

WOHVA Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - 9th Annual

November 9, 2014

Byron Stuck called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM at Clover Park Technical College.

1. Welcome/Introductions (Byron Stuck)

Attendee introductions

2. Approve 2013 Membership Meeting Summary (William Crawley)

The 2013 annual membership meeting minutes can be found in the "Document Center" of our website.

3. Treasurers report (William Crawley)

- Beginning balance as of 11/08/2013 \$16,710.72
- Total income \$2,768.33
- Total expenses **\$1,701.20**
- Balance as of 11/08/2013 \$17,777.85

- Committed funds
- Rally Fund \$3,218.38
- Legal Fund \$720.00

4. Governor's Task Force on Recreation (John Keates)

- Goals
 - Sustainable state parks
 - Legislative focus on recreation
- Why focus on outdoor recreation?
 - State lacks strategy for moving outdoor recreation forward.
 - Outdoor recreation attracts businesses.
 - Supports jobs and revenue.
- Outcomes
 - 6 month public engagement
 - Public meetings
 - Public comments
- Priorities
 - Grow recreation economy
 - Inspire recreation culture
 - Create sustainable recreation
- Short Term Actions
 - Create outdoor recreation sector lead
 - Establish coordinating council
 - No Child Left Inside program
 - Invest in K-12 curriculum
- Funding recommendations
 - Retain Discover Pass
 - Establish motor home and travel trailer excise tax, bottled water tax, watercraft excise tax
 - Fund athletic program grants
 - Remove 23 cent gas tax cap
 - Fund and protect outdoor recreation grants
- Findings on funding
 - Support for recreation programs has diminished

5. Teanaway Community Forest Planning (Mike Reimer)

- Previously privately owned forest
- DNR and WDFW purchased in 2013

- All recreation types besides motorized have been allowed access during planning
- Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee was established with 20 members
 - Including Committee members from:
 - Trout Unlimited
 - Department of Ecology
 - Friends of Teanaway
 - Back Country Horsemen Of Wa.
 - Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
 - ORV (Mike Reimer)
 - And more
 - Monthly meetings
 - There are three or four vocal opponents to motorized use
 - Committee selected by the Lands Commissioner's office
 - There has been legislative pressure not to exclude user groups
- DNR has increased law enforcement
- How to get involved?
 - Come to monthly meetings at Teanaway Grange
 - Comment through the DNR's Teanaway web site
 - 64% of comments have been OHV positive
- The Nature Conservancy is also in the process of acquiring land near the Teanaway Community Forest
- If ORV use is permitted the adopted plan, it still may take years to implement the plan
- Plan draft is scheduled for completion by June 2015

6. DNR Update (Brock Milliern, Doug McClelland)

- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan for sustainable agriculture, fish, water, etc.
 - Teanaway Community Forest was acquired as part of this plan
- There are currently three national forest trails through the Teanaway Community Forest
- WDFW has a conservation easement on the Teanaway Community Forest
- Grant applications
 - Construction of OHV trails, specifically Yacolt Burn
 - 4x4 connector trail in Ahtanum State Forest
 - Reiter trail construction
 - Tahuya trail renovation and new 4x4 trail
- DNR has hired a new communications director tasked with revising their web site
- HB 2151
 - Directs DNR to create a trails policy
 - Trails policy will be established by a committee
 - Committee members will be selected internally by the DNR
 - Committee will spend the next 6 to 8 months developing policy
 - Committee will contain 15 members, selected by DNR, with invites going out next week

7. Trail Design and Standards (Jakob Perry)

- We need to rewrite the trail design and building process
- Make recreation plans part of an evolving trail system
- Recreation is unfortunately not a legislative priority
- User built trails have legal status on DNR land
 - DNR's rules state that roads and trails are open unless posted closed
 - But it is illegal to build new trails
- Proposal
 - DNR authorize user built trails
 - Adopt an Agile trail plan
 - Start small, not all trails are equal
 - Create minimally viable product
 - Make quick, implemental changes
 - Fail fast
 - Permit system

- Renewed annually
- Cost based on system size and staff time
- \$500/\$5,000 year
- Accountability
 - Annual DNR inspection
 - No unauthorized trail expansion in area
 - LEO presence
- Incorporate user built trails into recreation plans
- Work within law
 - SEPA
 - County permits
 - Etc.
- Benefits
 - Work with user groups
 - Trail inventory controls
 - Pre-empt issues
 - Popular areas turn into managed areas

8. WOHVA Business Plan (Norris Boyd)

- Three year growth plan
- #1 Board priority identified in their May planning session to acquire paid staff
- Increase fund raising is critical
- Acquire paid staff
- Increase volunteers
- Growth of associate membership
- Legislative agenda
- Marketing and PR
- Cash flow needs - ~\$60,000

9. WOHVA Business Development Committee (Ben Janin)

- Outdoor industry IS investing in shutting out OHV opportunities
- OHV businesses are NOT investing in OHV advocacy
- We need to unify behind "SOS (Save Our Sport)"
 - As a motto for fund raising
 - To recognize OHV and other businesses giving back to the OHV community

10. Political Action Committee (Tod)

- 2014 legislative session
 - 15 bills introduced with OHV impact
 - 2 passed
 - HB2151 - passed
 - Directs DNR to use the least expensive & invasive trail building methods
- 2015 legislative session
 - We'll need to watch our NOVA funds
 - Gas tax cap removal was recommended by Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force
 - ORV permit fees
 - DOL charges 18% for administration
 - Landowner liability relief
 - ORV road use
 - Discover Pass requirements for dual registered vehicles

11. Membership (Kevin McGrath)

- We have 74 overall members
- Membership is up over last year
- We now have the ability to input associate members

12. Communications (Bryan Peterson)

- Bryan was recognized for doing a great job with our Facebook page, promoting our annual meeting and building linkages with many other sites and groups

13. Board Elections (Kevin McGrath)

- Kevin McGrath, William Crawley, Bryan Peterson, Paul Yelk, Neil Stamp, and Norris Boyd were re-elected for two years
- Ben Janin was nominated and elected for two years

14. Adjourn

With no other topics the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.