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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

November 5, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Chuck Wood called the meeting to order at 10:02a.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chuck Wood Let the Group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

C. MEMBER ROLL CALL

Members Present: *Chuck Wood (in person), Ben Alteneder (virtual), Geoff Chain (virtual), Todd Davis (virtual), Holly Irwin (virtual), Tom Murphy (virtual)*

Staff Present: *Matthew Eberhart (in person), Mickey Rogers (in person), Jeff Schmidt (virtual)*

D. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consideration of Action to Approve Minutes of the September 27, 2021, OHVAG Meeting

Holly Irwin moved to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2021 OHVAG meeting. Ben Alteneder 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)

Matthew Eberhart, the State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator provided a project and budget overview of the Bureau of Land Management: State Office, Travel Management Planning Competitive Motorized Grant. Chuck Wood asked what a Route Evaluation was. It was determined that a Route Evaluation is used to determine the eligibility of a route to be added to the BLM system as open, closed, or limited after looking into all aspects of the trail. Holly Irwin asked if there was going to be additional staffing brought on to assist in these evaluations and completing them in a timely manner. BLM plans to bring on a contractor to assist in completing environmental assessments and the field offices have been directed by the state office to provide assistance to Tammy Pike as requested. Tom Murphy asked how long a route evaluation typically takes. Tammy Pike of the State BLM Office informed members that it typically takes 6 to 8 weeks to complete a review/evaluation depending on the complexity of the route. Holly Irwin also asked if BLM had planned to include feedback from the OHV community. Tammy Pike informed the Group that there would be public involvement through route inventory as well as public comment once evaluations have been completed. Chuck Wood moved to that the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group recommend that the Arizona State Parks Board approve the Bureau of Land Management: State Office, Travel Management Plan Project in the amount of \$412,969.00. Holly Irwin Seconded the motion. Tom Murphy was apprehensive in approving such a large amount for planning efforts. Todd Davis informed the group that being involved with Travel Management Planning with the Coronado National Forest getting routes formally evaluated and designated is what will help to allocate monies for future maintenance and allow them to remain open for use and possibly add additional

routes in the future. Holly Irwin expressed the importance of BLM completing these Travel Management Plans for the given areas so that over time, the Arizona Peace Trail can be recognized as a nationally designated trail. Tammy Pike also provided input that the funding request is not just for evaluations but also provides funds for a contractor to complete the environmental assessments. Ben Alteneader approved, Geoff Chain approved, Todd Davis approved, Holly Irwin approved, Tom Murphy approved, Chuck Wood approved.

3. County Supervisors Association OHV Legislation Update (Presenter, Holly Irwin OHVAG member).

Holly Irwin provided an update on the recent Yavapai County Off-Highway Vehicle Legislation proposal that was presented at the County Supervisors Association Summit in September. The Association voted to remove the legislative proposal from this current session and to have it possibly reviewed in the future. Yavapai County was looking to establish fee use areas and bring forward route restrictions on the number of vehicles that could access specific trails at a given time.

4. Great Western Trail Master Plan Update. (Presenter: Mickey Rogers, Chief of Grants and Trails)

Mickey Rogers provided an update on the Great Western Trail Master Plan. The plan had legislative funds set aside to establish the master plan. Arizona State Parks and Trails staff hired a contractor to help with the master plan. Mickey and several founding members of the Arizona portion of the Great Western Trail road the trail in its entirety to ground truth it. The current plan is to review the master plan and make revisions, solicit feedback from OHVAG, AORCC, and the State Parks Board as well as public comment. Following the public comment process Arizona State Parks and Trails will have funds to assist land managers in signing the trail and maintaining the various segments. Geoff Chain was appreciative to see this project coming forward and progress being made on it.

5. State OHV Coordinator Updates. (Presenter: Matthew Eberhart, State OHV Coordinator)

Matthew Eberhart, the State Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator provide an update on member Alteneader, Chain, Irwin, and Wood term's expiring at the end of the calendar year. Members Chain, Irwin, and Wood expressed an interest in serving a second term and member Alteneader expressed being able to help with a potential sportsman member. Matthew Eberhart also provided an update on the Quartzsite Staging Area which celebrated its opening with a ribbon cutting on October 19th. The area has 22 pull through spots, a picnic area, restrooms, security lighting, a host site to enforce site rules, and the staging area is already receiving great reviews and is being actively used. Chuck Wood asked if the host position was voluntary which it is.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Tom Murphy requested an update on the OHV Dealership program. No other members had future agenda item requests.

F. CURRENT EVENTS

Member Tom Murphy expressed excitement for the upcoming dealership program once the materials are available and has offered his clubs assistance in preparing materials to be distributed.

Holly Irwin informed the group that the Arizona Peace Trail is hosting their first public meeting in some time on November 17th in Parker, AZ. The Power/Light posts are installed at the Hippy Hole Staging Area in Cibola.

Chuck Wood provided an update on the Arizona Alpine Trail. The group has submitted its paperwork to

become an official non-profit. Meetings are ongoing with the US Forest Service. The group has decided to move forward with level 2 roads as they have already been designated and it will likely speed up the process of designating the entire route. Arizona Alpine Trail name and logo have also been Trademarked and the web address and Facebook pages have been locked in for this name.

Todd Davis provided an update for the Southern Arizona Community Foodbank Ride “There Will Be Dust”.

Mickey Rogers also provided an update on the Tonto National Forest Travel Management Plan having been signed on October 3, 2021.

Geoff Chain provided an update on the NOHVCC Mechanized Equipment Training which will likely be taking place from March 23rd to 27th. The training will either be held at Alto Pit or Hayfield Draw. The class will be capped at 12 people.

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public requested to speak.

H. FUTURE MEETING DATES

November 29, 2021 from 12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:52a.m.