

**Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup
Draft Minutes
September 12, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW) was called to order by Chairman Thomas Dunn on September 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Chairman Dunn, Tim Kobasic, Jim Maike and Lewis Shuler. Pat Brower joined via telephone. Don Helsel and James Hunt were absent.

The following Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff was present: Paul Yauk, Jessica Holley, Barbara Graves, Scott Slavin, Kim Kennedy, Cpt. John Steele, and Cpl. John Morey. Rob Katona and Amy Swainston joined via telephone.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Dunn welcomed everyone and asked that everyone mute their phones. He asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Action Items

MOTION: L. Shuler moved the approval of the June 13, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dunn asked the members for approval to add Review of ORV Trail Mapping and Western U.P. Citizens Advisory Council Letter on Trail Signage items, and to take items out of order on the agenda, to which everyone approved.

MOTION: J. Maike moved the approval of the September 12, 2018 amended meeting agenda. It was seconded by T. Kobasic and it carried unanimously.

Business Items for Discussion

Workgroup Reports – No new reports

Trail Plan – Continue Review and Update for the Next 5-Year Outlook – Chair Dunn would like the workgroup to go over the last plan and note where they are at now, where they would like to be and what their priorities are. This will be on the next agenda.

Winching Safety in Publications – Cpt. Steele from LED reported that he discussed with a department legal advisor about putting winching in the handbook and was told it was an inappropriate place to put it in such a limited fashion due to liability and limited space. They will instead refer people to their owner’s manual. Further discussion was had on incorporating it in training sessions. L. Shuler said it has been there before but was taken out. Training sessions have been “watered down” over the years, and he thinks putting in more restrictions and making it more complicated will steer people into just going on-line and getting their certificate. P. Brower argued that most

manufacturers to not provide owner's manuals. Discussion was further made on how many things should be put in the Law handbook regarding accessories.

MOTION: P. Brower made a motion that they include the vehicle extraction information section in the ORV Handbook of Michigan Off-Road Vehicle Laws, knowing Legal has recommended against it. T. Kobasic seconded. With 2 yays and 3 nays, the motion did not pass.

Chair Dunn suggested the subcommittee work with department legal staff.

Handbook of Michigan ORV Laws – Cpt. Steele said the publisher has completed the handbook. The changes were the elimination of winching, signs were updated, and one law was updated. He reported it costs \$30 per square foot, per month, to store them in the warehouse. There are 70,000 of the old ones in the warehouse. These will be destroyed. Their recommendation is that they do not buy anymore than what has been distributed over the past few years. J. Holley said she is requesting a distribution policy so they get distributed right away.

Winter ORV Events – P. Brower said the Jeep Jamboree that is held on Drummond Island is planning to hold one in the winter, but they have been experiencing difficulty with the department because some are shared trails with snowmobiles. As they have shared routes, should there really be a precedent for one over the other? He is looking for thoughts from the rest of the workgroup. P. Yauk said in the last couple weeks they have had discussions going back and forth between Drummond Island and the snowmobile group and he thinks they have come to a resolution. There are limited crossings of the snowmobile trail. They are going to look at it this year. He thinks they are supportive.

2019 ORV Dates – Chair Dunn would like to coincide their meetings with the MTAC and NRC meetings, and meet quarterly. T. Kobasic would like the September meeting to be held in the Upper Peninsula in conjunction with the September NRC meeting.

Updates

Houghton County Storm Damage – R. Katona gave an update on the work being done in Houghton County. There are crews continuously working on washout repairs, whether it is stabilizing banks or doing culvert work. More importantly they have the health and safety factors that are ongoing. It is a continuous effort between the department and DEQ. P. Yauk said there is a chance that we will get some FEMA assistance.

2018 NOHVCC Conference Review – L. Shuler reported they had a very good conference, with two great workshops. About 40 states and five providences of Canada participated. The DNR was a great partner, and Jim Faiella from Peacock Limited made sure the workshop was as good as it can be. They had Yamaha's trailer, Roxor's semi, Honda, Polaris, and CanAm present. Cycle Conservation Club (CCC) and Irons

Area Tourist Association had their groomers there to do grading demos, and staff was there to answer questions on Michigan's maintenance and grading program. He heard nothing but good things about the whole event. J. Holley said it showcased the volunteers and partnerships we have. There were many representatives from the state and local levels.

Review Mapping – K. Kennedy gave an update and demonstration of the new interactive ORV trail map. The tool is available for anyone to look at ORV trails. It will also work on mobile devices. It can be found on the DNR website under “Things to Do”, then “ORV/ATV”.

Marquette County Roads – R. Katona gave background on what they are trying to accomplish in Marquette County with connecting seasonal county roads to ORV routes. Marquette County has been good to work with, but they have some stipulations in place that prohibit them from agreeing to what they want in terms of a permit. One of them was the cost, which they have worked out, and the other is what they require for maintenance. They are getting closer to a resolution.

Designation of Forest Roads – Chair Dunn requested to table this item.

Western U.P. Citizens Advisory Council (WUPCAC) Letter on Trail Signage. Chair Dunn wanted everyone to be aware that the WUPCAC by-passed the workgroup and are presenting the alpha signage system proposal to the NRC tomorrow, after the workgroup disagreed with the proposal twice.

MTAC and ORVAW Appointments – Chair Dunn said he is concerned their appointments on line list expiration dates that have passed, but the members are still serving. P. Yauk said in the next few months they are going to be updating them.

Public Appearance

Mr. Tom Callewaert came to seek direction on how to re-open an old trail connector just south of Mio that is on national forest land. The department staff referred him to the appropriate trail specialist in that area. The workgroup and department welcomed him and thanked him for participating in the meeting.

Scott Slavin gave an update on the storm damage that occurred in Lake and Osceola counties on August 28. There was a severe storm with multiple tornadoes that affected several motorized and nonmotorized trail systems, state forest campgrounds, trailheads, and rail trails. They had four DNR crews working in cooperation with Irons Area club. The Lincoln Route, Little Manistee Route, and Tin Cup Route were done in a couple of days, clearing hundreds of trees. Everett Trail is closed right now because of huge blow downs. Tin Cup is being worked on. Some of the trails on the Fed land are closed until further notice. There is more work to go, including working on re-routes.

J. Holley added that A. Swainston was in the Leota area last week as well because there was damage in Missaukee, Roscommon, and Clare counties. J. Holley went out with some volunteers to check damage and she wanted to give kudos to all of our volunteers and staff that have been working hard on the clean up. J. Maiké added that there are some city blocks in Baldwin that do not have any standing trees due to the storm, and that Trail 3 is closed but should be finished after they clear all the trees.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

DRAFT

Michigan's ORV Safety Training Manual vs. Various Owner's Manuals

	Warn	Superwinch	Ramsey
WINCHING			
Differences between winches and straps	NO	NO	NO
Safety and Danger Zones during an extraction	NO	NO	NO
Winch Parts:			
Motor			NO
Cable varieties			NO
Damaged cable			NO
Ratings			NO
Gloves			
Proper method to cross over a cable	NO	NO	NO
Gear Train types			
Drum			NO
Braking System placement and heat			NO
Clutch Lever			
Fairlead types and uses	NO	NO	NO
Proper Winch Ratings			NO
Winch Mounting			
Bolt identification	NO	NO	NO
Proper preparation for first use of a cable			NO
Minimum number of wraps			
Cable layering vs. pull rating	NO	NO	NO
Hooks (failure and use)	NO		NO
Proper winching techniques			NO
EXTRACTION ACCESSORIES			
Cable Dampeners			
Chain rating and use	NO	NO	NO
Communications			NO
D Rings*			
Type selection	NO	NO	NO
Ratings	NO	NO	NO
Proper use	NO	NO	NO
Snatch Blocks (Pulleys)			
ratings	NO	NO	NO
Use			NO
SNATCH STRAPS*			
Strap types (lifting, snatch, tree saver)			
Use	NO	NO	NO
Ratings	NO	NO	NO
Damage to straps	NO	NO	NO
Strap failure dangers	NO	NO	NO
PROPER connection of two straps for increased length	NO	NO	NO
ATTACHMENT POINTS			
Placement			
Ratings	NO	NO	NO
Attatchment to vehicle	NO	NO	NO
Stock "hooks"	NO	NO	NO
Welded equipment		NO	NO

WARN is used by: Suzuki, Mahindra, Honda, and Kawasaki

SUPERWINCH is used by Can Am

Ramsey is the third major US winch manufacturer

*** INJURY and DEATH have been caused by this line item in Michigan!**

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTING SYSTEM / MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) / OFF ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) CRASH STATISTICS 2008-2017

CATEGORY	YEAR 2008	YEAR 2017	% CHANGE
Total Accidents Statewide	249	347	27
Alcohol Related Statewide	53	62	15
Fleeing Police Statewide	3	3	0
Cheboygan County (LP)	5	12	58
Marquette County (UP)	12	12	0
Fatal Statewide	11	20	45
Personal Injury Statewide	187	224	17
Property Damage Statewide	41	72	43
Grouped Age Category Injured Statewide:			
21-24	18	30	40
25-34	33	38	13
35-44	28	41	32
45-54	28	34	18
55-64	8	17	53
Grouped Age Category Fatality Statewide:			
21-24	2	2	0
25-34	3	5	40
35-44	3	3	0
45-54	2	5	60

55-64	0	3	100
Hazardous Action Statewide	328	466	30
No Belts Used (assumed S/S) Statewide	1	32	97
Angle Crash Statewide	45	52	13
Other Crash Statewide	11	32	66