- Guests:** Judith Cabrita (Tourism), Joe Treen (for Peter Doucet) (day two), Sheila Campbell (OHV Safety Training Coordinator) (day one), Dan Kleen (Iowa Off-Highway Vehicle Association President) (day one), David Downing (Iowa DNR) (day one)
- Regrets:** Jamie Wolverton (SANS) (day one), Charles Atkinson (Industry) (day one), Peter Doucet (ORRA) (day two), David Barrett (Landowner), Steve McLelan (SANS President) (day two), Krista Chapdelaine (Communications Nova Scotia), Vacant (Municipal), Vacant (Municipal)

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

Tuesday April 10 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

8:30 AM Arrival, Coffee, Muffins		30 min
9:00 AM Welcome, Review of Action Items, Approval of Minutes, Reports (Chair, Secretariat, Fund)	Laurie Cranton, Jennifer Annett, Susan Hruszowy	1 hr
10:00 AM IOWA OHV Parks	Dan Kleen, David Downing	2 hrs
12:00 PM LUNCH		45 min
12:45 PM Safety Training Update	Sheila Campbell	1 hr
1:45 PM NOHVCC Conference	Laurie Cranton, Jennifer Annett	1 hr
2:45 PM Legislative Changes	Patricia MacNeil	1 hr 15 min
4:00 PM Adjournment for the day	Laurie Cranton	

----- **Minutes** -----

Tuesday April 10 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Welcome, Review of Action Items, Minutes, Reports

Laurie Cranton,
Jennifer Annett,
Susan Hruszowy

1 hr

Discussion: Chair welcomed members and guests. Brief introductions made again. Action items reviewed. Minutes were approved. Chair provided his report. He would like to see a press release done to announce the OHV Infrastructure Fund.

Secretariat provided her report. Vacant positions and alternate requests will be sent for approval. Press releases and advertisements now accessible on www.gov.ns.ca/natr/ohv.

DNR provided the Fund report. Current balance is \$957,501.77 which includes a new deposit of \$95,000 and a debit of \$240,000 for organizational core funding. On recommendation of the Committee, core funding was approved by the Ministers as follows: \$100,000 SANS; \$130,000 ATVANS; \$10,000 NSORRA.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE.		

IOWA OHV Parks

Dan Kleen, David Downing

Discussion: Dan and David presented information on 8 OHV parks in Iowa. They also shared with members copies of “Management Guidelines for OHV Recreation” (new published book), OHV laws in IOWA, and other informational pamphlets. IOWA has had great success with their OHV parks, despite the challenges in the beginning. The parks allow use by ATVs, off-road motorcycles and snowmobiles when there is snow. Most parks also have recreational motocross tracks. They also have helicopter pads for evacuation. They are all fully fenced around the perimeter. Parks are usually located in industrial/noise insensitive areas. A video was shown to exemplify one within city limits. DNR is in the process of buying all the land housing the parks to help decrease liability for the current land owners. Some other key points made:

- The parks are family oriented.
- One full time seasonal worker is employed in each park.
- ATV riders must be at least 12 years old and have a safety certificate. Under 12 year olds are restricted to private land.
- IOWA investigates all OHV accidents. 97% of accidents involved untrained drivers.
- Manufacturers are very supportive of OHV organizations in the US. E.g. they pay for 7 NOHVCC staff.
- Their philosophy is pay to play.
- Federal gas tax program pays nearly 80% of park operating costs.
- Communities are consulted during park development especially with regards to site selection.
- An estimated 3% of IOWA residents are OHV drivers.
- IOWA is the second lowest in the country for state owned land.
- Some privately operated parks also exist

David and Dan were thanked for their very informative presentation. For more information, Dan may be reached at dkleen@ncn.net or (712) 358-1870.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE.		

MINUTES – April 10-11, 2007

Safety Training Update		Sheila Campbell	
<p>Discussion: Sheila has been hired by ATVANS as their Safety Training Coordinator. Sheila reviewed her accomplishments while working for DHPP. Her key function was to research and develop OHV safety training programs for Nova Scotia. The ATV program is available (75 instructors), the snowmobile program is available (8 instructors), and the off-road motorcycle program is still in development. Since May 2006, 1168 people have been trained including approximately 40 youth. Youth will continue to be the priority for safety training in Sheila’s new role with ATVANS. Other development work continues through DHPP including the safety training handbook, an ATV loan program, and a safety certificate tracking system.</p>			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE.			
NOHVCC Conference		Laurie Cranton, Jennifer Annett	
<p>Discussion: Key learnings from the NOHVCC conference March 22-25/07, West Virginia were reviewed. Slides were circulated. Key outcomes include a potential OHV training workshop in Nova Scotia in the fall of 2007, DHPP and DNR are new members of the National Association of OHV Program Managers, an inter-provincial meeting of OHV staff will occur in May, Tread Lightly courses are now available in the province, and potentially sound measurement tests, and better route designation will occur. Also, many key contacts made. For additional information visit the suggested websites or contact the conference attendees. It was also recommended that reps from Nova Scotia attend next year’s conference in New Mexico.</p>			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE.			
Legislative Changes		Patricia MacNeil	
<p>Discussion: The recent OHV regulatory changes were discussed. The changes were circulated in hard copy. Ministers have heard a lot of positive feedback on the changes. Committee members were concerned particularly with the concept of “established trails”. NSORRA member encouraged others to be more forthcoming with their concerns while at committee meetings. Some members expressed great dissatisfaction with the regulatory review and approval process used and the perception of government responding to the demands of the unorganized rally participants. The chair reminded members that despite their legitimate frustrations, there is still a tremendous opportunity to affect the OHV policies.</p>			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
NONE.			

Other Information

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 p.m.

----- **Agenda Topics** -----

Wednesday April 11 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

8:30 AM Arrival, Coffee, Muffins		30 min
9:00 AM SANS \$30/Registered Snowmobiler Funding Request	Jamie Wolverton (discussion, final recommendation)	45 min
9:45 AM Subcommittee Update: Communications	Paul D'Eon	30 min
10:15 AM Subcommittee Update: Enforcement	Robert Connell	30 min
11:30 AM Subcommittee Update: Trails	Laura Barkhouse	1 hr 15 min
12:00 PM LUNCH		45 min
12:45 PM Protected Areas Presentation <i>DEFERRED TO MAY</i>	Raymond Plourde	45 min
1:30 PM Legislative Changes	Susan Hruszowy	1 hr 30 min
3:00 PM Summary of New Recommendation(s) to Ministers, Next Steps	Laurie Cranton	1 hr
4:00 PM Adjournment	Laurie Cranton	

----- **Minutes** -----

Wednesday April 11 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

SANS \$30/Registered Snowmobiler Funding Request Jamie Wolverton

Discussion: History of the funding request and related information was presented. Many questions were raised by the Committee particularly on the purpose of the request, how the request would impact current funding to SANS, and the role of SANS at the trail development table.

The Committee agreed without full consensus to not move forward with the funding request. The rationale is that such an arrangement may be detrimental to SANS and be perceived as not wanting to work with partners on trail development and maintenance. The Committee encouraged SANS to apply for funding through the established OHV Infrastructure Fund application process. Many Committee members feel SANS and its members may benefit greater from this more collaborative approach.

Action items:

NONE.

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Subcommittee Update: Communications			Paul D'Eon		
Discussion: Notes of the first subcommittee meeting were circulated. The subcommittee will present more information at the May meeting including a draft communications plan.					
Action items:		Person responsible:		Deadline:	
Set up a Committee listserv.		Jennifer		May 8/07	
Subcommittee Update: Enforcement			Robert Connell		
Discussion: 1 st subcommittee meeting in the near future. Stay tuned.					
Action items:		Person responsible:		Deadline:	
NONE.					
Subcommittee Update: Trails			Laura Barkhouse		
Discussion: February and March minutes of the subcommittee were circulated, as well as the 2 nd draft of the OHV Infrastructure Fund – Trails Program guidelines. The Committee agreed by full consensus to finalize the program guidelines as discussed including the allocation of funding available for the 2007 calendar year. The subcommittee will need to consider fund mechanics and dissemination in the very near future. Next meeting is scheduled for April 20/07.					
Action items:		Person responsible:		Deadline:	
Forward final OHV IF – Trails Program guidelines to both Ministers for information/approval including funding allocation.		Jennifer		April 20/07	
Protected Areas Presentation			Raymond Plourde		
Discussion: <i>DEFERRED TO May 8-9/07.</i>					
Action items:		Person responsible:		Deadline:	
Legislative Changes			Susan Hruszowy		
Discussion: Changes were reviewed in greater detail. It was noted as a matter of policy parents supervising children will be expected by closed course operators to have taken the full safety training course. The perspective of the landowner representative was keenly felt during the discussion. Susan was thanked for providing additional clarification.					
Action items:		Person responsible:		Deadline:	
NONE.					

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

Laurie Cranton

Discussion: A number of new recommendations were identified by the Committee for follow-up before the May meeting. See below.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Letter to Ministers requesting meeting with Cabinet.	Laurie/Jennifer	Apr. 24/07
Letter to Ministers requesting information on regulatory changes/implications.	Laurie/Jennifer	Apr. 24/07
Recommendation to Ministers regarding plate transfer policy.	Laurie/Jennifer	Apr. 24/07
Letter to Ministers regarding SANS request.	Laurie/Jennifer	Apr. 24/07
Follow-up with Ministers on March 14/07 recommendation regarding permits.	Laurie/Jennifer	Apr. 24/07

Other Information

Meeting Adjourned: 4:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 8-9, 2007 in Halifax (9:00 am – 4:00 pm).