



Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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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 May 13, 2020, at 9:00 AM

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

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USA Toll-Free:	888-204-5984
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Web Host: www.webmeeting.att.com

1. CALL TO ORDER – Greg McKay, Chairman Calls the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner Greg McKay – Snowmobile Riders – Present
Commissioner Sue Baker – Nevada Association of Counties – Present
Commissioner Kevin Malone – Nevada Sheriff's and Chief's Association-- Present
Commissioner Charlie Cox – ATV Riders -- Present
Commissioner Kevin Hill – Conservation Interests -- Present
Commissioner Philip Fell – Motorcycle Racing – Present
Commissioner Brian Parks – Nevada Department of Agriculture – Present
Commissioner Eddie Booth – Nevada Sportsmen -- Absent
Commissioner Michael Gerow – OHV Dealers – Absent

Ex-Officio members

Bureau of Land Management, Miles Gurtler
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Sierra Brewer
Nevada Department of Wildlife, Matt Maples
Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles, Yvonne Young Brown
Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Devon Blunden

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lora Hendrickson, MXT media asks the commission if there is any marketing/advertising materials that should be publicized.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* -- Commissioner Baker makes a motion to approve, Commissioner Parks seconds. Agenda approved, none opposed.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF March 11, 2020, MINUTES *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* – *Greg McKay, Chairman*. Comm Baker, Motion to approve minutes, Comm Malone seconds motion. Commissioner Hill abstains from the vote as he was not present during the last meeting.

6. Grant Project Update: Green Mountain Trail Maintenance and Equipment Purchase *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* -- Kevin Dose, Great Basin Institute, has been working on an MOU between USFS, GBI, and NOHVP. Nikhil describes the location of meeting supporting documents at OHV.NV.GOV/Meeting. Kevin notes the MOU is signed by GBI and USFS. USDA policies prevents anyone other than a USFS employee from operating the machine, and it can only be used on federal lands. Comm Baker asks if the partnership with other federal agencies allows a BLM employee to operate the equipment, and if the project needs to be on a work plan 1 year in advance is still required. Kevin clarifies that only USFS employees can operate the equipment due to liability reasons.

Miles Gurtler, BLM, asks if BLM employees can attend the USFS operator training and be allowed to use the equipment. Kevin understands that this is not the case, only a USFS employee can be the operator.

Comm Cox asks how the forest will use the equipment if it sits idle in between OHV projects. Kevin says he has been working with Nikhil to move the equipment according to a current project log. The first on the list is Green Mountain OHV project sponsored by grant funds. Kevin will provide a log of projects for the next year and will follow up with Nikhil. Nikhil mentions other USFS projects that are active OHV Grants, including the statewide trail maintenance grant \$78k for OHV routes on Peavine and Spring Mountains. Comm Cox asks if the equipment can be used on non-motorized equipment. Kevin will provide an email response.

Comm Malone clarifies section 3 sub sec. E the MOU enables USFS to operate on any federal lands. Kevin confirms this is correct.

Comm Baker wants to see an annual review of equipment use and would like to see other federal employees be able to operate the equipment as a condition of future amendments.

Comm Fell does not to support this MOU, as this agreement suggests state funds cannot be used on state lands, instead, is limited to federal lands. The use of equipment will be limited to the USFS, using state funding. Kevin mentions another statewide agreement between federal and state agencies to work together for wildfire suppression. Comm Malone understands that 81% of land in Nevada is owned by federal government and Nevadans typically recreate on public federal lands. He supports this MOU. Comm Fell asks about the possibility to receive rental payments if it is used for other projects? Nikhil clarifies that the MOU allows the forest to use the equipment as they see necessary if the OHV project list is too short. Comm Baker wants to see the program own the equipment and trail crews in the future and accepts the proposed agreement for a short term.

Comm Cox makes a motion to approve the MOU as written, Comm Baker seconds the motion. Motion passes. Comm Fell opposes the motion.

7. Statewide ATV Youth Safety Courses *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* -- Sue Baker, Vice Chair, will proposes options to create a statewide safety training aimed at Youth ATV Operations. Details to be discussed and pursued by the OHV Commission include incentives, funding options, partnerships, and course content.

Comm Baker hopes to modify national programs for underage operation of OHVs in communities within Nevada. She wants to ensure youths are educated about roadway safety before operating in their communities. Currently certifications only exist with age appropriate vehicles, however youths regularly operate larger OHVs. Examples include use of hand signals, right of way, speed limits. She is challenged with state mandated courses, who would host and the requirements for age appropriate certification for OHV Friendly Communities. Comm Malone asks how the mandate would be enforced specifically the size restrictions which are recommendations from manufacturers due to liability. Discussion ensues, Comm Cox and Malone clarify there is no law regarding youths on OHVs. Comm Fell supports youth education of OHVs on roads but not mandatory for trail use. Nikhil asks for other incentives for taking the safety course. He asks for a focus on road use in OHV friendly communities with an OHV Registration for the first year as an incentive to take the course. He clarifies that offering a 1 year registration keeps the benefits within the state OHV program, not causing extra burden on Law Enforcement. Comm Malone supports the youth safety courses currently in place and says the interest is there around the state. Comm Malone will work with Comm Baker towards a statewide youth training course with Nevada Outdoor School.

Comm Cox makes a motion to form a committee towards this goal. Comm Fell Seconds the motion. Motion passes.

8. **OHV Program Update *For Discussion*** -- Nikhil Narkhede provides an update on program activities during 2020. He discusses reimbursements of open grant projects, closing out 2018 grants and deobligating funds back to the OHV account. The OHV summit will be hosted in Winnemucca and Holly will lead the Mapping Collaborative to host a new format summit that includes half day discussions and field time in the afternoon that covers trail building and BMPs for OHV areas. He asks the commission to reach out with any ideas for the OHV Summit planned for Oct 8-9. He mentions that social media presence and responding to public comments is lacking. He asks what type of media and how often should be publicized. Comm McKay wants to stay focused on the grant management. Nikhil mentions MXT media continues to produce grant specific videos to be used at public events and on social media showing OHV dollars at work. Comm Fell asks if there is an Instagram hashtag or go to social media tag that will help publicize the program.

Lora supports the use of hashtags to better publicize OHVs in Nevada. She explains the DCNR relationship with the OHV program and use of social media. Most media outlets are forwarded and publicized through DCNR outlets where the program does not maintain its own outlets.

Nikhil explains that the current program workload is large. Maintaining three years of grant projects continues to be a challenge. Looking forward he asks for input on the next position to be hired and mentions RTP as a source of funding for additional project specific positions. Discussion around the hiring of a volunteer coordinator ensues. He also explains that the first year focused on grant projects and reimbursements, then evolved into NAC and NRS amendments during the second year.

Comm McKay asks about reciprocity with neighboring states.

Nikhil asks how many positions should remain with the grants program vs employed by the states. Nikhil prefers to show most of the funding used as grants. Comm Baker, wants to expand the number of employees in state employment to better build the program, and wants to see better use of citizen science programs to expand the mapping collaborative. She suggests hiring one position that can bring all the user groups together to better manage volunteer labor on trail work and another state position that can handle the citizen science mapping initiative. Discussion continues about how and when to hire the two additional positions under the OHV program.

Comm Cox asks about a timeline for implementing no reciprocity. Nikhil clarifies that our NRS allows OHVs to operate in Nevada for 15 days without registration regardless of reciprocity. He explains the need to find a bill sponsor. Comm Fell supports no reciprocity. Most commissioners agree, and support a multiple year registration, however the NRS change required is still up in the air.

Paul Quade, SSORA, makes a comment about the need for NRS changes to encompass out of state OHVs and street registered vehicles because user groups that ride street legal vehicles like jeeps

want a seat at the OHV table to receive grant funds. Because of this, he recommends allowing street legal vehicles to pay into the OHV sticker fund.

Robert Adams, Nye County, mentions the seasonal OHV riders that arrive in Pahrump each year as a need for registration reforms. Comm Malone asks Paul if there are any legislators that are willing to carry the NRS changes. Paul mentions that he has some in mind, but nothing official. He also wants to provide a project update during the June 10 Commission meeting.

9. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE, FOR NEXT MEETING – Greg McKay, Chairman

Comm McKay asks for an update on the statewide youth safety course, a discussion on scoring priorities, and discussion of NAC updates. Nikhil explains the new grant scoring methods if NACs are adopted. The next meeting is confirmed for June 10, 2020. Comm Malone wants to share an OHV rescue news article, and encourages Search and Rescue to be eligible for grants.

10. 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.

Robert Adams, Nye county, asks for an explanation for why some OHV trails are not available on the OHV program trail maps website. Miles Gurtler, BLM, asks to explain these items with Robert offline.

Nikhil reminds listeners of the NAC 490 workshop that will occur at 1pm.

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

Comm malone makes a motion to adjourn, Comm Fell seconds, motion passed.

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.