

# WOHVA Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - 10th Annual

November 15, 2015

Byron Stuck called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM at Clover Park Technical College.

## **1. Welcome/Introductions (Byron Stuck)**

Attendee introductions

- Total Attending 54; Members 21, Non Members 33; Voting 6

## **2. Approve 2014 Membership Meeting Summary (William Crawley)**

The 2014 annual membership meeting minutes can be found in the "Document Center" section of the website: [www.WOHVA.org](http://www.WOHVA.org).

## **3. Treasurers report (William Crawley)**

- Beginning balance as of 11/07/2014 \$17,777.85
- Total income \$5,681.55
- Total expenses **\$7,340.46**
- Balance as of 11/14/2015 \$16,118.94
  
- Committed funds
- Rally Fund \$3,218.38
- Legal Fund \$720.00
- Marketing Fund \$379.86

## **4. Big Tent/Recreational Trails Program (John Keates)**

- Recreational Trails Program
  - Who Can Apply?
    - Local Governments, Special Purpose Districts, Federal Agencies, State Agencies, & Local Tribes
  - Types
    - Maintenance, Development and Rehabilitation, & Education
  - Recipients must provide 20% matching funds.
  - Grants are accepted on even years.
  - Funded by gasoline taxes attributed to recreational and non-highway uses.
  - Goal is to provide funding for backlog of trail maintenance.
  - Almost all trails uses are supported.
  - Even number years – applications, review, evaluations.
  - Odd number years – legislature approves budget, agreements, etc.
  - Grant limits
    - General Projects – 5000 to 150000
  - 40-30-30 requirement
    - 30% non-motorized use
    - 40% multiple use
    - 30% motorized use
    - In many years there are not enough motorized applications to reach 30%!
  - Examples
    - Snowmobile education
    - Jones Creek maintenance
    - Bremerton Cruisers maintenance
    - Snowmobile grooming
    - USFS motorized trails
    - DNR motorized trails
  - Evaluation Process
    - Written responses
    - Education – five questions

- Development and Maintenance – nine questions
- Untapped funding source for motorized recreation.
- Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition
  - Formed as a 501(c)6 non-profit
  - Association of organizations participating in outdoor recreation.
  - Purpose: Raise awareness of importance of outdoor recreation in WA state.
  - Lobby days at the state capitol.
  - Hosting a lobby day on February 3, 2016.
  - REI has provided two grants.
  - Convinced governor to appoint Outdoor Recreation Task Force.
  - Created new, dedicated position for outdoor recreation advisor.
  - \$1 million to fund No Child Left Inside.
  - \$10 million to fund Youth Athletic Funds.
  - Future
    - Lobby day
    - Increase fund raising
    - Legislative committee

## **5. The Nature Conservancy Central Cascades Project (James Schroeder, Lara Gricar)**

- The Nature Conservancy purchased over 40,000 acres of land in the Cle Elum and Naches areas.
- Very large global conservation organization.
- Mission is to preserve land and water.
- Science-based.
- 1/3 of staff is scientists.
- Largest acquisition for The Nature Conservancy in WA.
- Management plan is in draft form and will be voted on by their board on 11/16.
- Purchased Plum Creek checkerboard properties.
- Conducted public outreach campaign.
  - Held public meetings in Yakima, Ellensburg, Cle Elum, and Seattle.
  - Met with clubs, groups, committees, and organizations.
  - Collected online survey comments.
- Conservation goals
  - Improve landscape health and resiliency
  - Increase habitat suitability and connectivity for fish and wildlife
  - Improve Upper Yakima watershed's ability to store and deliver clean water
  - Sequester carbon
  - Income from sustainable forest harvesting
  - Support local sustainable natural resource based economy
  - Improve human well being
  - Exemplary land stewards
  - Long term ownership and management solutions
- Authorized road and summer trails
  - 46 total miles of authorized trails
    - All recognized and mapped by FS
      - 17 single track MC trails
      - 1 4WD trail
      - 2 hiking trails
    - 8 user made non-motorized trails on the Cle Elum Ridge
  - 430 miles of FS and logging roads
    - Vehicles must be street legal
    - Roads on Cle Elum Ridge will continue to be closed to motorized use, except FS 4305 and 4305-118
  - Non-motorized and motorized use must stay on trails.

## **6. Know Your NOVA Fund (Marguerite Austin)**

- About RCO
  - Created under Marine Recreation Land Act of 1964
  - Administers grants to:
    - Buy land
    - Develop facilities
    - Education and enforcement
    - Maintenance and operation
    - Planning
    - Motorized and non-motorized
  - State trails plan
  - NOVA plan
  - NOVA provides 47% of funding
  - Eligible applicants
    - Federal
    - State
    - Local
    - Tribal
  - Grant limits and match requirements
    - Limits vary
    - No match required
  - NOVA categories
    - Non-highway road
    - Non-motorized
    - Off-road vehicle
    - Education and enforcement
  - Campgrounds and trailheads
  - The recreation and conservation funding board
    - Five citizen representatives
    - Establishes grant making process
    - Adopts evaluation criteria
    - Approves project rankings and funding
  - NOVA advisory committee
    - General public
    - User groups
    - Land managers
    - Government agencies
    - In 2014 reviewed 119 projects
  - NOVA and RTP has vacancies
  - Distribution of NOVA funds
    - One percent of motor vehicle fuel tax revenues
  - NOVA funding
    - 2015-17 biennium
      - Fuel tax – \$6.3 million
      - ORV permit – \$2.3 million
      - Additional – \$2.8 million
      - Total about \$11.5 million

## **7. Naches Ranger District (Jeff Leisy)**

- Trail Management Partner Program
  - Why?
    - Limited resources
      - Routine trail maintenance
      - Deferred trail maintenance
      - Data and information management
      - Resource management
    - Increase opportunities for generation additional resources

- Non-traditional/government restricted resources
  - Polaris funding for Naches Pass Trail
- Inefficient utilization of existing resources
  - Lack of conscious decisions
- Ineffective relationships with partners, volunteers, and forest visitors/trail users
- Common trail management organizations
  - Land manager is lead and decision maker
  - Partner or volunteer group is lead manager
- Responsibilities
  - One contact person to coordinate
  - One person attend meetings
  - Complete information sheets for each trail
  - Take active part in overall trail system
- Organization
  - TWIG
  - TMP oversight groups
  - TMP working groups
- Patience – will take several years to come together and share leadership
- Implementation is unique to the area
- Vastly improved relationships with users

## **8. Board Elections (Byron Stuck)**

- Candidates
  - Dale Gray
    - Motorcycle, ATV, 4WD, dealer, WSMDA, semi-retired, **elected**
  - Brandon Bowie
    - Land surveyor, Land Matters Region 2 PNW4WDA, El Dorado Dust Devils, **volunteered for Land Action Committee instead of becoming a Board candidate**
  - Crystal Crowder
    - Piston's Wild, ATV, snowmobiles, 4WD, marketing background, business owner, worked with Yacolt Burn, **elected**
  - Shane Fuller
    - Yakima, Glead Boyz, 4WD, ATV, motorcycle, Off-Camber.com, **elected**
  - Byron Stuck
    - Mercer Island, Puget Sound Enduro Riders, NMA Board, Enduro Riders, WOHVA president, founding WOHVA member, **re-elected**

## **9. Political Action Committee (Tod Petersen)**

- 2015
  - Approximately 30 bills introduced that impacted OHVs
  - HB1480 – intermittent use trailer license
  - HB1738 – marine, ORV, and snowmobile fuel tax lid by 2031
  - HB1817 – liability immunity for local jurisdictions for wheeled ATVs
  - HB1918 – modifying ORV, non-highway, and wheeled ATV titling
  - SB5843 – created senior policy advisor for outdoor recreation
  - HB1115 – capital budget left ORV funds intact
  - SB5987 – increased gas tax including the ORV gas tax allocation
  - SB6052 – operating budget left ORV funds intact
- 2016
  - NOVA funding vigilance
  - Landowner liability – may ease allowing access to private property
  - ATV road use – enhance HB1632 to include things like non-highway road use, many legislators unwilling to revisit ATV road use
  - Rally on the Olympia Capitol steps
    - Tentatively scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Volunteers needed
- We jointly fund a lobbyist with the NMA, Grant Nelson.

## **10. State of WOHVA Report (Byron Stuck)**

- Where are we now?
  - Modest voting member growth, Associate membership not yet in use, Still completely volunteer, Opposition uses funded staff and volunteers, Strong 4WD and motorcycle organizations, ATV organizations less developed, Supportive dealer organization, Paid lobbyist, CLOUT available, \$16K in existing fund, No 501(c)(3) status, NOVA funds not stolen, Opposition is very successful
  - Board contributions
    - Bryan Petersen - Communications, Facebook, forums, events
    - Paul Yelk - Where to Ride, webmaster, newsletter
    - William Crawley - Treasurer and secretary
    - Neil Stamp - Land use, committees, shirts
    - Norris Boyd - Land use, business plan
    - Kevin McGrath - VP, membership
    - Ben Janin - Business development, grants
    - Richard Elkins - Snowmobiles
    - (Political Action Chair Tod Petersen - Political action)
- Why do we exist?
  - To protect and enhance statewide OHV recreation
- What was last year's vision?
  - Associate membership - "D" Visit clubs - "D"
  - Fund raising - "C" Business connections - "C"
  - Engage users who don't volunteer - "D" Funding paid staff - "C"
  - Leverage economic impact study - "D" Multi-year plan - "F"
  - Overall "D+/C-"
  - Lessons learned
    - Time, don't underestimate effort needed
    - Focus – fewer goals
    - Follow through – newsletter, associate membership
    - Get more people involved
    - Leverage investments
    - Leverage connections
- 2016 strategy
  - Newsletter and advertising
  - Presence in Olympia
  - Build business connections
  - Visit clubs

## **11. Land Action Committee (Neil Stamp, Paul Yelk)**

- Jim Putman discussed the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie road usage. Deadline to comment is November 30<sup>th</sup>. They are proposing closing over 300 miles of roads.
- There is a DNR planning process in Whatcom County.
- Colville National Forest plan revision
- Seven Mile ORV park has created an improvement committee

## **12. Membership (Kevin McGrath)**

- We have 79 overall members, 52 individuals, 18 clubs/organizations, 9 business members
- Associate membership program for clubs, organizations, and businesses

## **13. Communications (Bryan Peterson)**

- Bryan has done a great job with our Facebook page and promoting our annual meeting
- Looking for ideas for improving annual meeting. Maybe have it over a weekend and include wheeling, dirt bike trail rides, ATV/SXS rides, and kids events as well as education, business meeting, raffle

## **14. Adjourn**

With no other topics the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 PM.