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ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

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DRAFT MINUTES

of
THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS
NOVEMBER 29, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER

OHVAG Chair Todd Davis Called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OHVAG Chair Todd Davis lead the Group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

C. MEMBER ROLL CALL

Members Present: *Ben Alteneder (virtually), Geoff Chain (virtually), Jason Cobb (virtually), Todd Davis (virtually), Holly Irwin (virtually), Tom Murphy (virtually), Chuck Wood (virtually)*

Staff Present: *Matthew Eberhart (in person)*

D. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consideration of Action to Approve Minutes of the November 5, 2021 OHVAG Meeting

Chuck Wood Moved to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2021 OHVAG Meeting. Holly Irwin Seconded the Motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. 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 2022 Motorized Grant Application. (Presenter: Matthew Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator)

The State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator, Matthew Eberhart provided a project and budget overview for the Natural Restorations, OHV Area Cleanups Motorized Grant Application. The project request of \$259,900 will be used for several OHV area cleanups throughout the state. Member Jason Cobb asked what Natural Restorations annual operating budget is. Nichole Corey with Natural Restorations informed the group that their annual operating budget is typically 300K to 350K but that for the upcoming fiscal year 2022 it will likely be closer to 375K because of additional outside grants that have been received from SRP, Overland Expo Foundation, USFS, and Arizona Federal Credit Union. Jason expressed how important the work is that Natural Restorations does but that it seems like OHV grant dollars make up almost their entire operating budget. Nichole expressed that the reason these funds are such a large portion of their operating budget is because the vast majority of the work that they complete is tied to OHV trails, staging areas, and access points. Nichole shared that by requesting these funds their organization is able to work for 21 weeks to help the OHV community clean their riding and staging areas. Member Cobb also expressed concerns that he'd like to see other members of the recreating community come to the plate to help offset costs. However, Nichole informed the Group that the OHV Grants they obtain are only used on OHV areas and for OHV tasks. She also shared that they have continued to receive increased match from USFS law enforcement and education. Chairman Davis asked the State OHV Coordinator if there is maybe a better way in the future to bring Natural Restorations onboard as part of the current On-Call Contractors list to provide these types of services in partnership with the USFS without having to request a new grant each year. Matthew Eberhart expressed that the Contract for On-Call Contractors will be expiring next year and including an element

or Request for Qualifications could include trail maintenance AND cleanup as part of the new bid. Nichole informed members that over the 4 years that they have received OHV Grants from Arizona State Parks and Trails, Natural Restorations has removed 864,860lbs of trash, 780 tires, 24,782 square feet of graffiti removed. Members Cobb and Davis would like Arizona State Parks and Trails to look into the process of getting streamlined for the services that Natural Restorations funding to continue this type of work. Ben Alteneader asked if the payments made to On-Call Contractors paid out of the State Parks portion of the OHV Decal dollars or the Grant portion of the budget. Matthew Eberhart explained that there are currently 3 on call contractors to be able to provide trail maintenance work on behalf of any grantees and State Parks is able to pay them directly vs. having to pay the grantee and the grantee pay the contractor. Member Davis also asked what the cap was for emergency and mitigation funding. Mr. Eberhart explained that back in 2017 the State Parks Board approved Grants and Trails staff the authority to approve Emergency and Mitigation projects up to \$100,000. Nichole expressed that they had not previously requested Emergency and Mitigation Funding because State Parks would be paying USFS and then USFS would be paying Natural Restorations. She then requested clarification on if they were a contractor State Parks would pay them directly which is correct. Chuck Wood requested information on what type of law enforcement or preventative measures can take place to reduce this type of trash dumping. Nichole said that the report as much information as they can regarding personal information that is found while doing cleanups. In addition, many USFS offices are attempting to bring on new law enforcement to aid in reducing these types of issues. Nichole also informed the Group that Natural Restorations tries to promote their cleanups as often as possible across multiple social media platforms. Geoff Chain asked how Natural Restoration defines their cleanup areas because while some certainly are OHV areas others can mostly just be considered part of an urban interface and the OHV users end up getting lumped in and blamed for the trash. Nichole expressed that while OHV trails are often used for people to dump Natural Restorations makes a conscious effort to reiterate to the public that most of this dumping is not taking place by the OHV community itself. Chuck Wood shared that he felt the trash provided in the presentation could most certainly not have been dumped by OHV users. Nichole expressed that while there is a large amount of large dumping there is also a significant amount of small trash from campers, OHV users, and other recreationists but the bulk of cleanups is what we see in the photos provided. In closing, Nichole also informed the Group that the Red Rock Ranger District had partnered with them for the first time to perform a cleanup in their area as part of this project. Ben Alteneader moved that OHVAG recommend that the Arizona State Parks Board Approve the Natural Restorations, OHV Area Cleanups Project in the Amount of \$259,900.00. Jason Cobb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Chevelon Canyon Emergency and Mitigation Project. (Presenter: Matthew Eberhart, State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator)

Matthew Eberhart provided an update on the Chevelon Canyon Emergency and Mitigation Project that the Arizona Game and Fish Department will working to submit to install pipe rail fencing around a cultural site that is being negatively impacted by the OHV community. The project will be approximately \$100,000 and should be completed within a year of receiving its award.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members had no future agenda items to request at this time.

F. CURRENT EVENTS

Ben Alteneader: This was likely Ben's last meeting. He thanked everyone for their support in promoting responsible recreation in the state and for allowing him to serve as a member.

Jason Cobb: Trophy Lite has expanded into a new guided tours venture in partnership with Can-Am and

Uncharted Society. His company along with The Arizona State Parks and Trails Off-Highway Vehicle Program will be attending the UTV Rally at the Phoenix Convention Center later this month.

Todd Davis: The Trail Riders of Southern Arizona recently held their “There Will be Dust” event to support local food banks in southern Arizona and had over 90 riders and raised over \$2,500.

Holly Irwin: Saturday, December 4, 2021 there will be a benefit dinner and memorial poker run for La Paz County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Michael Rudd. Holly shared a flyer with the State OHV Coordinator who was able to post it to the OHV Ambassadors’ Facebook Page.

Tom Murphy: Members of the Arizona ATV Riders recently completed a trip to Vermillion Cliffs and had an amazing time. The trip comes highly recommended and should someday be part of the Show Me Ride Program.

State OHV Coordinator: Arizona State Parks and Trails and the Arizona Game and Fish Department shared booth space at the recent Sand and Water Expo at Lake Havasu State Park and were able to speak to over 2,100 constituents from the OHV community.

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public requested to speak.

H. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting for the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group will likely be held in January.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:51p.m.