Meeting Minutes – MEETING OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

**Date and Time:** November 28, 2023 9:00 AM

**Meeting Location:** Richard Bryan Building, Tahoe Conference Room

901 S Stewart Street, Carson City Nevada 89701

1. **CALL TO ORDER –** Meeting is called to order at 0931h
2. **ROLL CALL OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS**

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| **Commissioner** | **Appointed Representation** |
| Maurice White, Chair - Present | Nevada Association of Counties |
| Mike Cullen, Vice Chair- Present | Law Enforcement |
| Curtis Calder- Present | Offroad Motorcycle Racing |
| Ken Ravago- Present | ATV Riders |
| Robert Adams- Present | Conservation Interests |
| John Glenn - ABSENT | OHV Dealers |
| Scott Spero- Present | Snowmobile Riders |
| Darrell Pursel- Present | Ranching Interests |
| James Eason- Present | Sportsmen Interests |

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –** Commission Ken Ravago leads the group in Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\* -** Comm Ravago motions to approve agenda with item 6 removed. Comm Calder seconds, none opposed.
2. **~~REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF July 17, 2023 Meeting MINUTES \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*~~**

Item removed from agenda

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF September 20, 2023 Meeting MINUTES \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\***

Comm Adams clarifies that he is looking to use county right of way roads for OHV access and watching developments in Amargosa and Pahrump valleys. Nikhil needs to verify who motioned to approve 9/20/23 agenda.

Comm Pursel motions to approve meeting minutes with these changes. Comm Calder seconds. Comm Eason abstains for not attending.

1. **OHV Safety Programming & Emergency Response in Nevada. \*FOR DISCUSSION –** Commissioner Ravago shares a video of emergency response in southern Nevada. Ken shares information about Richard Gent and his efforts to increase awareness of safety around active railways. Hot Rail LLC [www.hotrailgroup.com](http://www.hotrailgroup.com) and their contact information for possible future rail safety trainings. Ken also attended a meeting with NVORA at University Medical Center.

Mathew Giltner, NVORA, describes the partnership to pass out free helmets to youth riders. Helmets provided with grant funding and Axle offroad are given to youth who complete a helmet use survey.

Ken describes another opportunity of a “stop the bleed” training hosted at a recent Dunes and Trails ATV Club meeting. Additionally, the rollover and emergency response incident during their veterans day ride is discussed. Ken describes local emergency officials as quick to respond, but with equipment not suitable for remote rescue. Ultimately, a helicopter was called for victim transport. Ken asks for recommendations to improve OHV Communications, safety and protocols that can be adopted by all organized clubs and groups. The commission discusses

* Carry all equipment, and know how to use it
* Clear communication and never ride alone

Comm Calder shares an experience riding with friends on the Nevada Backcountry Discovery Route. He stresses the need for a satellite communications for all riders.

Nikhil asks the commission to consider how to use grant funds to encourage the best practices for riding safely.

Comm Pursel shares a similar OHV safety concern while deer hunting.

Mathew shares information about personal location beacons.

Comm Spero discusses the importance for standardized protocols in snow OHV recreation. The Sierra Avalanche Center, a previous grant recipient, has put together the industry standards for pre ride and during ride checklist. He calls on the commission to start with a statewide education for what to carry and how to ride in large groups (the Daily Flow). He encourages to start with a wilderness first aid course as the most recognized beginner education before heading out.

Comm Spero encourages the commission to provide resources to emergency personnel as necessary and acknowledges the commissions past hesitancy to award funds to emergency services (Fire, EMS).

Comm. Calder details the efforts of Silver State Race MedX as an OHV grant recipient. Their group has provided EMS services on tracks at local desert dirtbike races. He also describes efforts of the Backcountry Discovery Routes organization to advocate for “ride right” messaging.

Comm. Cullen shares that SSRM is also used at VCGP.

The commission considers putting together a safety package for organized groups. Comm Spero, Ravago, Calder are assigned to research viable safety equipment, and best management protocols. Nikhil will research other ways to expend OHV dollars on these safety packages to established groups through less stringent grants.

Nikhil describes past grants from Sierra Avalanche center, Nevada outdoor School, Tresspasser productions, and Silver State Race MedX. In 2024, the program should move towards a statewide comprehensive safety strategy.

Comm Eason wants to ensure the program is scalable based on organization size and ride participants. He is also concerned about OHVs potentially using wildlife corridors and overpasses for access.

Robyn Orloff – recommends carry SPOT in accessible location, and medical coverage. Commends commission for their suggestions. Wants to see education on site and online.

Mathew adds the importance of natural resources education and outreach materials in addition to rider safety information at public information kiosks and signs.

1. **OHV PROGRAM UPDATE \*FOR DISCUSSION\*** -- Nikhil will provide an update on OHV program activities since the last meeting including requests for additional staff, website contracts, and grant administration.

Since 9/20/23 – attended an annual NOHVCC/ INOHVAA conference in Midway Utah – Met with neighbor state OHV program managers. Shares information about Utah, Arizona, and Oregon as programs that have lowest overhead and most actions on the ground. He shares the need for additional staffing and program adjustments for quarterly reimbursements and reporting.

The OHV website will need to be moved to a contract by July 1, 2024. We need a way to streamline grant reporting and reimbursements.

1. **GRANT APPLICATION QUESTION & ANSWER \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\***--

The commission will host a Technical Advisory Committee hearing in January prior to grant awards. Applications opened 11/15, they are due 1/5. Applicants must attend a grants coaching meeting. The application and scoring criteria remain mostly the same and are posted online: OHV.NV.GOV/Grant-Program.

Nikhil walks the meeting attendees through the OHV commission website and where to find meeting materials and grant materials.

DAG will research coaching meetings as an amendment to the grant application. The commission decides to host a third grant coaching meeting appropriately noticed.

Comm Eason requests that no incomplete applications are submitted to the commission for review.

Mathew offers NVORA to help with the grant coaching meetings, and leaves it to commission to decide if the documents in a complete application are acceptable for funding.

The program will make an extra effort to notice the requirements for a coaching meeting. The three meetings will all be hosted online, and possible in person for future coaching meetings.

DAG, Nicole Ting, cautions the commissioners from attending coaching meetings to avoid a quorum.

Kevin Bailey, VV4WD asks who sits on the Technical Advisory Committee: Nikhil answers: representative from Bureau of Land Management, US forest service, Department of Motor Vehicles, and Commission on Tourism, and Division of Wildlife, and Recreation Trails Program, OHV program Manager

1. **COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE \*FOR DISCUSSION\*** -- Comm Eason thanks Comm Ravago for hosting the safety discussion. Comm Ravago thanks the commission for hearing the safety item, and encourages the team takes action soon as possible. Comm Spero, Calder, and Ravago will be on the Safety Committee; they will provide Best Management Practices for procedures and equipment in statewide safety kit. Consider abbreviated grant program to support safety initiatives. Comm Ravago encourages a commission meeting in Las Vegas. Comm White encourages fire extinguisher checks.

Comm Spero encourages avalanche reporting and training in Elko NV as a portion of state that is underserved.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robyn Orloff thanks the Commission for their time and appreciates the responses to her questions. She sees the positive influence of the commission projects around Nevada.

1. **ADJOURNMENT \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*--** The Commission adjourns the meeting at 11:35.

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We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting. To request special accommodations or assistance at the meeting, please notify our office by writing to the Off-Highway Vehicles Program, 901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701; or by calling 775-684-2794 no later than two (2) working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Please contact Nikhil Narkhede at: 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003, Carson City, Nevada 89701; nnarkhede@ohv.nv.gov; or 775-684-2794 to obtain support material for the agenda. Materials will also be posted on the <http://ohv.nv.gov/commission> website.