

WOHVA Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - 6th Annual

November 20, 2011

Byron Stuck called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM at Clover Park Technical College.

1. Welcome/Introductions (Byron)

Attendee introductions

2. Approve 2010 Membership Meeting Summary (Willy)

The 2010 annual membership meeting minutes can be found in the "Downloads" section of the website. *The 2010 minutes were moved for approval by Gary Prewitt, seconded by Kevin McGrath, and approved.*

3. Treasurers report (Willy)

- Beginning balance as of 9/30/2010 \$17,104.13
- Total income \$9,061.79
- Total expenses **\$10,164.39**
- Balance as of 11/19/2011 \$16,001.53

- Committed funds \$3,728.60

The treasurer's report was moved for approval by Gary Prewitt, seconded by Kevin McGrath, and approved.

4. State of WOHVA Report (Byron)

Byron Stuck presented a recap of the plans he'd presented at the 2010 Annual meeting and then talked about lessons learned during this past year, accomplishments, and his aspirations for WOHVA during the next year and beyond.

The present environment looks very similar to last year. There's a difficult economic environment with OHV ownership in peril, our WOHVA identity is still growing but we've made some progress in Olympia, and have growing recognition with our land managers. We've had little systematic member communication, declining individual membership growth offset by modest club/business growth, and the need for much greater volunteer help. We've also had recent Board turnover with two positions now open. We're blessed with strong 4x4 and Dirt Bike statewide organizations (as well as snowmobile, although they're not in our mission). ATV organizations are present but less developed. We're financially solvent (except for the State's NOVA funds) and speaking of that, we were able to conduct strong fundraising around the lawsuit addressing that NOVA Theft. There are strong organized adversaries in our state working to limit or eliminate our form of recreation and we have a tool in CLOUT that is substantially under-enrolled and thus underutilized.

Byron spoke of his prior strategy to create sufficient fundraising to support a paid executive director and then leverage that position to increase volunteer contributions ... and through that our impact in the State. The idea of a major fundraiser, similar to the WSSA Expo was explored but for now, it would require more volunteer support to conduct it than we have available. Without this funding the paid position and other components won't work. He assessed this plan with an "A" for aspiration, but unfortunately an "E" for execution. It was too much work too fast for the resources (volunteer time) we can mobilize. He learned that we need to build our volunteer capacity first and that this foundation would then allow us to extend into fundraising and the other components. He also learned that we need to make a stronger connection with our club and organizational members.

That then lead to the plans Byron presented for 2011-2012 and beyond. He wants to make sure we actively solicit membership from every 4x4, ATV and Dirt Bike club in the state. In addition, we need to create stronger communications both to and from these members (or potential members). We need to have volunteers learning both about grants that are available as well as build our knowledge to host a large expo or similar event. And we need to fill all our 9 Board positions!

The members present were very supportive of these revised and more conservative plans. Although they stated that paid staff are a great idea, since volunteers do not have the resources to have the impact we need, they also appreciated the financial reality. They liked the idea of soliciting more club and business membership. And, given the recent announcement by Tod to cut back his hours, they also like the idea of funding a part time lobbyist. This is clearly a less-expensive solution than a full time staff member, and it may produce results similar to (but never as good as!) our current volunteer structure with Tod.

5. Membership (Kevin)

Kevin McGrath reported that the current WOHVA membership consists of 57 individual members, 14 club members, and 6 business members. These numbers are down from last year and continue our long term trend. Business memberships are also down from 12 to 6 and this is in spite of the push by our state dealer organization, WSMDA to boost WOHVA membership with the dealers with financial support.

6. Bylaw Amendment (Kevin)

Kevin McGrath presented an amendment to the WOHVA bylaws to extend term limits from the current three 2-year terms to allow board members to continue to serve. Kevin's amendment would extend the limit to four 2-year terms and if no other volunteers are available, term limits would not apply. Per the Bylaws, only club and business members may vote on these amendments. Kevin stated that the original intent of these term limits were to limit the risk of having long term Board members serve with little support from or accountability to the membership. After discussion this motion seconded by Gary Prewitt, was approved.

7. WOHVA Board Elections (Gary)

- Byron and Richard were each re-elected to additional two years terms.
- Gary Prewitt nominated Bob Blyton as a new board member.
 - Bob is an equestrian, ATV, and dirt bike enthusiast.
- Dave Hiatt nominated himself as a returning board member.
 - Dave is a dirt bike, 4x4, and ATV enthusiast; Former NMA land use administrator; Charter board member of WOHVA; and OHV specialist for the Tillamook National Forest.
- Dave and Bob were both unanimously elected.

8. Communications (Bryan)

- Bryan Peterson asked those present for suggestions of how the membership would like WOHVA to communicate with them.
- The greatest interest was for an e-mail newsletter, especially instead of a paper mailing.
- For content, members wanted more updates on the NOVA lawsuit as well as legislative issues like the Discover Washington Pass.
- Regarding tracking legislation, Board member Paul Yelk presented a brief tutorial on how to set up RSS feeds for legislative bills. His presentation will also be posted on the WOHVA website for reference.

9. Political Action Committee Update (Byron, on behalf of Tod)

Byron presented a summary of the 2011 legislative session which was created by Tod Peterson. He thanked Tod for his amazing work over the past year and shared Tod's apology that he was unable to attend this meeting.

In summary, there were several bills with negative OHV impact but none of those passed. There were also several OHV-positive bills passed such as the conversion to street use bill for motorcycles. The detailed presentation will be posted on the WOHVA website but Tod's presentation covered legislation on land owner liability, establishing a Puget Sound Corps, removing state boards and commissions (except NOVA), OHV access on roads with speed limits under 35 MPH, lifting the ORV fuel tax lid, possession of motorcycle theft tools as a crime, increasing political subdivisions that regulate ORVs, consolidation of natural resource agencies and programs, fuel tax distributions, creating a natural resource partnership office, and the Discover Pass.

For the 2012 session, Tod expects to see legislation regarding further theft of NOVA funds, lifting the fuel tax lid, establishing higher ORV permit fees, limiting landowner liability, converting off road motorcycles for street use, ORV road use and Omnibus ORV legislation. There will also likely be proposals to release wilderness study areas and inventoried roadless areas for potential OHV recreational use.

10. NOVA Lawsuit Update (Byron, on behalf of Tod)

- Byron shared Tod Peterson's update that our lawsuit appeal was rejected by the appellate court.
- A very positive sign though was that one appellate judge agreed with our position.
- We are now in the process of applying for a state Supreme Court ruling.

11. Discover Pass (Byron, on behalf of Tod)

- Byron gave a brief update that Tod had created on the Discover Pass system.
- Members present confirmed that there is still a lot of confusion about enforcement and where a pass is required. With the revenues below projections, this Pass will continue to receive state attention.

11. Reiter Update (Byron, on behalf of Tod)

- Byron shared Tod's update that even though Reiter trails are currently closed, some progress is being made. There is active construction under way on the parking lot and trails.
- Single track trail design and construction work is moving quickly.

12. Land Use Committee Update (Gary)

- Gary Prewitt began his land use presentation with the reminder that any bills in the Washington legislature from the last session that did not pass will automatically be re-introduced.
- Gary then spoke at length to the rationale and design of SB5845
 - SB5845 is an omnibus, all-inclusive OHV bill supported by the WOHVA Board which seeks to rationalize a large number of OHV-related issues
 - Senators Morton, Roach, and King introduced the bill.
 - SB5845 updates the laws so that counties must decide to exclude roads from OHV use instead of including roads (opt out/automatically opt in).
 - Addresses insurance liability.
 - Addresses age and driver license requirement.
- There was strong support from the members present for this bill.

13. WOHVA Where To Ride (Paul)

Paul Yelk presented the current "Where To Ride" site he has developed for the state. The site consolidates information from a large number of organizations and jurisdictions regarding OHV recreation areas on our WOHVA website. The site can be accessed through our WOHVA website or www.wohva-map-catalog.org.

Paul presented the following future enhancements to the Where To Ride site:

- Adding many more links to sites,
- Categorizing markers by ATVs, dirt bikes, and 4x4s,
- Including Directions to and from, and
- Adding Tooltips to make use easier.
- Paul added that he's actively looking for volunteers with JavaScript experience to help with this work and asked anyone present to refer volunteers to him.

14. Members Have The Floor (Byron)

- The only topic from the membership was regarding the location of next year's meeting. Paul Yelk shared that the 2012 annual meeting will be in eastern Washington to help balance travel burden.

15. Adjourn

With no other topics the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM.