



OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ADVISORY WORKGROUP (ORVAW)

Meeting Minutes

Virtual TEAMS Meeting

Date: August 9, 2023

1 - 3 p.m.

Welcome – Roll Call

PRESENT FOR THE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ADVISORY WORKGROUP:

- James Maike, Chair
- Keith Lynch, Vice Chair
- James Hunt (absent)
- Bob Meyers
- Mike Maves
- Jarrod Biebel
- Trevor Hoffer

PRESENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

Tim Novak, Annalisa Centofanti, Scott Slavin, Peter Costa, Jeff Kakuk, Michael Hearn (LED), Rob Katona, Matt Torreano, Paige Perry, Ron Yesney, Blake Gingrich

Meeting minutes

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Motion was made by Trevor Hoffer to approve the May 11, 2023 minutes, Jarrod Biebel, seconded, with all in favor. Motion carried.

Annalisa Centofanti, DNR, requested to remove the USFS update from the agenda citing a conflict with the presenter and to replace Scott Slavin's name as the presenter for the agenda update "ORV Equipment Subcommittee" to Thomas Dunn.

Motion was made by Keith Lynch to approve the August 9 agenda with modifications and seconded by Mike Maves, with all in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Mulder asked the committee to reconsider the meeting times to include some evenings a couple times of the year. Mr. Mulder asked if the storm damage report update can be added to the November agenda.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ALPHA SYSTEM EXPANSION

Ron Yesney, DNR

Ron provided an update on the ORV alpha system in the Upper Peninsula (U.P.). Ron stated the alpha system in the west and central U.P. is working very well. More users are calling trails by the letter designation instead of numbers, and this appears to be effective. Being the alpha system has been largely successful in the U.P., does ORVAW want to recommend the alpha system for the Lower Peninsula (L.P.). If so, the DNR would like to plan ahead providing educational campaigns. Ron is not asking the committee to decide today; this is just a discussion to start the process. Ron noted that there are not as many trail connectors in the L.P. and if the alpha system rolled out statewide it will be easier to educate and market.

Keith Lynch made a comment that feedback received about the alpha system indicates it is working good in the U.P. The ORV trails are getting used a lot more and riders are utilizing the kiosk maps. After a couple years into the alpha pilot program the people are adjusting and catching on.

James Maike asked Ron Yesney to pull together more information for the next ORVAW meeting.

UPDATES

RIDE RIGHT SAFETY MESSAGE

Ron Yesney, DNR

Ron stated a press release is coming out soon for the free ORV weekend (Aug. 19 & 20). A "Ride Right" safety message is incorporated into the public announcement. There will be

bulleted safety tips and language about riding responsibly. The DNR is working on formulating safety messages in a cohesive way with the Michigan Snowmobile and ORV Association (MISORVA), DNR Law Enforcement Division (LED), and DNR Marketing and Outreach (MOD).

Jarrold Biebel mentioned he heard a couple meetings back that there is a website about trail conditions (wash outs) and asked for updates on the website. Ron Yesney replied the DNR GIS interactive map allows the public to view live trail closures or concerns.

LED UPDATE

Michael Hearn, DNR LED

Michael shared an LED update presentation (attached).

Michael announced there is a new assistant chief, Brandon Kieft. Michael participated in the legislative ride in Lake County about a month ago and it was a positive experience. LED will be attending the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) in Utah this October. No updates or action for aftermarket lighting. There continues to be inconsistencies between state law and county law regarding speed. Counties can make speed laws more restrictive, not less restrictive.

Request copies of the ORV handbooks here: hearnm@michigan.gov

ORV EQUIPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Thomas Dunn

Thomas Dunn reported the ORV equipment subcommittee met this past Monday. The subcommittee received a review from the policy and regulatory unit within the DNR which allows the use of trail improvement funds to be used for ORV maintenance equipment purchases. The subcommittee will work towards next steps before the ORVAW Nov. meeting. Ultimately, the subcommittee will present a resolution to ORVAW, recommending a finance committee to be formed to understand the funding and purchasing process.

2023 FREE ORV WEEKENDS

Aug. 19-20

2023 MEETINGS

Nov. 2 – Location TBD (Grayling/Roscommon)

CLOSING/ROUND ROBIN

Keith Lynch

Forest Island trail route is completed. A new boardwalk with Geotech and gravel, including upgrades in the parking lot, and adding picnic tables. ORV trail systems in south central Michigan have been seeing lot of grading. Sponsor received miracle millions money and has been purchasing maintenance equipment with the funds.

Bob Meyers

Lake County has broken ground on a new ORV training park, no completion date set.

Michael Maves

Working on mud hole filling and working with local snow club to address issues. Mike reported his area has seen less traffic this summer.

Jarrold Biebel

Trail conditions in the U.P. have been good. Graders have been out. Rob Katona, DNR and Ron Yesney, DNR are working on opening new trails in his area and is excited to see them open.

Trevor Hoffer

Chippewa County in the eastern U.P., slag has been laid on Trail 8. Three new trails are in the works from Sault Ste. Marie to Brimley, more brushing and trail maintenance needs to be done. Lastly, working on getting a new style gate (french door style) to switch from old farm style gate.

James Maik

Newaygo County government has ten openings and 2 of them are in the sheriff's department. Jim rode in the U.P. and the trails were great right after rain and no dust. Legislative ride was super. How are trails looking after storm damage, add this topic for next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

ORV Advisory Workgroup

August 9, 2023

Law Enforcement Division Update



ORVAW

LED UPDATE



2023 Hiring Information

15 vacancies

Job posting for MCOLES certified officers only – will run through 7-week DNR Academy

58 applications were received from HR/6 of those were screened by us for not completing paperwork properly

52 pre-screening interviews held

31 backgrounds conducted

16 final interviews

12 conditional offers of employment

Training will begin in September

ORVAW

LED UPDATE



YTD ORV Crash Data

390 ORV Crashes

306 Injury Accidents

13 Fatalities

- 4 fatalities involved alcohol/drugs

Top 3 counties: Oceana, Wayne, Lake

59 crashes involved alcohol/drugs

89 crashes involving operator 18-24yo

27 crashes included an operator that was 15/16yo

*May 2023 - Fatality in Lenawee County involving a 16yo on a dirt bike that was struck by a motor vehicle when crossing the road.

ORVAW

LED UPDATE



Additional Information

- ❑ May LED promoted a new Assistant Chief. AC Brandon Kieft hired in 2006 and was promoted from Lieutenant position in Roscommon District.
- ❑ June legislative ride in Lake County
- ❑ 4th of July patrol at Silver Lake State Park
- ❑ LED attending NOHVCC Conference Oct 12-14 in Midway, Utah
- ❑ Aftermarket lighting information
- ❑ Speed information
 - Consistency with messaging
 - State law vs county law. County can make laws that are more restrictive than state law, they are not allowed to loosen restrictions.
 - ORV routes that use county roads with ORV ordinances.

ORVAW LED UPDATE



Additional Information

- ❑ If your club or organization has a need for ORV handbooks, send an email to the following:

Cpl. Mike Hearn
hearnm@michigan.gov