

**Off-Road Advisory Workgroup
Minutes
November 2, 2016
Demmer Center, 4830 East Jolly Road, Lansing**

The regular meeting of the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW) was called to order by Chair Dunn on November 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: **Chairman Dunn, Pat Brower, Don Helsel, Tim Kobasic (via phone), James Hunt, and Lewis Shuler.** The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff was present: Paul Yauk, Barbara Graves, Cpl. John Morey, and Amy Swainston (via phone).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Dunn welcomed everyone and asked the board members and guests to introduce themselves.

MOTION: D. Helsel moved to approve the September 14, 2016 minutes. It was seconded by J. Hunt and carried unanimously.

T. Kobasic asked to table the discussion of the alpha marker system until the first of the year. He would like to substitute that agenda item with the Camp Cook Integrated Resource Management proposal. Chair Dunn approved.

MOTION: L. Shuler moved to approve the amended agenda. It was seconded by T. Kobasic and it carried unanimously.

UPDATES

- Staff Reports - P. Yauk reported that he had the opportunity to attend the national ORV conference in Montana last month. A lot of good things are happening around the country and Michigan is at the top taking a leadership role. L. Shuler informed the group that the NOVAC conference will come to Michigan in 2018. Several of the CCC members, including L. Shuler, received awards at the conference.

The U.S. Forest Service and DNR will partner on water, snowmobile, and ORV safety infographics. He will share with the group when he gets more information.

- Handbook of Michigan ORV Laws/Safety Education Subcommittee - A. Swainston reached out to Lt. Wanless and Sgt. Orange from Law Enforcement Education; they were able to include some of the recommended changes. She will share the document with the workgroup. The subcommittee has not looked at the safety education handbook. D. Helsel assumed everyone was happy with what was submitted.

- Public Act 288 of 2016 – Chair Dunn said the media announced that this took immediate effect; however, forest roads are NOT yet open. The Department has yet to perform an inventory, which will be a two-phase process to be completed in 2017 and 2018. He urged ORV riders to not ride on them until legal. P. Yauk said in the last few days they have been getting a lot of emails regarding this.

Nicole Colberg, Regulatory Unit Manager, briefly went over the items in the Act that affect trails: It allows the use of pack and saddle animals and ORVs to retrieve game from a trail, only using the most direct route. The speed limit is not to exceed 5 mph. It also requires for an inventory of the forest roads to be completed, “The Department shall divide the state into five regions and complete the inventory and regional phases. The Upper Peninsula shall be a separate region or regions. The Department shall inventory the two most northerly regions in the Lower Peninsula by December 31, 2017. The Department shall inventory the remaining regions by December 13, 2018.” There will be new administrative rules that will go into effect on these state forest roads but not until all of the reviews are complete. The Department has been working on what the criteria is going to be for locating these trails and doing the inventory. Once the criteria are firmly established she can provide to P. Yauk and he can share it with the group. Before finalization, there will be a public input process.

The concern was brought up that there was no specification of who was paying for the inventory. Chair Dunn requested that it not come back to the ORV community. Once P. Yauk knows who is taking the lead in Forestry, he will share it with the workgroup.

- New Confidence Marker Installation – P. Yauk – The markers are ready for installation. Five pilots were done over the summer around the state. They have identified three different types of trails. Installation on a 50” trail is at \$87 per mile; motorcycle trail at \$130 per mile; and ORV route at \$44 per mile. This is a standalone project. The goal is to complete it by the end of 2017. Funds will come from RIF or RTP grants. They would like to know by the end of the year what clubs are interested in the installation project. Chair Dunn wants the group to look over the pricing and give him their thoughts and also which clubs are interested in doing the work. Timeline will be two weeks from today on the pricing and by calendar year end on which clubs are interested. P. Yauk said to have the information come back to Jessica Holley. Contact the Trail Specialists for the tools needed.
- Crawford County Seven Mile Action Meeting – A. Swainston - It is currently at a standstill due to some factors, some of which being the lack of resources and staff, the close proximity to other scramble areas, and cost inefficiency for a potential

shooting range. Chair Dunn asked her to keep them informed of any changes and let them know what she finds out on the mineral parts of the active oil lease. If there is use already there it doesn't make sense not to use it.

- Update on Land Purchase – Connecting Michigan and Wisconsin Trail Systems – P. Yauk reported that they did close on a couple of breaks in the trail. State line acquisitions in Gogebic County; a total of 29.6 acres, 2 miles; key critical connections on the trail to Wisconsin.

Darrel Welch who has been handling land trail cases in the U.P. has retired, so this key position will need to be filled.

- Camp Cooks Integrated Resource Management Proposal – T. Kobasic reported that as of today, he received the official notice that all closures that were on the table have been removed from this integrated proposal indefinitely. It was a great response and pushback. With the Michigan Trail Advisory Council's endorsement, they developed a resolution that addressed these issues. Chair Dunn thanked R. Yesney for his help. T. Kobasic will get an official statement from Joanne Sanfilippo and forward it to everyone.
- Reimbursement Rate Increase Implementation Date – P. Yauk reported the rate schedule was put into place with the 20% increases.
 - Multi-use trails – P. Yauk – they will cover this at the next joint SAW/ORVAW meeting in December. They are going to work closely together and do things that will benefit both programs.

New Business

- Joint SAW/ORVAW Meeting – will be held December 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the RAM Center in Roscommon. Send agenda items and suggestions to Jessica Holley holleyj1@michigan.gov.
- ORV 2017 Meeting Dates – Four meetings a year is sufficient. P. Yauk will have suggested dates by the end of the year.
- ORV Budget Analysis Report – Chair Dunn does not have at this point. He will be meeting with Jacklin Blodgett and L. Shuler soon. They did have to print more ORV stickers this year.
- Goals for Addressing ORV License Sunset Date – Chair Dunn stated that the ORV permit fee goes away in 2018. They are going to be working on this, but will not be

able to address it until after the elections. Please get with him if you have suggestions or thoughts. They are gathering positive results and success stories; please submit these to Jessica Holley at holleyj1@michigan.gov.

- Cpl. Morey spoke with Sgt. Orange about the status of the handbook updates and was informed that there is a draft, but he hasn't had much time to look at the draft and was unclear on a timeline for finalization. He brought up P.A. 288 and the potential to add language prior to being published. He would impose upon the Advisory Workgroup some urgency to contact Sgt. Orange and Lt. Wanless very soon about the updates and where they are at and potentially putting something about P.A. 288 in there. A. Swainston will make sure it is included.
- Bill Chapin provided a brief update for the Silver Lake Recreation Association. Chair Dunn thanked him for coming.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.