

WOHVA Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - 4th Annual

October 4, 2009

Opening Remarks – Byron Stuck, Board of Directors (BoD) Chair, at 10:07 AM

- Welcomed everyone to the 4th Annual WOHVA Membership meeting!
- Previewed agenda for the day and highlighted the mission and purpose for our organization; noted that we were “only” created in January 2006
- Summarized the past year’s activities at the Rally on the Capitol Steps, Joint Expo with DNR at Straddleline, Legislative watchdog work, trade show presence and land use activities in Odessa, Gifford Pinchot, Reiter Hills and other locations
- Highlighted strong membership growth with 30 club and business members and a stable individual membership ... and pushed those present that although we currently represent over 13,000 total members, there are many motorized recreationists (500,000 estimated)
- Introduced the Board members; we’re an all volunteer Board and organization

Minutes from the prior Annual Meeting

The 2008 Annual Membership meeting minutes have been posted on the WOHVA website for the past year along with all BoD meeting summaries. *The minutes were moved and seconded for approval as posted and passed unanimously.*

Treasurer’s Report – Gary Prewitt, BoD on behalf of Angie Marek, BoD Treasurer

- Byron introduced Gary Prewitt who gave the Treasurer’s report on behalf of Treasurer Angie Marek. Gary reported that WOHVA financials are available to all members; Angie is happy to review them in detail with any member who is interested!
- Gary distributed and reviewed the summary report as of 9/30/09:
 - o Carryover from 2008 \$10,477.94
 - o Total Income +\$21,602.50
 - o Total Expense -\$8,356.54

 - o Balance as of 9/30/09 \$23,723.90
 - Comprised of committed reserve funds \$14,644.39
 - And available funds \$9,079.51
- In response to questions, Gary clarified that the significant increase in income this year was due to Legal Fund donations and those are shown as most of committed reserves.
- *The treasurer’s report was moved for approval, seconded and unanimously passed*

Nominating Committee – Ed Bushnell, BoD Vice President

- Ed shared that there are 9 positions for Directors stipulated in our Bylaws. He will introduce nominations now and then the membership will vote after lunch.
- Four of the original charter Board members from 2006 are now up for their 3rd and final two-year term. They are Byron Stuck – Chair, Angie Marek – Treasurer, Richard Elkins, and himself Ed Bushnell – Vice President
- Ed noted that two BoD members had left since last October, Tom Fite & Kathy Heitman. As interim BoD members, John Eaton and Mike Blankenship have served admirably!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee – Kevin McGrath, BoD, Membership Liaison

- Kevin gave the current WOHVA membership and comparison to prior years:

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Org/Business</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Current 2009 (Oct 4)		76	24	7	106
Last Yr 2008		122	16	2	140
2007		131	14	3	148

- The decline in total memberships reflects a shift but not at all a decline in members represented. WOHVA is an Alliance and with the current clubs and organizations as well as individuals, over 13,000 recreationists are represented in our total membership.
- He described part of the committee's work during the past year as maintaining the website process for joining, renewing memberships and generally solving problems
- He also noted that the first mailing of membership stickers and trifolds occurred this year and that it will be an ongoing membership committee responsibility
- Kevin noted the need for a better website to promote our organization and the ongoing need for volunteer help – WOHVA is an all-volunteer organization.

Communication's Committee – Byron Stuck on behalf of Megan Cieplik, BoD

- Byron reported briefly that Communications is still growing and defining itself in our organization. We need more volunteer help and ideas in this area and there are members of other committees (Joe Jones, for example) who are helping out.
- Megan has been working to develop a DVD for WOHVA as well as an Events calendar including more content on the website. The website will continue to be a focus.

Legislative Rally Report – Ed Bushnell, BoD, Rally Chair

- Ed began with the announcement that the next Rally on the Capitol steps is scheduled for 2011 to coincide with the next Legislative session. He said that in 2010 the plan is to organize a “lobby day” where members can meet and inform their representatives.
- Ed noted that a rapid response team has been added this year which designates individuals able to “rapidly respond” in Olympia whenever testimony, monitoring or other legislative duties are urgently required. Volunteers are always needed for this role.
- Ed talked about the success of our March 13, 2009 Rally in highlighting issues for our legislators. New this year was the ban on mini-bikes but many of the prior legislative themes of reduced recreational access and unreasonable constraints continued
- Ed closed noting that the theft of our NOVA funds had not yet occurred at the time of our rally and that the lawsuit and other activities surrounding the theft came afterwards

WOHVA Expo Report – Byron Stuck on behalf of Angie Marek, BoD, Expo Chair

- In Angie’s absence, Byron reported that the second annual Expo at Straddleline park was held on May 9, 2009 and was presented for the first time jointly with the Dept of Natural Resources as part of their Safety Summit
- This is another signature WOHVA event and this year it featured many Enforcement and Education staff attending from around the state as well as the WSSA trailer
- This is an event with great potential and now WOHVA needs to assess what direction we will provide in working with the DNR to build the agenda and attendance

Land Use Committee – Gary Prewitt, BoD, Land Use Liaison

- Gary reviewed land use actions from around the state:
- Gifford Pinchot – As presented at our 2008 Annual meeting, there is an active group, GPOHVA, working on access here and Gary will be using former BoD Dave Hiatt to clarify the goals of this group as they work with the GPNF leadership and land use staff.
- Odessa – Work continues to build a recreational destination in Odessa including steps such as permitting road access for OHV’s. There is strong support from the local area and this work builds on work begun by Dave Hiatt and others.
- Reiter Foothills – Work continues here as well to establish a planning process for this land which is the closest site to Seattle for OHV access. Members voiced concerns re: initial decisions to structure this process and WOHVA will stay involved as it progresses.
- Gary also spoke generally about the Travel Management Plan process and how it should be used to advocate for greater recreational access for OHV’s in comparison to the other Forest Planning processes. He offered to explain this in more detail to anyone interested

POLITICAL ACTION – SPECIAL SEGMENT

NOVA Lawsuit History – Kevin McGrath, BoD, Tod Petersen

- Kevin introduced Tod who gave a short presentation on the origins of the NOVA funds and the actions leading up to their theft in the recent legislative session; this was an introduction for the next segment reviewing our lawsuit with our legal counsel
- Responding to questions, Tod stated that motorized recreation filed a case in 2005 as well regarding not getting refunds due from gasoline taxes but that case was eventually lost on appeal. The court found there was a refund, even if it didn't go back to the appropriate people

NOVA Lawsuit Update – James Buchal, Attorney

- WOHVA and the Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) have just filed a lawsuit to stop the state from giving over \$9.5 million of **OUR** ORV funds to the State Parks dept! Byron introduced our attorney who was on a phone connection from his Oregon home.
- James introduced himself and stated that most of his practice deals with getting government to behave appropriately, in large part towards motorized recreation.
- James stated that our lawsuit was actually just filed on the Friday before this annual meeting and will be formally recorded next week. He spoke to the group about needing to show how we've been harmed by the states action to redirect our funds. Several members offered to submit information to James Buchal through Byron or Tod.
- James emphasized the urgency to take action before the funds are spent, before they're gone. To this end we will also file an injunction to stop the state parks from expending any funds.
- As for next steps, James described a process where the state attorney general will review our case and seek to represent the state and find faults with our filing. That should occur before the holidays and then we will get some indication of our likelihood for success and next steps after the holidays. He stated that the legal process is slow, but it works for both sides.
- In closing, James restated that the more signed statements of impact he has regarding this funds theft, the better. The group thanked him for phoning in and showed their support for the battle he's helping us fight!

Legislative Report – Tod Petersen, Political Action Committee Chair

- Kevin introduced Tod and he reviewed WOHVA's 2009 activities in Olympia.
- The State Biennial budget grew from \$31 to \$34 billion this session. WOHVA has followed both favorable legislation to assure it received support as well as unfavorable legislation to assure it did not pass.
- Aside from the House Bill which began the theft of our ORV funds, Tod noted that very little legislation of either type passed this session. We were successful in stopping passage of bad legislation ... but we were unsuccessful in creating new favorable law.
- Tod closed by speaking about some proposed new laws (WACs) and the types of concerns WOHVA had regarding them. For example, under new proposed WACs repairing trail or clearing windfall could be interpreted as a crime. Tod stated that WOHVA will fight to assure these are absolutely legal actions on our public land!
- Byron and the group gave Tod a standing ovation for all the work he's done this year concerning the legislative session and the lawsuit, an amazing volunteer!

NEW BUSINESS

Land Use: Proposed Law Changes – Gary Prewitt, BoD, Land Use Liaison

- Gary presented a technical packet of proposed changes developed by the land use committee for feedback from the general membership (copies of these changes can be obtained from Gary Prewitt, BoD).
- Gary reviewed the changes to land use planning which his group has discussed and urged any members interested to join the Land Use Committee to help see these changes become reality. He thanked the membership for their comments and stated that he would take the discussion from this meeting back and develop a second draft for potential submittal to the Board.

Board Term Limit Changes: Proposed Bylaw Changes – Kevin McGrath, BoD

- In light of the upcoming term being the last for four original BoD members, Kevin stated that he would bring to the next annual meeting a proposal to extend term limits for BoD members beyond the 3 two year terms currently in the bylaws (a general membership vote is required to change the bylaws).
- He stated he will do this due to his concern about the loss of valuable volunteer leadership in WOHVA

Legal Fund Donation Stickers & Increased Fees for Businesses – Byron Stuck, BoD

- Two other topics surfaced during open business and were discussed but also did not result in a motion to the membership
- A request was received that we and the NMA create stickers publicizing the theft of our \$9.5 million and give those as a thank you to those who donate to the legal fund. Byron applauded the idea and noted that the Board can deal with this as part of their routine business and that he will see there is action on this novel plan!
- A second request was made to increase the WOHVA membership fee for businesses above the current \$100. Byron and BoD members present believe this requires membership approval but will look into it and report back at an upcoming Board meeting. If it does require membership approval, it will be reviewed and proposed in advance of the 2010 membership meeting. If not, it can be dealt with in routine BoD actions.

Board member elections – Richard Elkins, BoD

- Richard asked if there were any nominations from the floor for Board positions. Les Leonard, a former BoD member who stepped down due to time and distance constraints stated his desire to again serve on the Board, especially now with BoD teleconferencing

Richard then began the election of the WOHVA Board of Directors:

- Richard stated that there are three BoD members NOT UP FOR ELECTION as they are beginning the second year of their two year term:
 1. **Kevin McGrath**
 2. **Gary Prewitt**
 3. **Megan Cieplik**
- Richard then presented for nomination the slate of four current BoD members for their third two year term:
 4. **Byron Stuck**
 5. **Ed Bushnell**
 6. **Angie Marek**
 7. **Richard Elkins**

This slate of four was moved for approval, seconded and unanimously passed
- Richard finally presented for nomination the slate of one interim BoD member for his first official term and one nominee from the membership:
 8. **Mike Blankenship**
 9. **Les Leonard**

This slate of two was moved for approval, seconded and unanimously passed
- Richard thanked the membership present for their actions and closed the election of the WOHVA Board of Directors

Adjournment and Thanks – Byron Stuck, BoD Chair

- Byron thanked those present for attending and pledged to look at the next Annual meeting with new eyes and a plan to grow attendance; He asked that any suggestions for improvement be sent to him
- He reminded those present of the upcoming WSSA Snow Show and the need for WOHVA volunteers to be there, and also of the Oct 22nd Washington State Trails Conference
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, Byron Stuck and Kevin McGrath