

# WOHVA Membership Meeting Minutes - 7th Annual

September 15, 2012

Paul Yelk called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM at the Spokane Valley Public Library.

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

Attendee introductions

## **2. Approve 2011 Membership Meeting Summary (Willy)**

The 2011 annual membership meeting minutes were accepted and can be found in the "[downloads](#)" section of [www.WOHVA.org](http://www.WOHVA.org).

## **3. Treasurers report (Willy)**

- Beginning balance as of 11/18/2011                   \$16,001.53
- Total income   \$4,715.00
- Total expenses   \$4,210.36
- Balance as of 11/19/2011                           \$16,506.17
  
- Committed funds
- Rally Fund   \$3,393.38
- Legal Fund    \$900.00

## **4. Working With Land Managers (Tom Crimmins)**

- Byron introduced Tom Crimmins as a trained Forester with 32 years experience with the USFS. He has more than 20 years of experience planning and managing off-highway vehicle trails. And he is the author of a book entitled "[Management Guidelines for OHV Recreation](#)" available through NOHVCC.
- He gave a presentation entitled "[Maintaining Public Access Tips and Techniques for Success](#)".
- Among the many points Tom made, he firmly encouraged all attendees to sign up for the quarterly schedule of proposed action for their local federal land management agency (USFS National Forest, BLM).

## **5. State of WOHVA Report (Byron)**

- Byron summarized the current state of WOHVA as mixed with both positive and negative factors.
- He reiterated WOHVA's mission to work statewide to protect and enhance responsible OHV recreation.
- He gave a critical review of last year's strategy with some positive accomplishments (legislative work, new newsletter to members and Board recruitment) but other areas needing work (club membership, use of our available tools, engaging volunteers)
- For lessons learned he noted the hard work needed to build a club base as well as to leverage volunteers.
- He proposed a 2012-13 agenda to
  - Grow club and organization memberships
  - Enable associate membership
  - Maintain and improve communications, especially with clubs and organizations
  - Visit clubs and solicit feedback, and to
  - Use our tools to leverage our investments

## **6. Political Action Committee (Tod)**

- Tod presented a summary review of the past year as well as specific comments on individual bills
- WOHVA spent a great deal of time defeating bad legislation disguised as being pro-OHV
- One controversial bill that passed was HB2373 improving the recently-created Discover Pass, to:
  - Allow two vehicles per Discover Pass and allow creation of a \$50 multiple vehicle pass,
  - Expand the definition of "recreation site or lands" to include all DNR managed lands,
  - Reduce free short term parking requirement from 30 to 15 minutes, and
  - Add a \$10 fee to all RV registrations (to solely benefit state parks) until July 2015.
  - This bill was partially supported by WOHVA and the NMA.

- Another bill, SB5366, this one disguised as being pro-OHV, did not pass. It would have:
  - Allowed the use of four wheel ATVs on certain public roadways,
  - Closed all roads to OHV use unless specifically opened by a land manager,
  - Created a new ATV category exempt from ORV permits,
  - Allowed individuals to perform their own compliance inspections. Violations would have resulted in a gross misdemeanor,
  - Required liability insurance to use road and federal motor vehicle safety standard compliance,
  - Made it a misdemeanor for riding or driving ORV when not specifically open,
  - Required full size metal license plates for all ORVs, including child sized motorcycles, and
  - Closed roads to ORV use in areas that have already permitted their road use.
  - WOHVA and the NMA withdrew early support and aggressively opposed the final version of the bill.
- SB6080 was an excellent bill but also did not pass. It would have:
  - Significantly reduced landowner liability for allowing OHV access and
  - Exempted road and timber harvesting from recreational access liability.
  - Originally it had strong bipartisan support but was eventually opposed by the Trials Lawyer group.
  - If possible, we will push for a more narrowly focused bill in the future.
  - Strongly supported by WOHVA and NMA.
- SB6074, the capital budget that partially replenished our NOVA funds (stolen in 2009), was passed
  - Unfortunately, this year instead the Boaters funds were stolen to fill holes in the state's budget.
- Tod presented his 2013 legislative outlook:
  - There will be another budget crisis and all forms of funding will be under attack. We must therefore remain vigilant or our NOVA funds will be stolen again.
  - ORV permit fees may level off or be reduced since the administrative portion was inappropriately increased in the prior session.
  - WOHVA will strongly support and sponsor legislation to further allow ORV road use, building on the success of the prior work licensing off road motorcycles.
    - SB5366 for ATVs will return and still be supported by anti-access groups.
    - WOHVA will work to come up with a strong and functional alternative.
  - Omnibus ORV legislation (addressing many OHV issues in one comprehensive bill) will likely not be sponsored by WOHVA again. Although we've supported this in the past it typically attracts opposition from many groups. Our approach will instead be to promote much more focused legislation.
- Tod stated that the Discover Pass still needs a lot of work, especially in implementing the original intent.
  - It should only be required on vehicles in areas where a license plate is required.
  - And if you are in an ORV area and have ORV tabs a license plate is not required, and similarly a Discover Pass should also not be required.
  - DNR policy does not agree with these statements and is contrary to state law ... and needs work.
- And finally, Tod concluded with a NOVA Theft Lawsuit Update:
  - Our appeal went to the Supreme Court in May and we're expecting a decision soon.
  - It usually takes a minimum of three or four months for the Court to reach a decision.

## **7. Land Use Committee (Neil)**

- Reiter has had one dirt bike trail created and others are under construction. 4x4 trails are also under construction. Sadly, though, after being closed nearly three years, the area is still not officially open.

## **8. Membership (Kevin)**

- Currently WOHVA has
  - 20 club and organization members (six more than last year),
  - 4 business members
  - 47 individual members
- Kevin noted that he's looking for volunteers interested in soliciting new members, especially clubs

## **9. Communications (Bryan)**

- Bryan gave a brief update on the new newsletter, the work on the Facebook page and the purchase of new presentation tools (EZ up, Business Cards, projector shared with NMA)
- He asked attendees to please contact him if they know of anyone who'd like to receive our newsletter

## **10. WOHVA Where To Ride (Paul)**

- Paul gave a brief overview of the WHERE TO RIDE service maintained by WOHVA
- One of the most frequent questions we're asked at events and shows is "where can I ride my OHV in Washington?" Some people even believe all the riding areas are gone!
- Paul works very hard to keep the site up to date but asked attendees to let him know or use the link at the bottom of the site to report new areas or errors with existing listings
- He also asked for volunteers with JavaScript experience, since that would dramatically improve our site

## **11. Board Elections (Byron)**

- Byron noted that Board member terms are defined as two years in our bylaws. That means that every two years every current member of the board is up for re-election
- Two of our current Board members were appointed to fill open positions vacated since the last annual meeting. They are Neil Stamp and Norris Boyd. Byron asked them both to say a few words about themselves and then to confirm that they were both willing to be nominated. They both agreed to be nominated.
- Byron then presented the following slate of Board nominees to voting members for a vote:
  - Kevin McGrath
  - William Crawley
  - Bryan Peterson
  - Paul Yelk
  - Neil Stamp
  - Norris Boyd
- The vote was held and all six nominees on the slate were unanimously elected

## **12. Adjourn**

With no other topics the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 PM.