



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

*Minutes Of The Meeting Held on May 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.  
Virtual*

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**ATTENDEES**

**Council Members Present:**

Jason Blankenagel (Chair)  
Eric Nelson (Vice Chair)  
Brody Johnson  
Scott Wheeler  
Fred Christensen  
Cheryl Butler  
Laura Ault  
Sheriff, Nathan Curtis  
Dave Jacobson  
Brett Davis

**Host:**

Department of Natural  
Resources

**Division of Outdoor  
Recreation:**

Chase Pili  
Rachel Toker  
Jorge Vazquez  
Patrick Morrison

**Attorney General's Office  
Representative:**

Shane Stroud

**Visitors:**

Jennifer Marshall

**Excused:**

Bonnie McCallister  
Kirk Chester

*Audio/video recording of this meeting is located at: [FY24 Year Round OHV Land Acquisition Review \(2024-05-29 17:01 GMT-6\)](#)*

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**TIME      AGENDA ITEM AND SUMMARY**

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**0:00      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.

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**2:00      2. YEAR-ROUND OHV LAND ACQUISITION GRANT FOR FY24**

Chair Blankenagel outlined the meeting's purpose, focusing on an OHV Grant applicant

seeking additional funding post-support from the Outdoor Adventure Commission (OAC). He then yielded the floor to Tammy Pearson, a Beaver County commissioner, who presented the rationale for funding to the OHV council.

### **2.1. Applicant Presentation Puffer Lake Recreation Area (APP-003229)**

Tammy Pearson highlighted the necessity of securing extra funds for acquiring the Puffer Lake Property in the Tushar Mountains. This sought-after land, nestled amidst Forest Service land, SITLA, and private property, presents prime terrain for OHV enthusiasts, especially in proximity to the Piute Trail. The plan is to facilitate dispersed camping while safeguarding ongoing OHV access. Beaver County's proactive stance aims to avert federal ownership, thereby ensuring continuous trail accessibility. This multi-purpose property is envisioned to cater to year-round recreation, including snowmobile and OHV activities.

Mrs. Pearson initiated the discussion by inviting questions on the application. Brody Johnson raised concerns about water ownership on the lake and the absence of OHV club support letters. Mrs. Pearson acknowledged the oversight and pledged to secure support for the project. Mr. Johnson also raised UDOT's OHV restrictions on Highway 153, to which Mrs. Pearson agreed to collaborate with UDOT and assured no road closures.

Shane Stroud inquired about trail preservation, prompting Mrs. Pearson to mention exploring easement options and collaboration with engineering. Fred Christensen emphasized OHV and Piute Trail protection, to which Mrs. Pearson highlighted collaboration with Phil Bronston and conservation easement efforts.

Funding allocation concerns were raised by Mr. Wheeler, and addressed by Mr. Stroud, and Patrick Morrison, emphasizing recreation diversity. Mr. Jacobson asked about project management mirroring Tusher Mountain, with Mrs. Pearson affirming and highlighting the project's year-round appeal.

Subsequently, Brett Davis stressed OHV-specific language in the easement, echoed by Sheriff Curtis, who proposed language preserving existing OHV trails. Mr. Wheeler inquired about project timeline concerns, voiced by Mrs. Pearson, mainly regarding land acquisition competition.

Further discussion led by Mr. Christensen confirmed the campground's OHV focus, while Mr. Jacobson inquired about potential Forest Service plans post-purchase, to which Mrs. Pearson lacked information. Mr. Wheeler expressed concern about snowmobile use conflicts with a nearby ski resort, addressed by Mrs. Pearson in confidentiality negotiations.

**CHAIR BLANKENAGEL ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION AS PRESENTED. MR. JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION, MR. CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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- 53:00**     **3. MOTION TO APPROVE YEAR-ROUND OHV LAND ACQUISITION GRANT FOR FY24**  
A roll call vote was conducted due to a disagreement over the project, overseen by Ms. Toker. The responses were as follows: Sheriff Curtis, Brett Davis, Fred Christen, Brody Johnson, Jason Blankentable, Laura Ault, Dave Jacobson, and Eric Nelson all voted yes, totaling eight yes votes. However, Scott Wheeler dissented with a single no vote. Eight members voted yes, while one member voted no. Ultimately, the project secured funding.

**THE SCORES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Yeas:** Jason Blankenagel, Eric Nelson, Brody Johnson, Fred Christensen, Cheryl Butler, Laura Ault, Sheriff, Nathan Curtis, Dave Jacobson, Brett Davis

**Nays:** Scott Wheeler

**Excused:** Bonnie McCallister and Kirk Chester

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- 59:40**     **4. ADJOURNMENT**  
Having no further business, Chair Blankenagel sought a motion to adjourn.

**SHERIFF NATHAN CURTIS MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.**