

WOHVA Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - 5th Annual

October 10, 2010

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

- Welcomed those present & went around the room for everyone to introduce themselves
- Previewed the agenda for the day and promised to end by 3 PM

Minutes from the prior Annual Meeting

The 2009 Annual Membership meeting minutes were posted this past week on the website. Byron offered that members can also view minutes of monthly board meetings on the website as well under the “downloads” section. Paul Yelk commented that he couldn’t download the Board minutes and Byron apologized stating that he’d look into and fix the problem. *The 2010 minutes were moved for approval by Angie and seconded by Gary as posted and passed unanimously.*

Treasurer’s Report – Angie Marek, BoD outgoing Treasurer

- Angie gave her final treasurer’s report stating that Willy Crawley, the incoming BOD treasurer was in Moab.
- Angie distributed and reviewed the summary report as of 9/30/10:

o Carryover from 2009	<u>\$23,722.88</u>
o Total Income	+\$13,702.50
o Total Expense	<u>-\$20,264.22</u>
o Balance as of 9/30/10	\$17,161.16
- Comprised of committed reserve funds	\$5,845.36
- And available funds	\$11,315.80

- Gary asked why the legal fund expenses on the report exceeded the legal fund 2009 donations and Angie stated that the expenses included draws from the prior year’s income. This is an annual statement and not a full fund statement for our lawsuit.
- *The treasurer’s report was moved for approval by Kevin, seconded by Gary and unanimously passed.*

State Of WOHVA – Byron Stuck, BoD President

- Byron introduced his presentation with his desire to build on his 5 years of Board membership and the insights of the outstanding present and previous BOD members.
- He stated the mission and purpose of WOHVA in both formal and informal terms.
- Byron noted that there are many resources available to WOHVA that we don’t take advantage of, such as our supportive manufacturers and dealerships.
- He remarked about the true commitment shown by our supporters after we decided to take the state to court for the NOVA funds theft and how quickly we raised funds.
- After making comments about the current WOHVA environment, Byron then offered his vision for where WOHVA could and should be heading.
- He wanted to assure that we built on the strengths of the many great clubs in our state.
- There currently is no mechanism to get club input into WOHVA affairs and he suggested that we might create a council of Club presidents or representatives to offer guidance.

- Our membership model needs to be improved in that we're an alliance, not a club, yet we don't yet represent all the clubs and businesses to strengthen the alliance.
- Byron noted the extreme difficulties we've had drawing on only volunteer staff and talked of a better plan, one where we have paid staff, an executive director initially, and that we build expenses slowly using the wisdom and experiences of other organizations that have had similar growth. The staff, for example, might begin in the first year as part time.
- Coupled with a plan for paid staff is necessarily a plan for fund raising, membership fees, fund raising events and grants, all as a source of income to support the staff & our work.
- The final vision component Byron spoke of was the need to have a true impact, to assure that we do not continue to lose recreational opportunities or trail mileage.
- Byron spoke of the need to look at forming a stronger relationship with our snow machine colleagues, since there are many common members and some common issues. While we currently have a charter Board member from WSSA and we exchange Expo space with them, Byron suggested we might find even stronger connections with them.
- Byron concluded his presentation and took questions and comments from the audience:
 - Gary noted the risk of taking on fund raising and supporting a large staff expense
 - He also mentioned that if we want to have snow machines as part of our Alliance, there would need to be a bylaw amendment passed at an annual meeting.
 - Arlene suggested that we contact NOHVCC, our charter organization, to gain their wisdom about growing and hiring staff and taking on this larger vision
 - Angie offered that there's also a need to have a legislative event during the "off" years when we don't have a rally. Byron noted that Ed and John's original idea for this was to have a "legislative visit" day during each year to fill this off-year void
 - Dave noted that the idea of growing individual memberships was considered when we first formed and our NOHVCC, Blue Ribbon and AMA advisors warned us to be cautious of charging our membership twice, since we are in addition to their current club membership dues.
 - The group all agreed that we need to have more clubs and businesses become WOHVA members and that this was an obvious goal
 - Byron concluded taking comments at 12:25 when the pizza arrived!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee – Kevin McGrath, BoD, Membership Liaison

- Kevin presented 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	2010	60	19	9	88
Last Yr	2009	76	24	7	106
	2008	122	16	2	140
	2007	131	14	3	148

- The decline in Individual memberships reflects the loss from a one-time event in Cle Elum where nearly 50 new members joined. The growth in businesses has been helped by a matching donation from our state motorsport dealers association this year.
- An attendee from the Gold Bar area noted that outlying Chambers of Commerce may be interested in joining WOHVA if their support can help with local recreational growth
- In closing, Kevin committed to sending out quarterly new member packets with stickers and trifolds and to also continue with a quarterly membership communication based on

the positive feedback he'd received from the recent mailing. Those present all thanked Kevin for his work and commitments to improve membership services.

Board Elections – Gary Prewitt, BoD

- Gary stated that the Board terms are defined in the bylaws as 2 years and also that Board members may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms.
- He introduced Byron who came up to thank Angie Marek and Ed Bushnell for their 5 years of service as two of the original 9 WOHVA charter Board members. Angie and Ed have helped with Rally's and Expo's, with presentations at events and with mailings, with special projects like the sound meter purchase and with the treasurer's role. Byron presented Angie with a plaque and thanked her for all that she has done. Angie added that she'll continue to support WOHVA in her new role leading PNW4WDA. Ed was unable to attend due to work conflicts but Byron promised to deliver his plaque to him! The entire audience applauded the contributions of these outstanding Board members!
- Gary then returned to the podium and nominated Russ Lorenzen and Willy Crawley. They have been serving as interim Board members, appointed by Byron during the time between annual meetings to fill Board vacancies. Kevin moved and Gary seconded their nominations and they were unanimously approved.
- Gary then stated there were two existing Board members (himself and Kevin McGrath) who had completed their first term and were up for re-election. Byron moved and Russ seconded their nominations and they were unanimously approved.
- And finally Gary stated there were two Board vacancies from recent turnover where Byron had not yet appointed interim replacements with this meeting approaching. Gary nominated Paul Yelk and Angie nominated Bryan Peterson. Paul and Brian each spoke of their background and consented to the nominations. Hearing no others, Gary closed the nominations and Kevin moved and Byron seconded the nominations of Paul and Bryan and they were approved unanimously.

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

- Byron reported that Megan and Richard this year had focused communications work on event attendance. WOHVA attended several shows and events publicizing our name and soliciting memberships. In addition, Megan created a Facebook page for WOHVA for more immediate communications and also reworked the WOHVA.org site for better calendar listings of upcoming events. Byron thanked Megan and Richard for their work.
- In closing, the suggestion was made to make greater use of the CLOUT system. The group in attendance recognized the power of this tool and thanked those running it for their support.

NOVA Lawsuit and Legislative Update – Tod Petersen, Political Action Committee Chair

- Tod presented the background on the creation of the NOVA program and the events leading up to the recent theft of NOVA funds and their transfer to the State Park system.
- He outlined the legal battle that WOHVA and the Northwest Motorcycle Association took on with the state and that we lost the first round with the court finding in part that this suit was similar to a prior 2005 lawsuit the NMA had filed. We clearly saw this as incorrect and appealed and this appeal is now in the briefing stage.
- Paul Yelk suggested looking at a case in Wisconsin where the Wisconsin Physician's fund was similarly stolen. Tod thanked him and said he look into it with our attorney.
- Tod then presented his 2010 Legislative report and 2011 outlook.

- Tod went through the various pro and anti motorized off road bills (fuel tax cap, landowner liability, DNR user fees, etc) and summarized their intent as well as outcome. In general, nothing bad of substance was passed ... though nothing very good passed either. Tod emphasized that the elections are key and that's why he's developed an endorsement list through our Political Action committee. DNR commissioner Goldmark for example would not get our endorsement if we knew then what we now know.
- The audience thanked Tod for his long hours of work and thorough assessment.

Reiter Forest Review – Neil Stamp, WOHVA member, Reiter Trail Watch member

- Tod introduced Neil Stamp, a very active WOHVA and NMA volunteer who has spent countless hours working on the Reiter Forest planning.
- Neil began with a pessimistic perspective noting that the DNR has not requested funding to implement the extensive planning work volunteers and paid staff have performed.
- He said that trails were not being built because in part the original designated funds have been spent. Additional funds will be needed to construct the trails and this is a bad time for funding requests.
- Neil stated that the history of the area was extensive as a motorized off-road recreation site. There were 4000 acres previously available to motorized users, and now there will only be 1100 acres. This implies that a great deal of volunteer time will have been wasted. While communications have been extensive in the project, constructive actions have not been. He traced back much of the reduction in acreage and the wasted funds to the committee make-up being changed 2 years ago in response to challenges from non-motorized groups.
- The audience thanked Neil for his efforts and hoped that some positive outcomes would still be achieved, at least for instance for 4x4 rock crawler recreationalists.

WOHVA Mapping Project – Paul Yelk, BoD

- Gary Prewitt introduced Paul Yelk who spoke of the new WOHVA Map Catalog, a project he began in 2007. Joe Jones was instrumental in designing this project as there have been many new and even experienced recreationalists who ask “where can I ride?” The audience echoed the need for an easy to use listing of riding locations.
- Paul presented the WOHVA Map Catalog, a website created and funded by WOHVA to provide an answer to this question. The site provides both a text as well as map listing of riding locations throughout the state, and for 4x4, ATV and dirt bike sites.
- Paul demonstrated the use of the site to the audience and many individuals were impressed with the work Paul has put in. Paul is still improving the site but he stated it is up and running and can be accessed either from the WOHVA site, or by directly entering the site address www.WOHVA-Map-Catalog.org . Paul showed various features of the site and asked that anyone with improvements contact him through the feedback link at the bottom of the site. He also asked if anyone knew of a computer programmer with Java Script skills as there are some improvements needing that language.
- The audience thanked Paul for his incredible new site and for the benefits it will provide to our membership and the general public.

NEW BUSINESS

Dual Sport Vehicle License proposal – Gary Johnson, WOHVA member, GPOHVA chair

- Gary presented a proposed bill he has written to legalize off-road vehicle use when connecting to trails and other related locations. He stated that it was an aggressive concept and he hoped it would gain broad support. The audience thanked Gary for his proposal.

Straddleline Park Update – Angie Marek, Former BoD

- Angie gave a brief update on the closure and change in management of the Thurston County off-road vehicle park. Originally she was concerned, she stated, but with the removal of a problematic former manager and the support of the county leadership, she is encouraged. She said plans are to re-open the park in the spring and to create an advisory board to assure it fulfills its mission for all types of vehicles. She noted that a key decision to be made is whether to have the park privately or publicly managed. There was a very good discussion of the pros and cons of each option at the last meeting she attended. She encouraged WOHVA members to engage in the planning process for the park and the audience thanked her for her update.

NEWFC – Gary Prewitt, BoD

- Gary gave a brief update on the forest planning process in Eastern Washington and specifically the role of the North East Washington Forestry Coalition. Gary had concerns that the process was at risk to give away 2/3 of the forestland to non-motorized use while only providing the remaining 1/3 for all motorized and lumber uses. He encouraged WOHVA members to educate themselves on this group and not to believe that all parties are in agreement about the positive outcomes projected.

Adjournment and Thanks – Byron Stuck, BoD President

- Byron thanked those present for attending and added he was encouraged by the vigorous discussion today as well as the incredible volunteer efforts contributed.
- He reminded those present of the upcoming WSSA EXPO next weekend where the Lorenzens and Harrisons will staff a WOHVA booth. He also told the audience of the Washington State Trails Conference on the following weekend. Arlene Brooks will take WOHVA trifolds to this conference for distribution.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted, Byron Stuck and Kevin McGrath