



# Off-highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee

**August 8-9, 2007**  
Halifax, NS

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

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

Wednesday August 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, Others) | Laurie Cranton, Jennifer Annett, Patricia MacNeil | 30 min        |
| 9:30 AM Private Land Access  | Raymond Plourde                                   | 2 hrs, 30 min |
| <b>12:00 PM LUNCH</b>  |   | <b>1 hr</b>   |
| 1:00 PM Crown Lands Access   | Patricia MacNeil                                  | 1 hr          |
| 2:00 PM Subcommittee Updates: Enforcement, Education (incl. SNSMR insert renewal), Trails                | Robert Connell, Paul D'Eon, Jennifer Annett       | 1 hr, 30 min  |
| 3:30 PM Provincial OHV Conference  | Laurie Cranton                                    | 30 min        |
| 4:00 PM Adjournment for the day  |   |               |

----- Minutes -----

Wednesday August 8 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Welcome, Review of Action Items, Approval of Minutes, Reports

Laurie Cranton,  
Jennifer Annett,  
Patricia MacNeil

Discussion: Chair welcomed members and guests. Chair provided his report. Met with Minister Barnet to update him on the Committee and discuss recommendations. Both Ministers may attend an upcoming meeting. Chair reiterated the Committee's role as discussed with Minister Barnet. He also reviewed response letters from the Ministers. He noted the health member has resigned. The Committee also reached full consensus to recommend a cost sharing policy for Committee operating expenses.

He informed the Committee of Susan Hruszowy's status.

Action items reviewed. Minutes were approved with changes from environment member. No report this month from the Secretariat.

No new FUND report.

Action items:

None

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Private Land Access

Raymond Plourde

Discussion: A suggested edit to the general regulations was circulated for consideration. Considerable discussion was had around possible next steps such as further defining the regulation and educating riders to want to ride responsibly. Concerns were expressed around written permission requirements. Marked signage could be a valuable tool for enforcement and education. It would also be helpful if riders were members of OHV clubs to gain permission.

Further defining established trails and traditional use to be discussed at the September meeting.

Action items:

Circulate to the Committee an electronic version of notes from established trail discussion earlier this year for further discussion in September.

Person responsible:

Jennifer and Patricia

Deadline:

Aug.  
31/07

Bring samples of permissive signage to show the Committee at the September meeting. Speak with the Trails Subcommittee.

Jennifer

September  
11/07

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|  |  |  |                 |
|--|--|--|-----------------|
| Crown Lands Access   |  | Patricia MacNeil                         |                 |
| <p>Discussion: The purpose of legislation, regulation, and policy/guidelines was reviewed. Of the three areas, the Committee’s focus should primarily be on policies and guidelines. The Committee can advise on legislation and regulation however recommendations would be better served at this stage if they focused on policy/guidelines.</p> <p>A set of policies is needed for OHV access on crown land along with a continuum of trails and approval criteria. A broader policy for all trails (on crown and private land) is also needed to help enforce the intent of established trails. Trail wardens can help with enforcement.</p> |  |  |                 |
| Action items:  |  | Person responsible:                      | Deadline:       |
| Inquire if future legislation/regulation/policy changes can be vetted through the Committee before implementation.   |  | Patricia                                 | September 11/07 |
| Collect feedback and propose policies for permission/established trails and for land access (to be approved by the Committee before sending to the Ministers).   |  | Laurie                                   | September 11/07 |
| Subcommittee Updates: Enforcement, Education, Trails   |  | Bob Connell, Paul D’Eon, Jennifer Annett |                 |
| <p>Discussion:</p> <p><u>Enforcement:</u></p> <p>Next meeting is August 29/07. Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. The Trail Warden Program is still being reviewed by the Subcommittee based on the NSTF submission with some revisions. Anticipated completion of review is September or October.</p> <p><u>Public Education:</u></p> <p>No recent meeting. Membership of this Subcommittee to be reviewed. Input to SNSMR renewal is needed.</p> <p><u>Trails:</u></p> <p>Next meeting is September 6/07. The purpose will be to review the next round of trail applications. Grant announcements are being considered.</p>               |  |  |                 |
| Action items:  |  | Person responsible:                      | Deadline:       |
| Seek input to the SNSMR renewal and create a first draft for the September meeting if possible.  |  | Paul                                     | September 11/07 |
| Recruit potential members for the Public Education Subcommittee and submit for consideration.  |  | Corey, Jamie and Peter                   | September 11/07 |

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Provincial OHV Conference

Laurie Cranton

Discussion: A summary of an August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was circulated outlining a draft conference schedule. There was support for the plans and moving forward. HPP can sponsor up to \$10,000. Full consensus to recommend funding for a provincial OHV conference.

Action items:

None

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Meeting Adjourned: 4:15 pm

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

Thursday August 9 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

|   |  |        |
|---|--|--------|
| <b>8:30 AM Arrival, Coffee, Muffins</b>   |  | 30 min |
| 9:00 AM OHV Code of Conduct   | Corey Robar  | 15 min |
| 10:00 AM ATVANS Update  | Corey Robar  | 1 hr   |
| New Topic: Abandoned Rail lines   | Ted Scrutton                                       | 20 min |
| New Topic: Preparation for Ministers At An<br>Upcoming Meeting  | Laurie Cranton                                     | 25 min |
| 11:00 AM Summary of New Recommendation(s) to<br>Ministers, Communications Messages &<br>Next Meeting/Agenda Items | Laurie Cranton, Diane LeBlanc<br>and/or Lucas Wide | 1 hr   |
| <b>12:00 PM Adjournment</b>   |  |        |

----- Minutes -----

Thursday August 9 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

OHV Code of Conduct

Corey Robar,  
Jennifer Annett

Discussion: Draft two of the Provincial OHV Code of Conduct was circulated. Comments were provided to improve the document.

Action items:

Prepare a third draft of the Code of Conduct and circulate to the Committee for further review.

Person responsible:

Jennifer

Deadline:

September 11/07

ATVANS Update

Corey Robar

Discussion: ATVANS member facilitated discussion of 3 issues.

The Committee discussed controlled access highways prohibition in the OHV Act. There was some discussion of authorized OHV crossings on controlled access highways, and underneath via tunnels. Safety for riders and drivers was noted as a key concern.

The Committee discussed incentives for landowners. Tax relief was noted. Forestry has low taxation as it stands now. Major landowners are most concerned about liability.

The Committee discussed OHV travel along ditches and shoulders. There are no exceptions or provisions to allow shoulder travel at the current time. More discussion is required to help facilitate connectivity of an authorized trail network.

Action items:

Investigate controlled access highway crossing policies in other jurisdictions and share at the next Committee meeting.

Person responsible:

Bernie

Deadline:

September 11/07

New Topic – Abandoned Rail lines

Ted Scrutton

Discussion: There are community issues around some abandoned rail lines. Further discussion needs to ensue to ensure adequate connectivity of the OHV trails network. Linking of communities is key. Shared use is a goal for many organizations. The need for a conflict resolution policy was identified.

Action items:

None

Person responsible:

Deadline:

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New Topic – Preparation for Ministers Attending An Upcoming Meeting      Laurie Cranton

Discussion: The potential focus of the Ministers attending the meeting was discussed. For example the focus may be on:

- OHV policies
- Committee progress
- Committee membership and role
- Conflict resolution and community consultation
- Other

| Action items:  | Person responsible: | Deadline: |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Prepare and circulate a list to the Committee of issues it is struggling with.       | Laurie              | ASAP      |
| Invite Ministers to an upcoming Committee meeting and the Provincial OHV Conference. | Laurie              | ASAP      |

Communications messages      Lucas Wide

Discussion: A press release is being drafted to announce approved trail funding. The Committee will have a chance to provide input. The press release will go to all media outlets in the Province. Location of grant announcement(s) to be determined. Timing ideally to coincide with cheques being issued. Members of the Committee can initiate trail photo opportunities in their communities and can circulate the press release once it's out there. They can also follow-up with their local papers and media.

| Action items:  | Person responsible: | Deadline: |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
| Assign announcement follow-up to members of the Committee. | Laurie and Jennifer | ASAP      |

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

Laurie Cranton

Discussion: New recommendations will go forward to the Ministers regarding the following:

- Committee cost sharing policy
- Policies for permission on established trails and land access
- Provincial OHV Conference funding
- Municipal representation

Action items:

Send new recommendations to the Ministers.

Person responsible:

Laurie

Deadline:

September  
11/07

Circulate to the Committee a sample policy template.

Patricia

September  
11/07

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**Other Information**

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Meeting Adjourned: 12:50 PM

Next Meeting: September 11 and 12 in Halifax (9:00 am – 4:00 pm).