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Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles
 Greg McKay, *Chair*
 Sue Baker, *Vice Chair*

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

Date and Time: Wednesday August 19, 2020, at 9:00 AM

Teleconference numbers to listen and participate in the meeting are listed below:

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Greg McKay Calls the meeting to order at 9am and takes roll call.
- 2. ROLL CALL OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Commissioner	Appointed Representation
Greg Mckay, Chairman -- Present	Snowmobile Riders
Susan Baker-- Present	Nevada Association of Counties
Kevin Malone-- Present	Law Enforcement
Charles Cox-- Present	ATV Riders
Kevin Hill-- Present	Conservation Interests
Michael Gerow-- Present	OHV Dealers
Philip Fell-- Present	Off Highway Motorcycle Racing
Brian Parks-- Present	Ranching Interests
Edmond Booth-- Present	Sportsmen Interests

Non Voting Ex Officio Members	Appointed Representation
Miles Gurtler	Bureau of Land Management
Sierra Brewer	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Devon Blunden	Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
Yyvone Brown	Department of Motor Vehicles
Matthew Maples	Department of Wildlife

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Adams enters a public comment to request help with navigating clearances for an RTP grant to install cattle guards and preserve OHV Access in areas south of Pahrump. Miles Gurtler, BLM offers to help resolve the issue with Adams after the meeting.

No other public comments are entered.

4. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*** – *Greg McKay, Chairman.*
Commissioner Fell makes a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Parks seconds the motion.
5. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF June 10, 2020, MINUTES *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*** – *Greg McKay, Chairman calls for approval of minutes posted to the OHV Commission website since Monday August 17, 2020. Commissioner Cox Makes a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Gerow Seconds, Motion Passed.*
6. **PROGRAM UPDATE *FOR DISCUSSION*** - *Nikhil Narkhede, Program Manager, will provide an update on program activities, challenges, and success during Quarter 2, 2020. Discussion topics include OHV Summit in Winnemucca, legislative progress, and future program positions.*

- Nikhil makes note that the meeting audio is provided online at <https://ohv.nv.gov/meeting/august-19-2020-ohv-commission-meeting> Within 24 hours after the meeting.
- OHV Program Goals remain: Administer the Grant Program, Promote Safe OHV recreation, improve the quality of OHV recreation, and increase registration compliance.

During 2020, 7 trail projects, 4 Law Enforcement, and 2 projects for mapping and marketing were funded. A total of 34 active projects remain in August 2020. Nikhil continues to provide details about presentations to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands and the Humboldt County Commission about pertinent local OHV Grant Projects. He provides details on two grant workshops to generate interest in future OHV Grants, and improve reporting quality for current grantees.

He provides details about the Nevada Mapping Collaborative working with Division of Natural Heritage to create an off-road naturalist trail using ESRI Storymaps. He presents the story map available at: <https://ohv.nv.gov/trails/historic-bullfrog-mining-district-adventure-route>

The OHV Program worked on changes to the Nevada Administrative Code 490, and held two workshops. Draft language was submitted to LCB and we are awaiting feedback and questions on our proposal. A bill draft is submitted to multiple legislators in support of: an annual OHV use sticker, no reciprocity with other states, and a helmet law for riders under 16.

Working with MXT Media, OHV advertising is present on social media, and in the NDOW big game guidebook, and application handbook. Both ads feature different OHV grant projects and positive OHV Registration Messaging. Nikhil Continues to describe minor website updates including pictures, and broken links. He calls for commissioners to review the website and provide input on new development.

Nikhil describes two projects: The BLM Sand Dunes, and the Green Mountain OHV Trails. Both are progressing. The purchase of equipment for the Forest Service is complete, and it has been deployed on three projects: Wheeler pass, Green Mountain, and Harrison Pass.

Miles Gurtler, BLM clarifies that the Forest Service equipment can be operated by trained BLM Employees.

Nikhil Opens the floor for discussion about the OHV Summit planned for Oct 2020 in Winnemucca.

Comm. McKay advocates for an informal socially distanced summit.

Comm Fell points out loss of value if too many rules for social distancing, limited capacity, are imposed.

Commissioner Cox advocates for an informal summit.

Nikhil mentions that as a state program, we should follow mandates and set a positive example for Nevadans.

Comm Baker proposes a virtual summit or a panel that will keep the momentum and comply with the 50 person limit. Comm Baker does not want to let the past years work of hosting a yearly event fall to the wayside.

Commissioner Malone welcomes the idea of a summit in Winnemucca and cites the local OHV dealer is selling many OHVs. His community is divided on the mandates surrounding the pandemic.

Commissioner Parks likes the idea, but a virtual summit sounds complicated.

Nikhil states a virtual summit while useful will be difficult to get anyone to pay attention.

Miles suggests postponing to spring 2021. Many are in favor

Devon Blunden, Travel Nevada, suggests recording and sharing the spring summit.

Comm McKay Inquires about the delay in RTP Funding. Nikhil responds with an overview that 2020 RTP Grant funds are not readily available for use. Due to this delay, projects that share both funding sources are facing delays. Examples include the Las Vegas Valley Loop Trail. Until RTP funds are authorized for use, those projects will see little movement.

Comm McKay inquires about the Flat Top Road Repair. Nikhil describes a grant to an OHV Club in Mesquite Nevada to repair a popular OHV access road. Since granting funds, the local power company has offered to repair the road. Nikhil recommends leaving the money obligated to the project until the road is repaired and will remain open for OHV access. Comm Cox confirms this plan of action.

Nikhil provides notes on the administrative budget requested for FY 2022. It includes costs for travel within the state that was prevented during 2020 by the Pandemic. An enclosed trailer to transport the program OHV and supplemental education materials is also requested to protect the OHV Investment and provide storage for outreach materials.

Nikhil continues to face difficulty in hiring new state OHV positions including a volunteer coordinator or equipment operator to help achieve program goals.

- 7. FINANCIAL UPDATE *FOR DISCUSSION*** - *Kelly Williams, Chief Financial Officer* for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides an overview of the financial statement provided at: https://ohv.nv.gov/assets/etc/meetings/Commissioner_Financial_Update_August_2020_Meeting.pdf Kelly notes the Attorney General Costs are not available and are billed on a biannual cycle. She also explains the large sum of money remaining on the year is reserved for grants that were awarded but not completed. Budgets will be finalized by the Governor's Finance office in January 2021. She concludes by noting there should not be any large surprise expenditures at this time as the state is in an overall shortfall.

- 8. NEVADA DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION (NDOR) UPDATE *FOR DISCUSSION*** - Colin Robertson, Administrator, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation provides an introduction and update of his division.

Colin discusses the creation and startup of Nevada's New Division of Outdoor Recreation including its roles to bolster the Nevada economy and recreation opportunities. He provides details about the confluence of states and background information about other states that have a division of outdoor recreation in offices related to the economy, tourism, and conservation.

Colin provides details about the confluence of states: <https://www.confluenceofstates.com/> and the four pillars that it represents: Conservation & Stewardship, Education & Workforce Training, Economic Development, Public Health & Wellness.

Two positions will be hired into the Division of Outdoor Recreation starting July 2021.

Colin details the passage of the Great American Outdoors act and what that means for public lands in Nevada. Funding is set aside to be used for deferred maintenance and recreation projects. The Recreation Trails Program and Land and Water Conservation fund is fully funded.

The Recreation Not Red Tape act is also presented to streamline federal permitting processes for recreation and adds "Recreation" to the mission of various other federal agencies (Bureau of Reclamation). The SORE act is also presented to enhance permitted activities.

The Map Land Act is aimed at increasing access to public information.

Colin will work closely with the state offices of tourism, health, minority health, transportation and economic development. Colin also provides details about points of contacts in various federal and national legislative agencies including the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable.

On the project end, while there are many, an associates degree in Trail building is in the works with Great Basin College to bolster the workforce development as it relates to Outdoor Recreation. The degree program will be developed through a grant from the Economic Development Administration. The purpose is to create and education opportunity and produce professional trail builders who build sustainable trails.

Colin continues to describe projects of interest in Caliente, Boulder City, and with National Parks. The Outdoor Recreation Summit will be hosted in Reno next year and planning is ongoing for that event. Also, Colin continues to work on a bill draft to designate new portions of Nevada as Dark Sky points of interest and welcomes cooperation with OHV groups to obtain Dark Sky designation on offroad trails through a Polaris sponsorship.

Comm Fell thanks Colin for the presentation and draws his attention to the number of OHV Sales Comm Malone Mentioned earlier.

- 9. RENO AREA DIRT RIDERS PROJECT UPDATE *FOR DISCUSSION*** - Lacey Barnett, RAD, will provide an update on grant project 20- 02, Peavine Maze Trail Maintenance. Lacey calls commission attention to the grant they received at the start of 2020. She provides details and pictures about the Public Lands Clean ups and 7+ miles of single-track maintained as a condition of their first grant.

Lacey also provides details about other grant awards Reno Area Dirtriders have received to supplement their OHV Grant. She draws attention to grants received from wilderness organizations as an example of how motorized and non motorized interest groups can work together for positive management. Finally lacey mentions tasks like signage that remain to be completed this year.

Donny Schmidt, RAD Director, provides a synopsis of the relationship between RAD and the USDA Forest Service, and how the organization hopes to grow this support. Donny also details an adjacent project called connected communities that will be spearheaded by the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship and welcomes Nevada Support.

Donny draws attention to Public Lands Cleanups hosted on BLM Lands as a supplement to their OHV Grant. He details support from BLM Law Enforcement, local Non profits, and local businesses who have all had a hand in reducing desert dumping.

- 10. TRAIL MAINTENANCE ON BLM LANDS *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*** - *Philip Fell, OHV Commissioner*, will open a discussion about volunteer organizations completing maintenance on routes/trails managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Commission will deliberate on how to influence BLM to prioritize Travel Management Plans so OHV funds can be awarded towards trail maintenance projects. Outcomes of this deliberation will guide possible actions of the OHV Commission.

Commissioner Fell opens discussion urging BLM to work with OHV user groups to maintain OHV trails on federal public lands. He details the ability to ride in so many locations, but the inability to maintain trails, specifically in high use areas including the BLM designated Hungry Valley Recreation area. Fell

makes note that the major hurdle is completing resource management plans and that planning should be a priority for the OHV Commission this year.

Miles Gurtler, BLM, echoes this view, and gives information about how planning was handled on other BLM offices in adjacent western states. Miles voices frustration that his agency is so far behind in planning for Nevada public land uses.

Hurdles about how many millions of acres are managed by BLM are voiced, as well as concerns about the timeline on planning. BLM is open to suggestions and funding opportunities to prioritize their planning efforts. Attendees discuss funding options and the value of having a user driven workforce to get boots on the ground for maintenance while BLM sorts through planning hurdles. Donny cites the Reno Dirt Riders as an example of a workforce that is willing to help, but needs to opportunity to do so, from BLM authority.

- 11. 2021 OHV GRANT PRIORITIES *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* - *Greg McKay, Chairman*, will open a discussion on how to prioritize the nine eligible uses for OHV grant funds detailed in NRS 490. Commissioner Fell introduces Environmental Assessments as a priority for the next round of OHV Grants. Comm. Cox seconds motion, passed unanimously.**

Nikhil clarifies scoring for the 2021 OHV Grants will be based on Technical Advisory Committee Rankings and notes provided to the OHV Commission for funding deliberation and majority vote.

Comm. Fell asks about the relationship between Law Enforcement and OHV registration compliance. Comm. Malone says there is a positive relationship in Humboldt County, and a new positive trend in Lyon County. He also reiterates that OHV sales are exceeding expectations this year. Comm Malone clarifies that attendance at OHV Safety Trainings hosted by Nevada Outdoor School and The HCSO Deputies is mainly from other Nonprofits (GBI) or field working organizations.

Law Enforcement has been weighted most heavily in the past because the agencies have a limited scope of work: enforcement and training.

Comm. Fell makes a motion to weight Planning and environmental studies at priority 10. Comm Hill Seconds, motion passes.

Comm Fell makes a motion to move trail mapping, and Maintenance of existing trails & facilities from priority 8 to a 6. Comm Malone seconds, motion passed.

Comm Hill asks if Nikhil has any input from the Technical Advisory Committee during the meeting last year.

Nikhil says the TAC was responsible for presenting the challenges and benefits of each grant in notes to the Commission. Nikhil also states that as commissioners deliberate, he will change the grant scoring priorities and the commission can vote them in as written.

Commissioners deliberate on trail access, connectivity, economic integration, and ultimately vote in the priorities found at: <https://ohv.nv.gov/2021-grants>

Comm. Fell makes the motion to pass the 2021 grant scoring priorities, Comm Hill seconds, motion passes.

- 12. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE, FOR NEXT MEETING – *Greg McKay, Chairman***

Commissioners may at this time recommend agenda items, dates and locations to the chairman for the next meeting. No deliberation or action will be taken on any information presented until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

Nikhil asks commissioners to contact him about projects and agenda items anytime between meetings.

The next OHV Commission meeting will be on Dec. 8, 2020. The TAC will review the grants and provide notes and rankings for the Dec. 8, 2020 commission meeting. \$ 1 million will be the total amount available to award, and it all does not need to be spent this year.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment will be taken at the beginning and end of the meeting and may be taken at the discretion of the Chair on agenda items listed for possible action. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person. The public may request that items be added to a future agenda. Comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action will be taken on any matter raised during the public comment period that is not already on the agenda. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating and spelling their name for the record.

Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Paul Quade, Silver State Offroad Alliance, thanks Mr Robertson for his time. He wants to draw policymaker attention to the value of OHV recreation and permitted events. He wants to see increased outreach to these groups with support from NDOR. SSORA will focus on securing multiyear permits for OHV Events.

Mathew, SSORA, describes success from his outreach across Nevada, and thanks the commission for their support of the Nevada Offroad Podcast. He calls on all commissioners to participate.

Lacey, RAD, thanks the commission for their time and for Mathew's efforts. She describes a few hurdles her club faces with the OHV registration but voices general support for an easier method to obtain the sticker. RAD does not support the sticker requirement on plated vehicles.

Paul asks Lacey the general compliance numbers of RAD riders with the OHV Registration. Lacey says registration compliance in her club is low, but she is willing to help others get the bikes registered.

14. ADJOURNMENT *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*-- Greg McKay, Chairman

NOTICE: Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed, combined for consideration, or removed from the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.

Notice of this meeting was also posted on the Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles Website at: <http://ohv.nv.gov/commission> and <https://notice.nv.gov/>

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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.