

WOHVA Annual Meeting Minutes October 1, 2006

Opening Remarks by Board of Directors (BoD) Chair, Rick Dahl;

- Presented a short history of the Nonhighway and Offroad Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program for attendees.
- Introduced four WOHVA standing committees: Communications, Land Action, Political Action and Membership.
- Stated WOHVA currently has 8 BoD members now. All BoD positions are open for election today. Noted we can have 9 BoD members and that we need someone on the BoD from the ATV groups since Les Leonard resigned his position this year. Rick asked if anyone knew of anyone from the ATV groups who could help. Arlene Brooks of the PNW4WD stated she will be contacting ATV people in an effort to find a volunteer.

Minutes from the prior Annual Meeting-

No minutes from the prior meeting exist as this is the first annual meeting since WOHVA incorporation.

Treasurer's Report -

Rick Dahl presented the Treasurer's report and mentioned WOHVA BoD is looking at grant programs from NOVA, NRTP, Polaris and any other possible source to fund WOHVA projects.

Rick asked for help locating people who can assist WOHVA with writing grant proposals.

Jeff Forville stated he knows the person who wrote the recent Cle Elum ranger district grants and will see if they can help.

Tom Fite mentioned he know of some potential grants that may be available from Ford and Bridgestone.

Old Business –

BoD member Richard Elkins presented an overview of the actions taken by the BoD this year to create **Standard Operating Procedures** as a working document of WOHVA operational best practices. These will soon be available online to WOHVA members.

BoD member Byron Stuck gave a presentation on the status of the **WOHVA membership program.**

There are 3 categories of membership: Clubs/Organizations (voting), OHV businesses (voting) and Charter Members (non-voting) individuals and supporting organizations. Membership signup is just now really getting rolling using our new WOHVA.org web site which is now active.

The new web site supports on-line membership application, payment and donations. Member profiles are set up to protect private information while allowing desired public information to be displayed.

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The Club Express program we are using makes it feasible to support a rolling 12 month membership instead of a calendar year annual membership.

The web site is set up to make update access available to members as appropriate so no one person has to carry the whole load of keep the site up to date.

The website cost WOHVA \$150 for the one-time set up with an ongoing cost of \$4.80 per year per member including all membership renewal notices, etc.

Member fees are currently – Club/Org/OHV business = \$100 per year with Charter members at \$25 per year. Voting rights are one vote per Club/Org/OHV business membership. Suggestions/input/volunteer action is welcomed from all members.

However, only one designated representative from each Club/Org/OHV business will have a vote.

BoD member Tom Fite presented information about the **Communication Committee**.

We are currently setting things up to communicate directly with approximately 100 OHV dealers in WA State and about 120 OHV clubs in addition to our actual WOHVA members. They are working on a list of member contact information.

Vicki Gray mentioned the WA State Motorsports Dealers contest to design a logo for WOHVA. She stated the prize can be cash or product. Cash may encourage out of the area or other artists to get involved.

BoD member Dave Hiatt made a presentation about the challenges facing the **Land Action Committee** with the WA State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposed revision of the **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) regarding recreation on DNR land**.

The DNR is rewriting the actual laws that are to be enforced on the ground, without Legislative direction or oversight! Citizen involvement is not required but the DNR did form a WAC advisory committee and ATV, 4WD, and Off Highway Motorcycle (OHM) did get seats on that committee and are providing valuable input to the DNR.

DNR has proposed that all DNR land be closed to various forms of recreation unless designated open.

Dave Hiatt asked for volunteers to assist the current WAC committee volunteers with specific WAC language issues. He will introduce those volunteers to Steve Dickson, the OHM guy who is spearheading the detailed language review/revision part of this project. Vicki Gray stated she would ask a person she knows is in the WATV group to help. Tom Fite stated he knows another WATV person he thinks he can get to help too. Gary Johnson said he thinks he can get Clem at Enumclaw Suzuki to help. Jeff Forville thinks he may be able to get McCallum from the Network Rider to assist. Arlene Brooks stated she will get a 4WD person involved in this effort.

Dave Hiatt also asked for volunteers to work with their local DNR District managers so we can get the same message communicated about our concerns with the proposed WAC language at the local DNR levels as well as in Olympia.

Jeff Forville stated he thinks he can get Steve Decoy of the Bremerton Cruisers Motorcycle Club to work with us on this regarding the Tahuya/Green Mountain District. Arlene Brooks stated the PNW4WD organization already has a representative in every local DNR District and that she will get them involved in working this with us at the local level.

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Vicki Gray said she will try to recruit Dave Overfield of the Tacoma Trail Cruisers to work this at the local level for OHM in Capitol Forest.

BoD member Dave Hiatt made a presentation for the **Land Action Committee** regarding the **USFS 2005 Travel Management Rule** –

- 4 year process now underway to create the 2009 National Travel Management Rule (a.k.a. the OHV Rule).
- Requires designation of permitted routes for motorized use.
- Prohibits motorized use of any route not specifically approved.
- Prohibits cross-country travel.
- **All USFS trails become “Closed” to motorized use unless specifically shown and designated Approved and Open on the Use Map.**

Users must work with each and every District to identify and request motorized trails to be (future and existing) to be designated Approved and Open on the Use Map.

The 2005 Hinkle Bill, HB 1003 permits public land managers to designate any or all of the roads as open for unlicensed OHV use. WOHVA needs volunteers to work with land managers and get this accomplished.

Dave asked for volunteers to work each of the 6 Districts on the Wenatchee – Okanogan National Forest in detail to create specific requests for existing and future motorized trail designations.

Vicki Gray volunteered 6 expert volunteers to work this issue. She also volunteered to coordinate a meeting between the on-the-ground volunteer experts for the Wenatchee – Okanogan National Forest.

Russ Henry stated he will obtain some experts from the Cle Elum District to work with Vicki on this project.

BoD member Dave Hiatt presented information from the **Political Action Committee** activities during 2006 in Odessa and the CLOUT system.

Odessa Project – WOHVA BoD has voted to support the local business people who want to open Odessa city and county roads into town for use by unlicensed OHVs using the provisions provided by HB 2617. This will allow OHVs at events like the Stump Jumpers desert races and poker runs to ride their OHVs right into and out of town using public roads designated open for OHV use. Further routes are planned for access to and from the nearby BLM OHV area. The BLM is also looking into their request for more OHV opportunities on nearby BLM land.

Constituent Legislative Online User Target System (CLOUT) is for use by all motorized recreational organizations so all motorized users can support each other in the WA State political arena. This system is run by a dedicated group of volunteers to alert only those CLOUT members whose local legislator(s) are going to be hearing something involving motorized recreation. Each member with an involved legislator is provided with a suggested message and specific email link to their own personal legislator(s) so those specific legislators hear from their own pro-motorized recreation constituents. There is no charge for membership in the CLOUT system. WA State pro-motorized recreational users just need to send an email to clout@hpgmc.com with their voting zip code and name. Pro-motorized organizations involved in or tracking

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legislative issues in Olympia can prepare alerts and utilize this system to rally grass roots support as needed.

BoD members Ed Bushnell and Tom Fite presented **Political Action Committee** information on the status of and plans for **the Straddleline ORV Park** which was reopened one year ago as the direct result of OHV political activism.

Ed thanked all the supporters for their efforts over the last several years to re-open the park.

The park will soon be doing sound tests to insure that all OHVs comply with current sound regulations.

Passage of HB 2617 was essential to allow open track days, i.e. allow use at times other than events by protecting the park from lawsuits and letting them charge for entry. Attendance at events has been great.

Future possibilities include the addition of a 2nd MX track along with a possible 50 acre expansion.

The phone number for scheduling events or questions about the park is (360) 495-3054. A published schedule of events will be available soon according to Tom.

BoD member John Eaton provided **Political Action Committee** information regarding the upcoming **2007 legislative session**.

John feels that OHV sound and other issues will most likely be a multi-pronged attack on OHV use in 2007 by the Anti-Access/Anti-Motorized groups. They will be attempting to regulate OHV user out of existence. Those same groups were behind the prior HB 1455 which would have prevented most people from operating an OHV on their own private property if it had passed. That bill died thanks to an overwhelming response by the OHV community.

We will be faced with the results of the \$100,000 (from our NOVA funds!) study of ORV nuisance noise provided by Senator Frasier at the last minute in last year's legislative session when the Anti-Access people could not get their anti-OHV to pass even with Senator Frasier's help. The IAC hand-picked a committee to work with them on this "noise study" and will no doubt present a report suggesting further noise legislation on OHVs in 2007. John feels that another OHV Rally in Olympia will most likely be necessary in 2007 to combat anti-OHV legislation on this and other items.

New Business –

WOHVA Goals for the next year were presented by the BoD as:

- DNR WAC revision changes to properly support OHV recreation
- USFS Travel Plan input for preservation of existing motorized trails/routes and future ones.
- 2007 Legislative Action to prevent anti-OHV regulations
- Development of an effective network of Land Management contacts
- Interactive WOHVA web site
- July 28 & 29, 2007 is the WA OHV Expo at Straddleline and committed members are needed to handle this task. Workshops are being planned in conjunction with this event. Gary Johnson suggested a USFS trail building/maintenance seminar.

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Michael Hornung stated that same trail maintenance/building seminar needs to apply to DNR land also. Gary Johnson offered his survey mapping services if needed. Gary Johnson also suggested grant writing as topic and offered to send an NRTP grant information CD to anyone requesting it.

- An Olympia ORV Rally is being planned for 2007. Contact Tom Fite or Angie Marek to assist with this.
- WA State Trails Conference Nov 3 & 4 in Yakima. WOHVA has a booth as will the WA State Snowmobile Association and the Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association. Political leaders and land managers from WA State will be in attendance at this conference to meet and discuss trail issues with WOHVA representatives.

The BoD asked for WOHVA general membership suggestions on any other goals/issues for the next year.

- Mike Hornung asked for clarification on who can post what on the WOHVA web site forum. One person as a representative for an organization or each member of an organization?
- Gary Johnson wants to get more OHV clubs to be active members of WOHVA
- Gary Johnson wants to provide member clubs with a method of bringing things to the BoD as he disagrees with the current method of taking it up with a committee member and having the committee decide what to bring to the BoD for approval.

Board of Director annual elections –

A motion was made, seconded and passed to retain the current Board of Directors for another year.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to elect Vicki Gray (WSMDA representative) to the 9th BoD position.

Other business for the good of the order –

We discussed the pros and cons of changing the date for the annual meeting to a date different than the first Sunday in October. The consensus was that it should remain the first Sunday in October.

Arlene Brooks asked everyone to make ATV contacts so we can get more of them involved in WOHVA. Gary Johnson asked the motor sports dealers to help with this.