



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

*Minutes Of The Meeting Held on October 27, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.
Department of Natural Resources
Post Site Visit - Eureka Town Hall*

ATTENDEES

Council Members Present:

Jason Blankenagel (Chair)
Eric Nelson (Vice Chair)
Brody Johnson
Scott Wheeler
Fred Christensen
Kirk Chester
Bonnie McCallister
Cheryl Butler
Laura Ault
Nathan Curtis

Host:

Department of Natural
Resources

Division of Outdoor Recreation:

Chase Pili
Rachel Toker
Jorge Vazquez

Attorney General's Office Representative:

Shane Stroud

Visitors:

Shanna Memmot

Excused:

Brett Davis

Audio/video recording of this meeting is located at:

[Off-highway Vehicle Advisory Council 10/27/2023](#)

TIME AGENDA ITEM AND SUMMARY

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0:15 1. WELCOME

1.1. Call to Order

The Off-highway Vehicle Advisory Council Chair, Jason Blankenagel 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

Chair Blankenagel introduced himself to the council and everyone in attendance he then asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Council members provided their names and affiliations for the record.

1.3. Welcome New Council Members

Chair Blankenagel began by formally introducing Bonnie McCallister, a new council member based in Salt Lake City. Expressing gratitude for her commitment to joining the council, he also acknowledged the valuable contributions of her predecessor, Tyson Todd.

Continuing the welcoming spirit, Chair Blankenagel then turned his attention to returning members, Kirk Chester and Scott Wheeler. Both had served on the council the previous year. Scott Wheeler, who reapplied for the Motorcycle Representative position, was successfully voted in during the previous meeting. Similarly, Kirk Chester, reapplying for the Snowmobile Representative position, was also welcomed back by the council.

The Chair took a moment to acknowledge Brett Davis, the 4-Wheel Drive Representative, expressing gratitude for his ongoing commitment, even though he couldn't attend the current meeting due to leading a Jamboree, as mentioned by Ms Toker.

04:00 3. ELECT COUNCIL SECRETARY

3.1. Secretary

Chair Blankenagel moved to the next agenda item, the election of a council secretary, following Tyson's resignation. Ms. Toker clarified the role's responsibilities and its coordination with her.

Nominations were opened, with Scott Wheeler nominating Mrs. McCallister, recognizing her previous assumption of responsibilities. In response, Kirk Chester nominated Mr. Wheeler. With no further nominations, Chair Blankenagel called for a motion to close nominations, which was unanimously approved by council members.

CHAIR BLANKENAGEL OPENED THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE FOR BONNIE MCCALLISTER FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY. WITH UNANIMOUS SUPPORT AND NO OPPOSITION, BONNIE MCCALLISTER WAS VOTED IN AS THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL.

9:28 4. MOAB TRAIL CLOSURES

Chair Blankenagel initiated a discussion on imminent trail closures in Moab, stressing urgency due to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) impending decisions. He prioritized the agenda item as per the council's request.

Laura Ault and Chase Pili from the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office and Division of Outdoor Recreation respectively provided insights on Moab trail closures. Ault presented current risk areas, focusing on 114 miles of R.S 2477 roads under state litigation. A petition filed with IBLA aims to halt closures, prompting the governor's consistency review.

The discussion revolved around the next steps and collaboration with advocacy groups. Ault highlighted Ride With Respect and Blue Ribbon Coalition's efforts. Suggestions included attending Travel Management Plan (TMP) meetings and direct engagement with BLM.

Despite frustrations, emphasis was placed on legal avenues and proactive engagement with BLM. Stroud clarified the council's advisory role, discouraging independent political action.

Pili highlighted grant-funded projects' importance in preventing closures. Blankenagel underscored future grant significance on BLM land.

Proposals included requiring grant recipients to keep trails open and inviting decision-makers on rides. Acknowledging challenges, Blankenagel thanked participants for their commitment and suggested tangible advocacy steps.

Chair Blankenagel proposed inviting commission members and decision-makers on rides to advocate for OHV interests.

33:30 3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Chair Blankenagel initiated the approval of the September 25th meeting minutes, providing council members an opportunity to review.

CHAIR BLANKENAGEL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. FRED CHRISTENSEN MOTIONED, SECONDED BY LAURA, AND THE APPROVAL CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

35:10 4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Blankenagel moved to the public comment period, where Shana Memmot from Juab County expressed gratitude for the council's support. She thanked participants for their commitment to responsible OHV use and highlighted the impact of the council's grant-funded UTV, which has been regularly utilized. Mrs. Memmot expressed confidence in the county's progress and thanked the council for their ongoing contributions.

Chair Blankenagel then invited additional comments from the public before proceeding to the next agenda item.

39:29 5. COORDINATION REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS ON PUBLIC LANDS

Chair Blankenagel raised concerns about applicants misunderstanding prerequisites for working with public land managers, stressing the need for clear communication. He highlighted the necessity of support letters and partnership agreements from relevant organizations, such as BLM or SITLA.

Ms. Toker outlined existing procedures, emphasizing the importance of support letters from top organizational heads. She noted discrepancies in previous projects and stressed the significance of agency support, especially for equipment requests.

During application reviews, Ms. Toker guides and assists applicants to ensure they understand and fulfill requirements correctly. Chair Blankenagel expressed hope that this clarification would prevent future issues of insufficient due diligence.

Ms. Toker emphasized the importance of clear direction for applicants and expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts between the council and the Division of Outdoor Recreation. This partnership aims to streamline the application process and ensure applicants are well-informed.

27:25 5. OTHER ITEMS

Chair Blankenagel transitioned to the next agenda item and inquired if there were any additional topics or concerns that required discussion.

Ms. Toker took a moment to promote the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan, emphasizing its importance. She explained that the plan, conducted every 10 years, aims to gather input from Utah residents. Ms. Toker encouraged council members to participate in the survey, which takes approximately 15 minutes. In response, Chair Blankenagel inquired about the survey's duration, to which Ms. Toker mentioned it had been available for about a month, with promotion on various platforms, including social media and the newsletter.

Ms. Toker highlighted previous complaints about the absence of an OHV perspective in conferences. She mentioned efforts to include OHVs in conferences, emphasizing the need for support from the OHV community through active participation in these events.

Ms. Toker made a final push for people to sign up for the Division newsletter, emphasizing that it regularly provides up-to-date information.

51:00 **6. PROGRAM UPDATE**

Chair Blankenagel invited Mr. Pili to update the council on the OHV program.

Mr. Pili highlighted recent progress, including the hiring of a trail crew foreman and preparations for the snowmobile season. He also discussed plans to re-evaluate the education program, with a focus on enhancing youth education.

Acknowledging the contributions of individuals like Dierdre Miller and Bret Stewart, Mr. Pili announced upcoming initiatives, including the launch of an online learning platform. He also shared positive feedback received at NOVACC, where Utah's OHV efforts were praised by other states.

Council members expressed gratitude to Mr. Pili for his dedication to advancing the program, reaffirming their commitment to its ongoing improvement.

38:30 **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

LAURA AULT MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. EVERYONE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.