



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

DRAFT

Minutes Of The Meeting Held on March 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

AGENDA

HOST:

Department of Natural Resources

1594 W. North Temple St. - Virtual
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Google Meet Info

<https://meet.google.com/ydu-dbd-t-daa>

Or dial: (US) +1 559-418-0645

PIN: 740 594 703#

ATTENDEES:

Division of Outdoor Recreation Employees:

Wade Allinson, Evan Beitsch, Maureen Casper, Jason Curry, Deirdre Miller,
Morgan Smith, Rachel Toker, Jorge Vazquez

Division of Law Enforcement Employees:

Jacob Hinton

Attorney General's Office Representative:

Nicole Hanna

OHV Advisory Council Members:

Jason Blankenagel (Chair), Eric Nelson (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Butler, Russ
Cazier, Kirk Chester, Mike Cook, Sheriff Curtis, Brett Davis, Dave Jacobson,
Brody Johnson, Nicole Nielson, Scott Wheeler

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

11:00 a.m.

INFORMATION

1. WELCOME

Virtual - Department of
Natural Resources

1.1. Call to Order

Jason Blankenagel, Chair

1.2. Attendance and Introductions

Chair

ACTION	1.3. Approval of November 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes	Chair
11:05 a.m. INFORMATION	2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE	Jason Curry, Division Director
11:20 a.m. INFORMATION	3. OHV PROGRAM UPDATE	Wade Allinson, OHV Program Manager
11:35 a.m. INFORMATION	4. REVIEW OF NEW GRANT POLICIES	OHV Recreation Grant Administrator, Rachel Toker
11:45 a.m. INFORMATION	5. FY26 Q2 OHVR CYCLE REQUESTS & FUNDING	OHV Recreation Grant Administrator
	5.1. Overview	
	5.2. Review of Assigned Evaluators	
	5.3. Salesforce Evaluator Refresh	
	5.4. Grant Review Timeline	
	5.5. Council Requests & Other Items	
12:15 p.m. ACTION	6. DECIDE MEETING DATE FOR MOTORIZED RTP	Evan Beitsch, RTP Grant Administrator
12:20 p.m. INFORMATION	7. PUBLIC COMMENT (If time permits)	Chair
12:30 p.m. ACTION	8. ADJOURNMENT	Chair

Audio/video recording of this meeting is located at: [Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council 3/6/2026](#)

MEETING MINUTES:

(0:42) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jason Blankenagel, followed by a round of introductions from all members in attendance.

(3:52) Review and Approval of Past Minutes: The council reviewed the previous meeting minutes from November 24, 2025. *Motion:* Brody Johnson moved to accept the minutes as written. *Second:* Sheriff Curtis. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously by

all present members.

(4:50) Legislative & Budget Update- Jason Curry provided updates from the state legislature:

- General Fund budget reductions were finalized at \$20,000 (down from an initially proposed \$80,000 cut).
- The Division took over the operation and maintenance costs (\$80,000/year ongoing) for the maintenance shop building.
- Budget expansion requests included in the Governor's and subcommittee budgets: funding for a mechanized trail crew (heavy equipment construction/maintenance), a project management role, and an additional \$2.5 million appropriation for the OHV recreation grant.
- **HB 375:** Enables funding from the Outdoor Adventure Fund to cover administrative/PR costs to relieve pressure from registration funds.
- **HB 444:** Updates sand dune riding regulations to change strict flag color requirements to a broader "high-visibility" standard.
- **HB 381:** Establishes definitions and certification training age requirements for high-powered electric vehicles (e-bikes, e-motorcycles) driven on city streets.

(17:11) OHV Program Updates- Wade Allinson provided state program updates:

- The OHV program is hiring a seasonal worker assigned to the Fish Lake Forest to read trail counters along the Paiute ATV trail.
- The mechanized trail crew will be based out of Richfield to focus heavily on repairing fire-damaged trails on Monroe Mountain, the Arapene, and Paiute systems.
- In-person side-by-side and motorcycle safety training courses are under development. A live course in Carbon County will provide full-face helmets to participants.
- A public educational campaign is launching in March and April, targeting unregistered e-motorcycles (e.g., Sur-rons) to clarify that they are subject to OHV laws even when operated on city pavement.
- A 20-person Forest Service chainsaw certification class ("Thinking Sawyer", Class A Bucking Certification) is being coordinated for local clubs.

(25:42) Review of New Grant Policies & Grant Overview- Rachel Toker overviewed key policy changes for the current grant cycle:

- Letters of Support: All grants now require a letter of support from an established OHV organization/club. This led to a discussion regarding what constitutes a "local nonprofit."

(29:17) Jason Curry recommended that the Division and Council compile a pre-approved list of eligible clubs/user groups to ease application processing for future cycles.

(30:32) Eligibility Concerns: Scott Wheeler raised concerns regarding ensuring applicants have

legitimate ties to the OHV community. Counsel Nicole Hannah and Rachel Toker clarified that while board members aren't strictly scrutinized, the entity's state-filed bylaws and articles of incorporation must explicitly prioritize the promotion of motorized recreation to meet statutory definitions.

(35:56) Jason provides clarification to Scott's concerns.

(38:36) Mike asks for clarification on letters of support. The group begins a discussion on the letter of support requirements and logistics. Before July 15th, a list of letters of support will be created.

(44:28) Rachel returns to the discussion on agenda item number four.

(51:12) Submissions: 41 eligible applications submitted; 1 application withdrawn (Town of Dutch John); 3 applications deemed ineligible during internal risk review.

(52:32) Funding Deficit: Total grant requests sit at \$3.649 million, with only \$2.45 million currently available to award (approx. \$1.2 million deficit).

(54:03) Projects asking for more than \$350,000 require formal presentations. The Uintah County Enduro Course project fits this threshold; Mike Cook will present the project at the next meeting and has recused himself from evaluating/scoring it.

(56:13) Presentations are limited to 10-minute presentations, 5 minutes for Q&A.

(1:07:30) Rachel Toker reminds everyone that scoring cannot be biased. Nicole Hanna, the Division of Outdoor Recreation's attorney, can assist with making sure decisions are made based on applicants meeting the requirements.

(1:13:36) Rachel mentions that there are no public comments at this time and continues monitoring.

(1:13:59) Rachel reviews how to use Salesforce to score grant applications. **Reviews are due March 20, 2026.** If you have issues logging in to Salesforce, contact Patrick Morrison or Rachel Toker.

(1:20:07) Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Alignment- Evan Beitsch discussed the upcoming motorized funding allocations for the Federal Highway Administration's RTP grant:

- The number of grant applications has increased from 4 to 6 in previous cycles to 10 for the current period.
- RTP has \$780,926 available for both motorized & non-motorized trail infrastructure, equipment, acquisitions, and educational initiatives.
- The RTP deadline is April 1st. Wade and Evan proposed that applications that fall below the funding line during the OHVR Council's grant review could be fast-tracked or redirected to

the RTP portal, provided the applicants adjust to meet federal NEPA compliance requirements. Applications for RTP would still be required.

- Council members agreed that a virtual review meeting for the RTP applications should be held post-working hours.

(1:41:10) Motion to adjourn was made by Kirk Chester and seconded by Sheriff Curtis. The meeting adjourned. The next hybrid ranking meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2026, in Richfield, UT.