



**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

*Minutes Of The Meeting Held on August 18, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.*

*Garfield County Courthouse*

*55 South Main Street, Panguitch, Utah 84759*

*Streamed Live on YouTube*

## ATTENDEES

### Council Members Present:

Ron Tolman (Chair)  
Eric Nelson (Vice-Chair)  
Brody Johnson  
Fred Christensen  
Jason Blankenagel  
Kirk Chester  
Laura Ault  
Nathan Curtis  
Scott Wheeler

### Excused:

Cheryl Butler  
Tyson Todd

### Host:

Garfield County

### Division of Outdoor Recreation:

Chase Pili  
Rachel Toker

### Attorney General's Office Representative:

Shane Stroud

### Visitors:

Brett Stewart (Utah OHV Advocates)  
Jeff Beiber (Desert Roads and Trails Society)  
Kaden Figgins (Garfield County)  
Leslie Fonger (Greater Zion)  
Michael Cook (Uintah County Trails)  
Michael Gottfredson (Duchesne County)  
Ranee Sanders (Red Cliff Desert Reserve)

*Audio/video recording of this meeting is located a*

[Off-highway Vehicle Advisory Council 8/18/2023](#)

## TIME AGENDA ITEM AND SUMMARY

:00

### 1. WELCOME

#### 1.1. Call to Order (5:50)

Chair Ron Tolman called the meeting to order, and Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant Administrator Rachel Toker recorded the minutes. Ms. Toker also took attendance of the council members present. With a quorum of council members in attendance, the meeting proceeded with its agenda.

#### 1.2. Attendance and Introductions (6:45)

Chair Tolman asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Council members provided their names and affiliations for the record.

#### 1.3. Approval of April 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes (8:40)

Chair Tolman presented the minutes of the April 21, 2023, OHV Advisory Council meeting and requested their approval as presented.

**BRODY JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES  
FROM THE APRIL 21, 2023 OHV ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING.**

**ERIC NELSON SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9:20 2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chair Tolman opened the floor to public comments, welcoming input from both in-person attendees and online participants. It was agreed by Ms. Toker and Chair Tolman to allocate time for individuals present to address their respective grant applications at the time of review.

**10:30 3. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF COORDINATION FORM FOR ACCESS PROTECTION APPLICANTS**

Chair Tolman turned the time over to Shane Stroud from the Attorney General's Office, who provided a presentation on the coordination process between the Division and the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO) for Access Protection applicants. This form facilitates the grant's ability to ensure that access protection projects comply with legal requirements.

Council member Laura Ault spoke in support of the created form, explaining that it streamlines the process. She noted that previously, applicants were contacting various employees within PLPCO, but this form ensures consistency with a single point of contact.

Having no further questions, Chair Tolman sought a motion.

**FRED CHRISTENSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE COORDINATION FORM FOR ACCESS PROTECTION APPLICANTS. SCOTT WHEELER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**17:55 4. REQUIRED APPLICANT PRESENTATION**

**4.1. Navajo Road OHV Improvement Project (18:35)**

Leslie Fonger from Greater Zion presented the project application, explaining its connection to St. George and the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. She also highlighted the necessity of this improvement due to the lack of a staging area for OHV users.

Advisory council member Scott Wheeler voiced concerns regarding the project, leading to a discussion. OHV Program Manager Chase Pili intervened, allowing each participant an opportunity to express their views.

Chair Tolman mentioned that scoring for this and the following project will occur during the grant review.

**4.2. Toquerville Falls Road Improvement Project (41:45)**

Jeff Beiber from Desert Roads and Trails Society presented his project, outlining the necessary road improvements. He emphasized the importance of these improvements for search and rescue (SAR) operations, as the current road conditions hinder their ability to assist people in need.

Council member Eric Nelson inquired about the classification of the road. Ms. Fonger confirmed that the road is designated as a Class B road. The council then asked Mr. Stroud whether this grant could legally fund projects involving County B roads. Due to this uncertainty, the council requested that Mr. Stroud conduct further research on the matter. Subsequently, the council decided to proceed with scoring on both this issue and the previous application under the assumption that the grant could legally fund improvements to County B roads.

The council did not have a unanimous vote and both grants received a roll-called vote.

Navajo Road OHV Improvement Project

Yeas: Sheriff Curtis, Brody Johnson, Jason Blankenagel, Laura Ault, Fred Christensen, Kirk Chester, and Eric Nelson

Nays: Scott Wheeler and Ron Tolman

Absent: Cheryl Butler and Tyson Todd

Toquerville Falls Road Improvement Project

Yeas: Sheriff Curtis, Brody Johnson, Jason Blankenagel, Laura Ault, Fred Christensen, Kirk Chester, and Ron Tolman

Nays: Scott Wheeler and Eric Nelson

Absent: Cheryl Butler and Tyson Todd

Both grants were recommended for funding contingent on Mr. Stroud's findings.

**1:38:35 5. BEGIN GRANT REVIEW FOR SUMMER FY24**

Chair Tolman yielded the floor to Ms. Toker, who provided a concise overview of the 40 grants. She highlighted that there is a total of \$6.0 million available for grant awards for the Summer and Spring FY24 cycle. Ms. Toker also stated that the remaining balance will be available for the next cycle. The total funding requested by applicants amounted to approximately \$3.4 million. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that the percentages of funding awarded versus the amounts requested align appropriately.

The following discussions and votes are provided for applications where there were discussions or dissenting opinions. In cases where no conversation occurred and unanimous votes were cast, it can be assumed that funding was approved.

**1:40:00 Application #1 - OHV Refresh for Grand County Search and Rescue**

The council discussed how the SAR calls relate to an applicant's matching funds. This discussion pertained to all SAR applications.

**1:49:30 Application #2 - Piute County SAR**

Council member Fred Christensen expressed his support for the application. He stated that he spoke with the applicant and made a recommendation for adding tracks to the project's request.

**FRED CHRISTENSEN MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE THE PROJECT FUNDING BY \$8,000. BRODY JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2:12:25 Application #7 - Kane County Roads and Trails Access Protection Initiative**

The council felt that buying two top-of-the-line machines for inventorying trails was not the best use of funding. The council discussed decreasing the funding and allotting \$60,000 to help purchase two mid-level machines.

**KIRK CHESTER MADE A MOTION TO DECREASE THE FUNDING AMOUNT TO \$60,000 AND DECREASE THEIR TOTAL PROJECT COST TO \$68,200. SHERIFF CURTIS SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2:34:45 Application #10 - Wayne County OHV Response**

Mr. Wheeler expressed his conversation with the applicant, he raised concerns about the low cost of six bikes. The applicant was apprehensive about overspending. Mr. Wheeler also raised concerns about whether the machines would be powerful enough for their needs.

**ERIC NELSON MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE THE FUNDING AMOUNT BY \$12,000 ALLOWING THE APPLICANT TO PURCHASE TWO HIGHER-END BIKES TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. SCOTT WHEELER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2:42:30 6. LUNCH**  
At this time, the OHV Advisory Council took a 20-minute lunch break. The recorders were taken offline at this time.

**3:05:45 7. CONTINUE GRANT REVIEW**  
After taking lunch the Council proceeded to review the grant proposals beginning with the applicants in the room. The council started with application #32.

**3:18:00 Application #23 - Uintah County Stop Vandalism**  
Mike Cook with Uintah County fielded questions regarding the application. Mr. Christensen was worried about the funds sitting in an account until an issue arose. He also mentioned that the Paiute Trail Committee has an award for vandalism and has only awarded someone one-time in a two-year time period.

**4:47:15 Application #31 - Uintah County Stop Vandalism**  
The council discussed concerns regarding the procurement of single-use medical supplies. They also expressed the belief that there might be alternative funding sources accessible to the applicant. As a result, the council requested council member Sheriff Curtis to collaborate with the county's sheriff in assisting the applicant in exploring alternative grant opportunities for SAR purposes.

**5:16:55 Application #40 - DWR Snow Operation Training**  
Sheriff Curtis expressed concerns that it seemed the applicant had used Utah County's SAR calls to bolster their SAR statistics. There were also concerns about the intended use of the machines, particularly whether they would be deployed for SAR calls. Furthermore, it was noted that the applicant had not contacted the leadership of the agencies that provided letters of support.

**5:23:25 8. MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED OHVR GRANTS FOR SUMMER FY24**  
Out of the **40** Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation (OHVR) Grants received, the OHV Advisory Council has recommended **37** grants for funding in the FY24 Q1 - Summer period.

Out of those 37 recommended grants, two (2) projects were recommended for funding contingent on the findings of Mr. Stroud.

Key		
Recommended for Funding	Not Recommended for Funding	Contingent on Findings

#	Project Name	Organization	Project Total	Requested
1	OHV Refresh for Grand County Search and Rescue	Grand County Sheriff's Search and Rescue	\$60,550.00	<b>\$45,412.50</b>
2	Piute County SAR	Piute County Search and Rescue	\$99,971.00	<b>\$76,979.00</b>
3	Carbon County Search and Rescue's OHV Incident Response	Carbon County Search and Rescue	\$68,200.00	<b>\$52,000.00</b>
4	Utah Singletrack Trail Maintenance 2023-2024 Season	Western Singletrack Alliance	\$125,035.00	<b>\$97,427.00</b>
5	Paiute Trail   Parker Mountain Expansion - Education   Marketing	The Paiute Trail Committee	\$15,000.00	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
6	Garfield County Sheriff's Office SAR Side By Side	Garfield County Sheriff's Office	\$46,819.00	<b>\$26,819.00</b>
7	Kane County Roads and Trails Access Protection Initiative	Kane County	\$68,200.00	<b>\$60,000.00</b>
8	Beaver County SnowCat Trail Grooming	Beaver County SAR & Tourism Council	\$441,400.00	<b>\$350,000.00</b>
9	Wayne County OHV Trails Maintenance and Construction Project	Wayne County Road Department	\$86,500.00	<b>\$64,500.00</b>
10	Wayne County OHV Response	Wayne County Search & Rescue	\$62,554.00	<b>\$57,179.00</b>
11	Jordan River OHV Motorcross Track Fence	Western Singletrack Alliance	\$179,181.50	<b>\$82,500.00</b>
12	Polaris Xpedition UTV	Utah County Sheriff Search and Rescue	\$112,474.46	<b>\$60,308.23</b>
13	Iron County SAR 6 X 6 ATV Purchase	Iron County Sheriff Search & Rescue	\$19,300.00	<b>\$11,800.00</b>
14	Richfield BLM Field Office UTV Acquisition	Bureau of Land Management Richfield Field Office	\$76,040.00	<b>\$56,540.00</b>
15	Rocky Ford Trail Maintenance	Garfield County	\$19,800.00	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
16	Garfield County OHV Tourism Projects	Garfield County Tourism	\$20,000.00	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
17	Flint Trail to Big Ridge Two Pipe Loop, Happy Canyon Trails	Wayne County Road Department	\$200,000.00	<b>\$170,000.00</b>
18	Color Country OHV Trail Equipment and	Iron County	\$142,869.00	<b>\$112,744.00</b>

	Maintenance 2023			
19	Utahraptor State Park Trail Equipment and Signage	Utah State Parks (Utahraptor)	\$144,403.55	<b>\$103,249.35</b>
20	Moonshine Arch Restroom	Uintah County	\$65,000.00	<b>\$52,000.00</b>
21	UMORA Access Protection	Utah Motorcycle Off-Road Racing Association	\$60,943.25	<b>\$47,140.00</b>
22	Bureau of Land Management OHV Trail Maintenance Equipment	Bureau of Land Management - Price Field Office	\$35,982.00	<b>\$21,995.00</b>
23	Uintah County Stop Vandalism	Uintah County	\$12,500.00	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
24	Uintah County Search & Rescue Drone	Uintah County	\$33,000.00	<b>\$24,000.00</b>
25	Iron County SAR ATV Trailer Purchase	Iron County Sheriff Search & Rescue	\$34,100.00	<b>\$20,600.00</b>
26	Pails for Nails, OHV Pocket Trail Guide, & Don't Burn Campaign	Juab County Tourism Department	\$108,000.00	<b>\$81,000.00</b>
27	Uintah County Trails Trailers	Uintah County	\$40,000.00	<b>\$32,000.00</b>
28	Uintah County Seasonal Trails Crew	Uintah County	\$104,700.00	<b>\$83,700.00</b>
29	Summit County SAR Snowmobile Upgrade	Summit County Sheriff Search and Rescue	\$72,000.00	<b>\$54,000.00</b>
30	Summit County SAR Medical Response UTV Request	Summit County Sheriff Search and Rescue	\$32,675.00	<b>\$24,506.25</b>
31	Juab County EMS Department	Juab County EMS Department	\$84,994.14	<b>\$59,395.40</b>
32	Duchesne County OHV Trespassing Signage	Duchesne County	\$20,819.60	<b>\$13,377.10</b>
33	Steinaker OHV Connection	Department of Natural Resources - State Parks	\$150,331.80	<b>\$119,761.80</b>
34	Box Elder County Golden Spike Trail System Year 3	Public Lands Equal Access Alliance PLEAA	\$43,740.00	<b>\$30,555.90</b>
35	Wasatch SAR Medbed Expedition July 2023	Wasatch Search & Rescue	\$58,860.30	<b>\$43,161.75</b>
36	Kingston Canyon Trail 01 OHV Bridge Modification	Piute Chamber	\$15,500.00	<b>\$12,000.00</b>
37	Navajo Road OHV Improvement Project	Washington County	\$727,000.00	<b>\$500,000.00</b>

38	Toquerville Falls Road Improvement Project	Desert Roads and Trails Society	\$831,320.00	<b>\$600,000.00</b>
39	Participating in BLM Travel Management Plans	Ride with Respect	\$121,190.00	<b>\$97,000.00</b>
40	DWR Snow Operation Training	Division of Wildlife Resources	\$59,271.99	<b>\$44,447.99</b>

Chair Tolman sought a motion to recommend \$3,438,099.27 in grant funding for 37 applications.

**BRODY JOHNSON MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING AS PRESENTED. FRED CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

---

**5:27:20 9. BREAK**

At this time, the OHV Advisory Council took a 10-minute lunch break. The recorders were taken offline at this time.

---

**5:37:45 10. MOTION TO APPROVE THE UPDATED OHV ADVISORY COUNCIL BY-LAWS**

Mr. Pili and Mr. Stroud spoke on the changes made to the OHV Advisory Council By-laws.

**ERIC NELSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BY-LAWS AS PRESENTED. BRODY JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

---

**5:59:30 11. TERM EXPIRATION DISCUSSION & APPLICATION APPROVAL**

The council deliberated on the upcoming term expiration of three OHV Advisory Council members. Mr. Pili and Ms. Toker informed the council that the applications will be publicly posted on August 21, 2023, and the application period will conclude on September 21, 2023.

**JASON BLANKENAGEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS AS PRESENTED. BRODY JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

---

**6:09:30 12. ELECT THE CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND SECRETARY**

With three open council seats, the council opted to push this agenda item to their next meeting.

**BRODY JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO MOVE THIS ACTION ITEM TO THE NEXT OHV ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING. FRED CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

---

**6:25:20 13. SET MEETING DATES FOR 2024**

The council discussed scheduling future meeting dates and made the following decisions:

- April 26, 2023, for the FY24 Spring cycle review.
- May 31, 2024, for the RTP review.
- They will select the August meeting date during their next meeting.
- October 4, 2024, for next year's site visit.

**BRODY JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THESE FUTURE MEETING DATES. ERIC NELSON SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

---

**6:37:00 14. OTHER ITEMS**

Mr. Pili mentioned that the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) will be holding a conference in Utah from October 12-14, 2023. During this conference, Tara McKee, Rachel Toker, and I will be speaking. Additionally, Council member Jason Blankenagel confirmed that he will also be speaking at the NOHVCC. Mr. Pili recommended that members of the OHV Advisory Council should consider attending.

---

**6:39:30 15. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Chair Tolman sought a motion to adjourn.

**BRODY JOHNSON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. KIRK CHESTER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.**