MINUTES – MEETING OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

**Date and Time:** September 20, 2023 4:00PM

**Meeting Location:** Tonopah Convention Center, 301 Brougher Ave, Tonopah, NV 89049

1. **CALL TO ORDER –** Meeting is called to order at 1605 h on 9/20/23
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- **Absent** | Snowmobile Riders |
| Darrell Pursel**- Present** | Ranching Interests |
| James Eason | Sportsmen Interests |

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Commissioner Cullen leads the group in reciting Pledge of Allegiance
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner White acknowledges Constitution Day – the day the United States Constitution Day was signed.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*** - Commissioner Cullen motions to approve agenda, with item 7 removed. Ravago seconds the motion. Agenda approved with item 7 removed. None opposed.
2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 30, 2023 Meeting MINUTES \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\* -** Commissioner Cullen Motions to approve meeting minutes, Comm Ravago Seconds, Meeting minutes approved with none opposed.

1. **~~REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF July 17, 2023 Meeting MINUTES \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\* --~~** Item removed from agenda
2. **OHV PROGRAM UPDATE \*FOR DISCUSSION\*** -- Nikhil’s update on program activities:

* Summer 2023 OHV Grant agreements:Farmy’s ORP is still awaiting final grant agreement from program and lease terms from City of Yerington. One resolution is to issue the grant agreement and allow funding to be used for planning and travel to obtain land use agreement with City of Yerington. Mineral County OHV Staging Area Phase 2 is awaiting grant agreement from program. Reimbursement and grant reporting training is being completed in small batches;a recording available for reference needs to be produced for future new grant recipients to watch.
* The final 6 month report to Interim Finance Committee was submitted on 9/1/23.
* After completing the Certified Contracts Manager Course, the list of signatories may need revisions on the grant agreement.
* Public Outreach and Education – Three standout events occurred: trailwork on the Toiyabe Crest Trail, and Kingsbury Stinger trail, and a group ride with the Reno Area Dirt Riders
* Public Meetings and Events: Staff attended the BLM Recreation Strategy Meeting in Las Vegas, hosted by Foundation for America’s Public Lands <https://americaslands.org/>. Discussion involved comments on a proposed national recreation strategy and how to use the newly formed organization to advance recreation opportunities on BLM land.
* The program hosted a group ride for National Association of State Parks Directors Conference; staff gained financial support from Polaris to provide RZR 1000s for the ride. The loop around Genoa Peak trail included educational discussions hosted by Forest Service, Division of Natural Heritage an Conserve Nevada.
* **Looking forward:** Nikhil proposes dates for the Winter Grant Round: Open 11/6/23 Due 1/5/24; awarded January 2024. Staff will be attending the NOHVCC and INOHVAA Conferences in early Oct 2023.
* **Strategy to improve OHV Registrations:** The OHV Commission discusses FY 2023 OHV registration numbers which show a decline of 1400 registrations over FY22. Questions include: Comm White: Is the contact information for OHV registrants available to the program for use? Comm Calder inquires about statewide Dealer Sales, and if they have seen a similar dip in new OHV sales. Comm Cullen asks about OHV renewals and would like to see difference between renewals and new OHV registrations as older bikes are being used more often and may not be registered due to the antiquated process. Comm Pursel considers the lower number of deer tags offered may be a contributing factor for public land hunters to not renew their OHV registration this year. Encourages further discussion with NDOW.

1. **COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE \*FOR DISCUSSION\*** -- An opportunity for commissioners to introduce any OHV topics that they encounter between meetings.

* **Comm White-** requests continuity for OHV Commission meetings in 2024 and recommends commissioners send staff their availability. Staff should recommend dates (sent in email – October updates)
* **Comm Cullen –** Inquires about the Kingsbury Stinger reroute on the lower portion of the trail. Nikhil confirms the trail remains open to dirtbikes, and is built to handle vehicles <50in track width. The Storey County Sheriff’s Office will be helping out at the VORRA Gold Rush Race from Virginia City to Tonopah.
* **Comm Ravago** – Inquires about the NTSB Board on Rail Safety that he was recommended for. The program needs to develop a safety and messaging program and wants to know how the Commission may help address the safety issues around railways, and group riding. Comm Ravago would also like to hear more about dealer numbers.
* **Comm Calder** – Discusses the merits of adding a license plate to the offroad motorcycle. The Dual sport kits are affordable, allow for license plates and street legal designation, and skirt the OHV Sticker requirement.
* **Comm Adams** – Mentions the development of a trail using designated segments between Pahrump and Tonopah. He provides a small update on the Pahrump OHV Park, and continues to track the scoping meetings for solar development in Amargosa Valley and around Beatty Nevada.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sue Baker thanks the OHV Commission for their time and encourages increasing program support either through staffing or a partnership with Nevada Offroad Association.

1. **ADJOURNMENT \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*--** Chair White Adjourns the Meeting.