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ARIZONA

STATE PARKS & TRAILS

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MINUTES
of
THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Meeting Date: *Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Meeting Location: *Arizona State Parks Office, 1110 W Washington, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85007.*

Members Present Telephonically: *Holly Irwin, Thomas Murphy*

Members Present: *Mike Cook, Jeff Olson*

Staff Present: *Matthew Eberhart, Juan Colorado-Alvarez*

Staff Present Telephonically:

A. CALL TO ORDER

State OHV Coordinator Matthew Eberhart called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OHVAG member Mike Cook lead the Group in the Pledge of Allegiance

C. MEMBER ROLL CALL

State OHV Coordinator, Matthew Eberhart took roll call and confirmed a quorum

D. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Tonto National Forest OHV Fee Structure Update (Presenter: Kelly Araiza, OHV Program Manager)**

Tonto National Forest OHV Program Manager, Kelly Araiza provide members an update on the fee structure that will take effect in January of 2025 for the Forest. Members asked if there would be cell service in the areas where the permit will take effect. Kelly confirmed that there are number of areas across the Forest that have strong enough signal to allow riders to purchase the new permit before hitting the trail. She also confirmed that the permit is tied to the individual not the vehicle so if someone owned multiple off-road capable vehicles, they could use the permit for different types of vehicles. However, if the owner took multiple vehicle out at the same time, each vehicle would require a permit.

2. **Recognition of OHVAG Members (Presenter: Matthew Eberhart, State OHV Coordinator).**

State OHV Coordinator, Matthew Eberhart recognized Member Holly Irwin and Geoff Chain for both having served 6 years on OHVAG and having a significant impact on the state OHV community. Member Irwin and Chain, with their fellow members were successful in awarding 97 projects with a combined value (award and match) of \$20 million.

3. **Consideration of Action to Approve Minutes of the September 24, 2024 OHVAG Meeting.**

Member Cook moved to approve the meeting minutes from the September 24, 2024 OHVAG Meeting. Member Olson seconded the motion. None were opposed and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **OHVAG Will Consider and May Take Action on A Recommendation to the Arizona State Parks Board to Approve, Modify, Or Deny Funding for the submitted 2025 Competitive Motorized Grants Applications. (Presenter: Matthew Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator).**

Mr. Eberhart, State OHV Coordinator provide an update on the Apache County ATV Project, Yavapai and Navajo County Sheriff's Office projects for members. OHVAG Members had the following questions related to the project.

- *What OHV Issues will grant funds be used to address?*
- *How often are the issues occurring?*
- *What is the project sponsor's plan for OHV education and outreach?*
- *What is the applying agencies annual operating budget?*
- *What percentage of the operating budget is the project sponsors' request?*
- *What match funds I the applying agency bringing to the table?*
- *What is the project sponsor match percentage?*
- *Who is representing the agency at OHVAG and future committee/board meetings?*

Mr. Eberhart expressed that he would work directly with sponsors to get answers to these specific questions and ensure that they were provided to AORCC and the State Parks Board.

Member Olson moved that OHVAG recommend that the Arizona State Parks Board approve funding for the submitted 2024 Competitive Motorized Grant Applications as follows; Apache County ATV Inc., OHV Education and Signage request in the amount of \$8,180.00 and Navajo County Sheriff's Office OHV Enforcement and Education request in the amount of \$373,190.00. Member Cook Seconded the motion. None were opposed, Member Irwin abstained, and the motion passed.

Member Irwin moved that OHVAG recommend that the Arizona State Parks Board approve funding for the submitted 2024 Competitive Motorized Grant Applications as follows; Yavapai County Sheriff's Office OHV Law Enforcement and Education Program request in the amount of \$557,379.00. Member Olson seconded the motion. Member Cook was opposed and the motion passed.

5. OHVAG Will Consider and May Take Action on A Recommendation to the Arizona State Parks Board to Approve, Modify, Or Deny Funding for the submitted 2025 Supplemental Motorized Grant Applications. (Presenter: Matthew Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator).

The State OHV coordinator provided an overview of the Flagstaff and Payson Police Department's OHV and Education grant projects to the Group. Members had the same questions for the supplemental Law Enforcement applicants that they had of the competitive ones and again, Mr. Eberhart ensured members that he would work with sponsors to obtain detailed answers to the questions to present at AORCC and the Board.

Member Olson moved that OHVAG recommend that the Arizona State Parks Board approve funding for the submitted 2024 Supplemental Motorized Grant Applications as follows; Flagstaff Police Department, OHV Education and Enforcement Project in the amount of \$93,738.00 and Payson Police Department, OHV Education and Enforcement Project in the amount of \$77,400.00. Member Irwin Seconded the motion. None were opposed and the motion passed.

6. State Parks 2025 Statewide Trails Plan. (Presenters: Dawn Collins, Executive Project Manager)

Executive Project Manager, Dawn Collins provided members and overview on the survey responses the agency was able to gather across their Random Sample Survey, Invested User Survey, and Land Manager Survey. The report is required to be completed and approved by the State Parks Board prior to the end of Fiscal Year 2025 (June 30th) This agenda item was for information only and will continue to be a standing agenda item until the plan is approved by the Board.

7. Emergency and Mitigation Supplemental Grant Application Update. (Presenter Matt Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator)

State OHV Coordinator, Matthew Eberhart provided the Group an overview on the recently submitted Charouleau Gap Emergency and Mitigation project that will provide much needed trail maintenance of a washed-out section of trail in the Coronado National Forest.

8. Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator Updates. (Presenter: Matthew Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator)

Mr. Eberhart updated members on the OHV Ambassador Program, Appreciate AZ Filming, and new OHV education requirement for resident and non-resident OHV decal purchases.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Cook requested that we discuss tools for information sharing about OHV Grant Fund distribution and attempting to recruit new applicants.

F. CURRENT EVENTS

Member Cook provided an update on the 12th Annual There Will Be Dust event to benefit the Amado Food Bank.

Member Irwin notified members that AZ Peace Trail meetings are back in full swing and are hosted on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10a.m. to 12p.m. between November and April should OHVAG members be interested in participating. Mr. Eberhart reminded members that if they plan to attend to please notify him so that there would be no open meeting policy violations.

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Seargent Palazzolo with Navajo County Sheriff's Office informed members that their plan is to connect with neighboring counties and communities to attend events where they can promote responsible OHV use.

H. FUTURE MEETING DATES

January 28, 2025 changed to 10a.m. to 12p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

State OHV Coordinator, Matthew Eberhart adjourned the meeting at 3:12p.m.