



Doug Ducey
Governor

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Celebrating 60 Years!

Sue Black
Executive Director



DRAFT MINUTES

of
THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP (OHVAG)
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

On

September 22, 2017

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, GUESTS, AND STAFF

Members Present

David Quine (chair), Rebecca Antle, Ben Alteneder, John Geyer, Cindy Maack, Dave Williams (via phone), Bill Bonn (alternate)

Staff Present

Jim Keegan (deputy director), Mickey Rogers (chief of grants), Sean Hammond (grants coordinator), Matt Eberhart (OHV coordinator), Laurie Hachtel (AG's office)

B. OHVAG ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve meeting minutes from the April 2017 meeting

Mr. Geyer moved to approve. Ms. Maack seconded. Motion passed.

2. Review and recommend funding for the July 2017 Motorized Grant

BLM – Yuma Field Office

Staff shared with OHVAG a table of the current open motorized grants with both the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service. They have concerns with many projects being out of compliance and not completing projects in a timely manner. Staff wanted to delay funding more federal projects until these issues have been addressed with BLM and USFS. Members deliberated on cost recovery for map costs. Mr. Quine questioned the kiosk install cost being higher than the materials and signage safety along trail. He also talked about the lack of volunteers. Sponsor stated that that was the quoted cost. OHVAG liked that the project had 38 percent match and that there would be additional mapping and information available to the riding community. Ms. Maack stated that there should be additional funding for maps as there will be shrinkage and BLM will not be able to recover the cost. Ms. Antle questioned metal sign posts on the trail being a hazard and sponsor stated it is for site ID areas only.

Mr. Geyer moved to fully fund. Mr. Alteneder seconded. Motion passed.

BLM – Grand Parashant National Monument

Members were concerned as to whether or not the monument was part of the BLM Strip Office, which sponsor states it is not. Mr. Geyer questioned the restroom costs being low and staff confirmed the cost is accurate. He also asked if funding was being distributed outside of Arizona. Sponsor said there was nothing outside of Arizona. Mr. Williams liked the project's 44 percent match.

Mr. Williams moved to fully fund. Mr. Geyer seconded. Motion passed

Save Our Rocks – OHV Education/Trail Improvement Project

Mr. Geyer questioned the project because the sponsor's goal is to establish a national monument. Ms. Maack did not like the project at all. Ms. Antle recommended \$33,000 for signage. There was no second. There were several questions on the entire project and there was no one at the meeting to answer the questions.

Mr. Geyer moved to deny funding. Mr. Bonn seconded. Motion passed.

Town of Camp Verde – Ryal Canyon Trailhead

Mr. Altender was not aware that OHV funding could be used to acquire property. Staff stated it is allowed and is one of the top priorities. Ms. Antle felt that the grills should not be paid with the grant since other non-motorized users will be using grills. Mr. Quine and Ms. Maack agreed and also felt that the equestrian gate and the loading ramp should not be funded. Because the gate was not for motorized uses and people do not use ramps anymore, Mr. Quine had a concern regarding the trail width (50") as there are very few people who ride quads anymore. Ms. Maack stated she rides a quad. The Town expressed that the trail width will be looked at in the future with USFS.

Mr. Williams moved to fund \$203,597. Mr. Geyer seconded. Motion passed.

Arizona State Parks & Trails – Bouse State Park

Staff explained that this project came about because of a meeting with the Bouse Boosters who were going to apply for a grant for a trailhead and restroom. Staff explained that this project will be two phases, Phase I would be for acquisition, a trailhead and bathroom/shower building. Phase II would be for a campground which would include a road system, pads for campers, electrical and water hook-ups, shade structures and other amenities related to a campground. Phase II may also have cabins available for OHV users to occupy on multi-day rides. Staff stated the potential state park would require both phases. There are several steps that would be required before state parks move forward with acquiring the property and developing the trailhead and restroom. Staff will have the property appraised and the seller willing to accept the appraised value. Staff will review previous environmental reviews on the property to ensure there are no environmental concerns. Staff would have to do a cultural survey of the property to determine if there are any cultural sites on the property. Staff will meet with La Paz County to discuss any permits needed and also to get support from them for the project. Staff will test the water to ensure it is potable and can sustain both the shower building and a campground. Staff will develop a draft master plan for the project and would hold a public meeting with the proposal of the park (both Phase I and Phase II) in Bouse. All of these steps would be completed prior to purchasing the property. Finally, staff will make sure the property has clear title prior to purchasing. For a viable state park, ASPT will need approval for funding for both Phase I and Phase II. The plan is to complete Phase I in the next few months and apply for funds for the Phase II portion in the July OHV cycle of next year. Mr. Quine questioned the entrance to the property being an issue. Staff stated that ADOT will be redesigning this area to make it easier to enter. Mr. Geyer had concerns on the impact this project would have on the RV parks in the community. Representatives from Bouse stated that they had talked with the RV parks and they support the project since it will be for transient campers as opposed to seasonal campers. Ms. Antle was concerned that OHV funds are being used to purchase a park and how the revenue would be used. Staff stated that the revenue would be used to pay for staff and expenses. Members wanted ASPT to explore the options for cost recovery for the OHV program with revenue generated at the park. Mr. Altender expressed concerns that the OHV fund should not be used for capital purchases. Staff stated that this park would provide a benefit to the OHV user and this project is a collaborative

effort. Mr. Altender asked about what the building would be used for specifically and staff said they will look at all possible uses for the building. The parcel with the building is vital to the park since it has a well and power. Ms. Antle also discussed that the OHV user is paying a sticker fee and asked what type of fee would be charged for the park. Mr. Geyer asked what the timeline would be. Staff will be doing its due diligence including appraisals, water resource, cultural and environmental surveys, and public meetings. Mr. Bonn stated this is exactly what we should be spending OHV funds for and it will serve the Arizona Peace Trail. Mr. Williams wanted to know what the proportional value is as it compares to the end user and the impact to the community. Community members were present and answered all of OHVAG's concerns. Mr. Quine stated that they would like to see matching funds for Phase II of the project.

Mr. Geyer moved to fully fund with the stipulation that ASPT look into cost recovery options for the OHV Decal Program. Mr. Bonn seconded. Motion passed.

USFS – Globe District OHV Patrols

There were questions on the type of enforcement in the area. The sponsor was not at the meeting or on the phone to answer the question. Members were concerned with the large number of recreational shooters in the area, the general safety of only funding one position, obtaining accurate and timely reporting, and ensuring that the officers worked prime OHV hours including some holidays and weekend. Ms. Maack thought that this project was a potential waste of money. She is worried that the officers would be used for Forest Service patrol and not OHV issues/patrol.

Mr. Williams moved to fully fund. Mr. Altender seconded. Motion passed.

NOHVCC – Great Trails Workshop

Ms. Antle stated the NOHVCC trains on developing sustainable trails. She also stated that federal agencies are not doing a good job of building sustainable trails. There were questions on what type of training and who this would be open to. Mr. Williams stated the members should read the applications in more detail as all of this information was in the grant. Mr. Geyer wanted to ensure the workshop would be open to all use types and wanted to see costs reduced slightly. Sponsor stated that the workshop is open to all and would look for ways to reduce cost.

Mr. Altender moved to approve funding for \$15,000. Mr. Geyer seconded. Motion passed.

Town of Kearny – Mescal Mountain

The project was originally funded with OHV funds in 1999. Ms. Maack asked if the vandalism was a one-time event or has been on-going. The sponsor states that it has been on-going. Mr. Quine questioned if OHVAG should fund a law enforcement grant first and then repair the damage. Ms. Maack was concerned with how damage will be prevented for future use. The town informed the committee that the new mayor is in full support of the project to boost tourism and that law enforcement personnel will be patrolling the area regularly. This will also be part of a three-phase project to improve the area as a whole. Ms. Antle stated that she had a concern because there were no support letters from the OHV users in Kearny.

Mr. Bonn moved to fully fund. Mr. Geyer seconded. Motion passed.

3. Review and recommend funding for the OHV Supplemental Grant Applications

USFS – Coconino NF White Hills Project:

Due to supplemental grants only being eligible for trail crew funding, members advised the applicant

to re-apply for equipment and supplies in another cycle. Mr. Quine stated that this was a very good project and suggested that they apply for the equipment once their current grant is 50 percent complete. Mr. Quine also stated that this project sponsor exemplifies exactly how projects should be administered.

Ms. Antel moved to fund trail crews for \$44,800. Mr. Geyer seconded. Motion passed.

USFS – Coconino NF Kelly Canyon Project

Members were concerned with the over \$600,000 currently tied up in the Kelly Canyon Project. Sponsor stated that they failed to include cattle guards in their current grant and wanted to add these to their current project.

Mr. Geyer moved to deny funding the project. Mr. Altender seconded. Motion passed.

Mohave County – Law Enforcement Project

Mr. Geyer stated he was recently appointed to be a Mohave County volunteer and questioned if he should vote. Mr. Bonn questioned if these dump sites were on OHV areas. Mr. Quine had concerns on how this project fits into the reporting requirement. There is very little feedback on these projects. Ms. Maack and Mr. Altender both think that this project has nothing to do with OHV users. Ms. Antle thought it would make sense to give them one computer and one radio and see how it would work. Mr. Altender opposed.

Mr. Bonn moved to fund one computer and one radio at \$7,756. Mr. Geyer seconded. Motion passed.

C. DISCUSSION

1. State OHV Coordinator updates

Matt Eberhart provided updates on the Trail Connectivity Project, Economic Impact Study Survey, Show Me Rides, and Spring Leadership Summit. Jeff Schmidt provided an update and demonstration on the Grant Projects GIS system which highlights RTP, OHV, LWCF, Motorized, and Non-motorized projects statewide.

2. Online Grant System demonstration

Sean Hammond gave a demonstration of the new on-line system and OHVAG is the first group to review the grants with the on-line system. ASPT will still make changes in the system as the program progresses.

3. Standardized Signage updates

Joshua Hurst with Arizona Game and Fish Department provided an update on the Travel Management Regulation Working Group that is working to clarify discrepancies between ASLD, BLM and USFS. Discrepancies include dispersed camping, big game retrieval, and standardized signage for all agencies.

4. OHVAG members will discuss by-laws, new OHVAG member onboarding procedures, and grant scoring.

Between this and the November meeting Matt will distribute by-laws and grant scoring for review. He will also be collecting and reviewing OHVAG applications for the three openings that will be filled in January.

5. OHVAG members will discuss current events and/or recent experiences of interest to the trails community and/or the status of any trail projects with which they may be involved.

There were none.

6. Future 2017 OHVAG Meetings.

Tentatively, Friday, November 3, 2017

D. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

a. There were none.

E. UPCOMING MEETINGS

a. Friday, November 3, 2017

F. ADJOURNMENT

1:45 p.m.