



Off-highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee

May 27, 2008
Halifax, NS

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- Attendees:** Laurie Cranton (Chair), Glenn Joudrey (Vice Chair), Corey Robar (ATVANS), Raymond Plourde (Environment), Paul D'Eon (Safety/Training), Robert Connell (Enforcement/Police), Charles Atkinson (OHV Industry), Roger King (Member at Large), Judith Cabrita (Tourism), James Vance (NSTF), Laura Barkhouse (Member at Large), Jamie Wolverton (SANS), Floyd Cock (Landowner), Carmen D'Intino (NSORRA)
Ex-officio: Peter Labor (NS Environment), Michael Coady (DTIR), Derick Stoddard (OHV Enforcement/Conservation Officer)
- Guests:** Paul Arsenault, Registrar (SNSMR), Martha Asseer (for Jennifer Annett, Secretariat), Diane LeBlanc (DNR)
- Regrets:** Pat Hicks (OHV Manufacturers), Ted Scrutton (DHPP), Jennifer Annett (Secretariat), Patricia MacNeil (DNR), Vacant (Municipal), Vacant (Municipal), Vacant (Health), Julian Young, Injury Prevention Coordinator (DHPP), Hugh Gillis (for Patricia MacNeil, DNR)

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

Tuesday, May 27 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

8:30 AM Arrival, Coffee, Muffins

9:00 AM Welcome, Review of Action Items, Approval of Minutes, Reports, New Correspondence (Chair, Other)	Laurie Cranton	30 min
9:30 AM Subcommittee Updates: Enforcement, Education, Trails	Robert Connell, Paul D'Eon, Laura Barkhouse	30 min
10:00 AM Injury Statistics – deferred	Julian Young	
10:45 AM Established Trails Policy – deferred	Hugh Gillis	
11:30 AM Landowner Complaint Statistics	Derick Stoddard	30 min
12:00 PM LUNCH		
12:30 PM OHV Network Vision	Laura Barkhouse Glenn Joudrey	45 min
1:15 PM Service Nova Scotia Update	Paul Arsenault	45 min
2:00 PM Wilderness Areas Protection Act	Peter Labor	1 hr
3:00 PM Summary of New Recommendation(s) to	Laurie Cranton	1 hr

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Ministers, Next Meeting/Agenda Items,
Communications

4:00 PM Adjournment

Laurie Cranton

----- Minutes -----

Tuesday May 27 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Welcome, Review of Action Items, Approval of Minutes, Reports (Chair, Other), New Correspondence Laurie Cranton

Discussion: Chair welcomed members and guests.

Chair report:

The OHV Conference, May 3, was a great success with a total of 240 attendees. The conference brought all three OHV groups plus NS Trails together for the first time. In addition to the educational sessions, special presentations were made by Minister Morse and awards were presented by NS Trails, SANS and ATVANS. Pictures of the conference are available.

The Chair attended the ATVANS Zone Meeting and Trails Subcommittee meeting.

Action items were reviewed. Minutes were approved.

Other Reports:

The OHV Riders Handbook should be available the first week of June. A formal announcement will be made once the French version becomes available hopefully in July.

Core funding has gone out. Trail funding of \$743,200 will be distributed the first week of June. The application process and OHV funding schedule was discussed. Full consensus to recommend the OHV Fund approval process be expedited. Ideally approval would be made in April and funding distributed by the end of May. To be discussed further in June.

No new correspondence.

Action Items:

Forward a supply of OHV Riders Handbooks to the Committee and Nova Scotia Trails for the Trail Warden program.

Person Responsible:

Jennifer

Deadline:

June 24

Subcommittee Updates: Enforcement

Robert Connell

Discussion:

OHV Sticker and License Plate:

One sticker signifying “Paid into Fund” option seems the best possible solution and will eliminate confusion. Using two stickers will create more cost, inventory and distribution concerns.

Possible standards of plate size and placement were discussed. Ideally ATVs and dirt bikes would have decals, and snowmobiles either a decal or sticker as long as it is highly visible for identifying the vehicle. Members agreed unanimously that identification is the priority and that a decal may be the simplest solution.

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The challenges of gathering enforcement statistics were discussed. The current system does not include a driver abstract for OHVs and does not track warnings. This system does not link with the Police enforcement system. Enforcement dispatch is not able to validate OHV Fund payments on their field screens. It would be ideal to distinguish those who are part of the program and help with funding.

Trail Warden Program:

A dry run of an improved Trail Warden training program has been planned. Organizers are trying to line up current instructors to go through training on the new program. Trail wardens will be issued: ID's, Notebooks (Police format), a Warden Manual, and the OHV Riders Handbook. Ideally Conservation Officers and Wardens will be seen collaborating on trails for a stronger enforcement presence. It is expected there could be an increase of 100 new Trail Wardens per year.

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<p>Action Items: Meet with reps from SANS regarding license plate issues.</p>	<p>Person Responsible: Jamie</p>	<p>Deadline: June 24</p>
<p>Establish a final recommendation to the Ministers regarding the license plate issues.</p>	<p>Robert (Enforcement Subcommittee), Laurie</p>	<p>June 24</p>
<p>Subcommittee Updates: Education Paul D'Eon</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Logo Development Project: There is a need for a logo separate from Natural Resources for signing trails to recognize investments from the OHV Fund. The Committee will need a graphic designer to develop the logo. Costs need to be determined. Full consensus to recommend the hiring of a graphic designer for logo development. It is recognized that this will be a “special project” which will need to go through the regular process of ministerial approval. In the future, the Committee would like small purchase discretion, keeping inline with government purchasing policy, but without requiring ministerial approval.</p> <p>OHV Fatalities in the Media: Death and injuries related to OHVs are not being effectively covered by the media or documented. It would make sense to identify the contributing factors. Better epidemiological data and investigative reporting could reach a bigger audience. There have been missed educational opportunities through recent fatalities. These issues should be re-examined at the next meeting.</p>		
<p>Action Items: Provide injury statistics in advance of June Committee meeting.</p>	<p>Person Responsible: Jennifer</p>	<p>Deadline: June 20</p>
<p>Subcommittee Updates: Trails Laura Barkhouse</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Letters have been drafted for Trail Program applicants who were approved and not approved. Letters include a contact person from the Trails Subcommittee for follow up.</p>		
<p>Action Items: NONE</p>	<p>Person Responsible:</p>	<p>Deadline:</p>
<p>Landowner Complaint Statistics Derick Stoddard</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>The Committee would like to determine how many and the nature of complaints to determine geographical “hot spots”. There seems to be a trend of improvement with regards to landowner complaints. The Committee also discussed the current use of surveillance cameras to monitor OHV activities in restricted areas.</p> <p>The current statistics collection process and its shortcomings were discussed. A new system will begin generating better statistics which will be compiled into quarterly reports.</p>		
<p>Action Items:</p>	<p>Person Responsible:</p>	<p>Deadline:</p>

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NONE		
<p>OHV Network Vision Laura Barkhouse Glenn Joudrey</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>A first draft of the Trails Subcommittee “Vision & Principals” document was presented. Ideally this would become the standard.</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the document and suggested changes to improve clarity and intent. There was a full consensus to endorse the Vision & Principles document.</p>		
<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Provide a final copy of the Vision & Principles document to Committee members.</p>	<p>Person Responsible:</p> <p>Laura</p>	<p>Deadline:</p> <p>June 24</p>
<p>Service Nova Scotia Update Paul Arsenault</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>New System:</p> <p>An update on the Motor Vehicle information system was presented. The extensive advertising has gone relatively well. The priority is to correct system glitches over the next 6-8 months. The Committee’s primary concern is how enforcement will get access to better information.</p> <p>Tracking Training:</p> <p>A question arose as to whether a driver’s license could capture OHV training. For example if you loose your Drivers License you will need training. But this is not currently being tracked. The Motor Vehicle Act determines license conditions therefore it would not hold up in the courts in determining whether the OHV Act was contravened. A legislative change would be a pre-requisite to link the OHV Act to the Motor Vehicle Act.</p> <p>Dual Sport Vehicles:</p> <p>Dual sport vehicles registered under the Motor Vehicle Act are not OHV Fund contributors. Discussion ensued as to whether these could be identified so that they could contribute to the Fund. The Department of Justice would need to be engaged to determine the possibility of dual registration. This is of lower priority while work is being done on permit stickers and plate location for OHVs.</p> <p>Dealer OHV Sales:</p> <p>Service Nova Scotia is not currently enforcing dealers to report OHV sales. Future permit or plate changes could be a good opportunity to communicate how sales can be reported.</p> <p>Permit Sticker:</p> <p>Service Nova Scotia will need to determine if and how a permit sticker change can be made. In the next 12 months Service Nova Scotia needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if no sticker for riders exempted from the OHV Fund would work • Assemble a statistical report of who is exempted <p>The Committee needs to:</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if regulatory changes are needed for dual registration or for linking drivers' licenses to the OHV Act. Provide input as needed. • Define permit sticker criteria and plate placement with input from user groups. • Achieve full consensus on all changes proposed. 		
<p>Action items:</p> <p>Email the Committee the conclusions of the system programmers, as to whether permit changes are feasible by this fall.</p>	<p>Person Responsible:</p> <p>Paul Arsenault</p>	<p>Deadline:</p> <p>ASAP</p>
<p>Wilderness Areas Protection Act Peter Labor</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Proposed amendments to the Wilderness Areas Protection Act were reviewed. Various options were discussed. The Committee will take some time to consider the issues and look at a follow-up recommendation at a later time. The document remains confidential at this time.</p> <p>The proposed amendments will be revisited by the Committee at a future meeting to allow sufficient time for consideration by all members.</p>		
<p>Action Items:</p> <p>NONE</p>	<p>Person Responsible:</p>	<p>Deadline:</p>
<p>Summary of New Recommendation(s) to the Ministers, Laurie Cranton Next Meeting/Agenda Items, Communications Diane LeBlanc</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>New recommendations for the Ministers are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – expedite the OHV Fund approval process – hire a graphic designer to develop a logo <p>Communications:</p> <p>A news release regarding the approval of OHV Fund Trails Program funding will be sent shortly. The Department of Natural Resources may have the resources to work on a logo through Communications Nova Scotia.</p>		
<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Send new recommendations to the Ministers.</p>	<p>Person Responsible:</p> <p>Laurie</p>	<p>Deadline:</p> <p>June 26</p>

Meeting Adjourned: 4:45 PM

Next Meeting: June 24-25 Halifax/Bedford (9:00 am - 4:00pm)