

**Off-Highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 26, 2009  
Holiday Inn Express**

**Attendees:**

Laurie Cranton, Chair; Corey Robar; Lloyd Wallis; George Pugsley; Ken Reade; Carmen D'Intino; Kermit DeGooyer; Floyd Cock; Hugh Gillis, Ex-officio; Peter Labor, Ex-officio; Derick Stoddard, Ex-officio; Laura Barkhouse; Paul D'Eon; Greg Newell, Ex-officio and Kevin Benjamin, Secretariat

**Regrets:**

Roger King, Judith Cabrita, Jim Vance, Charles Atkinson, Raymond Plourde, Pat Hicks, Ex-officio and Rick Gilbert, Ex-officio

**Welcome, Approval of Minutes, Updates (Laurie Cranton)**

Laurie Cranton, Chair convened the meeting at 9:15am. The agenda and minutes of the April 28 & 29, 2009 meeting were approved by consensus with one editorial change. The notes of the trails sub-committee are not official minutes therefore, will not be included as part of the OHVMAC minutes.

Laurie reviewed action items from the previous meeting.

A letter was written to the Minister regarding the appointment of the Committee for an additional two year term.

Lloyd Wallis proceeded with the MAC logo creation and the invoice was sent to Kevin.

Laurie also provided a brief update which indicated that SANS and ATVANS are still willing to discuss the issues regarding the sharing of trails, specifically groomed snowmobile trails in the winter months. Laurie continues to work to bring both organizations together for this discussion.

**Correspondence:**

The MAC received a thank you card from member Roger King in appreciation of the thoughts and gift sent to him.

A letter was received from the NSORRA regarding a funding request for a trail development workshop. The NSORRA is proposing to host a trail development workshop which would bring together potential trail builders to provide them with the necessary tools and capacity to properly construct off road motorcycle and mountain bike

trails. Following brief discussion the Committee through consensus approved \$5,650.00 be granted to the NSORRA from Special Projects.

Laurie brought to the attention of the Committee a website that has just recently been put on the web. The website is called Save Our Trails. Laurie recommended that everyone take some time and go through the content of the website. Following brief discussion it was suggested that a PR strategy be developed in the near future.

### **Brushy Hill:**

Since our last meeting an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to explore options and alternatives regarding the motorized trail issues in the Brushy Hill / Bull Meadows area. This committee is co-chaired by Stan Slack and Laurie Cranton. The ad hoc committee presented two recommendations to the MAC for their endorsement and action.

1. Request a meeting with Wagner and potential developer to review options with regards to relocation of the existing OHV trails in the Bushy Hill area.
2. If a meeting with Wagner and potential developer does not materialize or achieve an agreement, all involved partners will review other options of a trail on the DNR lands that would include but not limited too the northern boundary of the DNR lands in the Brushy Hill/Bull Meadows area.

The above recommendations were endorsed by consensus.

**Action: Laurie to write a letter to the Minister to request a meeting be arranged with all stakeholders.**

### **OHV Conference:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual OHV Conference is being held this coming weekend, May 29 & 30, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Truro. Registration numbers are down from a year ago but well over 100 delegates are expected to attend.

### **Federal Funding for Trail Development:**

Grant program criteria and the funding application have not been posted to the web as of yet. It appears Nova Scotia will be received \$1.3 million of the \$25 million allocated for this program. SANS, ATVANS and NS Trails Federation make up the three Provincial bodies through which will the funding will be allocated to various non-profit groups through an application process. Funded projects are to be completed by March 2010 and the funds received are to be matched by the receiving organization.

## **TCT Vision:**

Laurie had a brief conversation with Blaise MacEachern, Nova Scotia's representative on the TCT Committee. There are a number of questions that have risen since the TCT Committee have unveiled their new Greenways Vision. The MAC agreed that it would be appropriate to write a letter to Blaise asking questions for further clarification.

**Action: Laurie to write a letter to Blaise MacEachern seeking information and clarification on a number of issues since the release of the TCT Greenways Vision.**

## **Reports:**

### **Enforcement – Ken Reade:**

The Committee did not meet. Lloyd Wallis indicated that RCMP members in Yarmouth, Shelburne and Digby Counties will be taking part in an ATV Safety Training Course. Corey Robar will be the instructor.

An informal survey was conducted at the recent NSORRA AGM in regards to blue plates vs. red plates which raised a number of concerns about who is actually paying into the infrastructure fund. Following a brief discussion it was agreed to invite Paul Arsenault, Service Nova Scotia to our next MAC meeting to discuss and clarify some outstanding issues.

**Action: Kevin to extend an invitation to Paul Arsenault, Service Nova Scotia to attend our next MAC meeting.**

**Action: Laurie and Kevin to research previous recommendations that relate to Service Nova Scotia.**

It was also mentioned that infrared counters have been used on the Paradise Trail to count and monitor time of use traffic. To date the data indicates very little traffic on the trail.

### **OHV Trails Policy – Highway Crossings – Greg Newell**

A draft policy on signs for trail crossings was presented to the National body but did not received consensus. There is a need to create a standard sign which can be used on all trails, the question remains, how should the trail users be portrayed. Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal are working to develop a sign. The policy must include all trails, it is hoped that a draft will be ready by September.

### **Trails Sub-Committee – Laura Barkhouse**

Laura presented the Trails Sub-committee report from their previous meeting. The Trails Sub-Committee recommended that a letter be written to the Minister requesting the approval of an additional \$119,000.00 from the Infrastructure Fund for trail projects that have been approved by MAC but are on hold until further funding is made available.

**Action: Laurie to write a letter to the Minister requesting approval to allocate an additional \$119,000.00 to trail projects already approved by the MAC.**

### **DNR Enforcement – Derick Stoddard**

No report at this time.

There was discussion regarding GPS requirements when it comes to mapping trail systems. The term “designated trail” was also discussed. It was agreed that Harry Ashcroft, Manager – Crown Land Disposals and Coastal Permits, DNR be invited to attend the next MAC meeting.

**Action: Kevin to extend an invitation to Harry Ashcroft to attend the next MAC meeting.**

Meeting Adjourned 2:10pm

Next Meeting Tuesday June 23, 2009