

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

Minutes Of The Meeting Held on August 19, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. Triple C Arena/Fairgrounds, 50 800 N, Panguitch, Utah 84759
Streamed Live on YouTube

# **ATTENDEES**

**Council Members Present:** 

Ron Tolman (Chair) Eric Nelson Scott Wheeler Brody Johnson Tyson Todd Cheryl Butler Fred Christensen

Jason Blankenagel

Kirk Chester

Host: Vis

Triple C Arena/Fairgrounds

**Department of Natural Resources:** Chase Pili

Rachel Toker

**Visitors:** 

Brett Stewart (Utah OHV

Advocates)

John Williams (Citizen of

Panguitch)

# **Excused:**

Audio/video recording of this meeting is located a

Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council 8/19/2022 (re-post)

# TIME AGENDA ITEM AND SUMMARY

# :00 1. WELCOME

# 1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ron Tolman called the meeting to order. Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant Coordinator, Rachel Toker recorded the minutes. A quorum of council members being present, the meeting proceeded with business.

#### 1.2. Attendance and Introductions

Ms. Toker took attendance of the council members present. She acknowledged the members of the Division of Outdoor Recreation present, both as participants in the meeting and as members of the audience.

Chair Tolman thanked the City of Panguitch for letting the OHV Advisory Council use their facility for the meeting.

# 1.3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Tolman sought a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

BRODY JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SCOTT WHEELER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

# 1.4. Approval of April 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Chair Tolman presented the minutes of the April 25, 2022, OHV Advisory Council meeting. Chair Tolman asked that the minutes stand approved as presented.

FRED CHRISTENSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 25, 2022 OHV ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING. SCOTT WHEELER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 5:35 2. OPENING OF NEW COUNCIL SEATS

Chair Tolman turned the time over to Ms. Toker. Ms. Toker discussed the two open positions within the council and sought advice on how the council would like to proceed.

The council discussed changing the age of the Youth council seat to age 14-18 and only serving a two-year term. The council discussed creating incentives, such as furthering the Youth representative's high school career or having their position be an internship. The council also discussed changing the questions on the application to better fit this position.

Chair Tolman sought a motion to have the OHV Program open the two representative positions for the public to apply to.

TYSON TODD MOVED TO OPEN THE TWO REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS, CHANGE THE YOUTH POSITION TO A TWO-YEAR TERM, AND LOOK INTO INCENTIVES FOR THE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE. JASON BLANKENAGEL SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 18:10 3. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC NELSON

Chair Tolman publicly announced that Eric Nelson will serve his second term as the Dealership Representative on the OHV Advisory Council.

# 19:10 4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Tolman asked Ms. Toker if she received any written comments. Ms. Toker stated there were no written comments received.

Chair Tolman asked the public if they had any comments to make. Brett Stewart with the Utah OHV Advocates discussed some concerns with the applications. Mr. Stewart discussed how HB 180 will alleviate ongoing issues within the OHV community. Council Member, Brody Johnson asked Mr. Stewart clarifying questions on HB 180.

#### 1:30:00 5. LUNCH

At this time, the OHV Advisory Council took a 45-minute lunch outside of the meeting location. The recorders were taken offline at this time.

# 35:40 6. REVIEW OF FIG FY22 Q1 - SUMMER GRANT PROPOSALS

Chair Tolman turned the time over to Ms. Toker to give a brief overview of the 21 grants. \$1.5 million came through in grant requests with \$3.25 million available in funding for the fiscal year. Ms. Toker discussed the Search and Rescue (SAR) category and that the requests received exceeded the funding available.

Chair Tolman asked the council what their preference was in scoring the grant applications. The council decided they would like to discuss and review the grants one at a time. The council reviewed and scored the applications that did not relate to SAR. The SAR applications were held until the end of the grant review to better evaluate the SAR applicants' needs.

Discussions and votes are as follows.

# 1:02:00 Application #2 - Duchesne County Trail First Aid and Communications Equipment

The council discussed concerns with the purchase of an AED for the county regarding trail work. Chair Tolman sought a motion to fund the project at a lesser amount.

ERIC NELSON MADE A MOTION TO FUND THE PROJECT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN AED. KIRK CHESTER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

# 2:15:00 Application #7 - Grand County Motorized Trail Ambassador Program

The council discussed concerns with the purchase of a vehicle for the county. Chair Tolman sought a motion to recommend the project without funding the vehicle.

JASON BLANKENAGEL MADE A MOTION TO FUND THE PROJECT WITHOUT THE VEHICLE. CHERYL BUTLER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION TALLY IS AS FOLLOWED:

AYE: JASON BLANKENAGEL, CHERYL BUTLER, TYSON TODD, KIRK CHESTER

NAY: BRODY JOHNSON, SCOTT WHEELER, FRED CHRISTENSEN, ERIC NELSON, RON TOLMAN

THE MOTION DID NOT PASS.

The council asked that program staff reach out to the applicant and work with them so they can reapply next cycle.

# 2:40:30 Application #9 - Mini Excavator

Council member, Brody Johnson, asked a member of the public how Garfield County was currently using the equipment purchased with this grant. John Williams, a citizen of Panguitch, discussed how the equipment was being used within the county.

# 2:47:00 Application #10 - Equipment Operator

Council member, Cheryl Butler discussed adding additional funding to this project. Chair Tolman sought a motion to increase the project's funding.

SCOTT WHEELER MADE A MOTION TO DOUBLE THE PROJECTS FUNDING. BRODY JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION, AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2:52:30 Application #15 - OHV Trails & Interactive Mapping in Greater Zion with Utah.com

The council discussed their concerns with the application. They felt that the majority of the application was for Tourism, which is no longer a category for this grant. The work pertaining to Education felt minimal in comparison.

# 3:15:45 7. BREAK

At this time, the council took a short break and the recorders were taken offline.

# 3:16:30 8. RESUME REVIEW OF FIG FY22 Q1 - SUMMER GRANT PROPOSALS

After taking a short break the Council proceeded to review the grant proposals beginning with Application #21. After the review of application #21, the council went on to review and score the SAR applications.

# OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PROGRAM SUMMER FY23 - FISCAL INCENTIVE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

- **13** Fiscal Incentive Grants (FIG) recommended for FY23 Q1 Summer by the Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Advisory Council out of the **21** received.
- The items in red were not recommended by the OHV Advisory Council.

#	FY23 Q1 - Summer	Sponsor	Total Project Cost	Requested FIG Funding	Category
1	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area UTVS for SAR Response and Resource Protection: Glen Canyon NRA UTVS will support safe visitation in our motorized backcountry. Multiple UTVS for Search and Rescue response allows staging and access to remote sites.  The Council did not feel state funding should be used to assist federal agencies with search and rescue (SAR). There were concerns that the machines would be used outside of Utah. There was only \$325,500 available for SAR, and the total SAR requests exceeded the available funding.	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA)	\$127,000	\$95,000	Search and Rescue
2	Duchesne County Trail First Aid and Communications Equipment (Originally requested \$6,450): Duchesne County requests fiscal assistance in the purchase of first aid,	Duchesne County	\$6,717	\$5,315	Trail Work

	navigation, and communication equipment. Specifically, the County requests two, VHF handheld radios; a GPS device, with mounting accessories; and an automated external defibrillator (AED) to store onboard a vehicle for every trip taken. These items are critical to the safe execution of OHV trail development in our region.  Funding was reduced by \$1,135 to remove the AED. The Council did not feel that a county needed to have an AED for trail work.  Council Member, Tyson Todd abstained from voting on this application.				
3	Reduce OHV Speed - Keep Marysvale Safe: Reduce speeding, dust, and accidents by placing 3 "Driver Feedback" signs on Marysvale Town roads. The signs will remind ATV/UTV riders of their current speed and encourage them to slow down and drive safely inside Marysvale Town limits.	Town of Marysvale	\$10,640	\$7,764	Education
4	Peekaboo Multi-use Trailhead Staging Area/Parking Area Expansion: To meet increasing public demand and to alleviate user conflict, the BLM Kanab Field Office proposes to expand the existing Peekaboo multi-use trailhead by approximately 1.6 acres. The project would involve the removal of vegetation, the addition of road base/gravel, and the installation of a double-vault toilet facility and a perimeter fence to protect resources.	Bureau of Land Management	\$182,473	\$128,100	Trail Work
5	Juab EMS Employee West Desert Funding: Help funding for the Juab County EMS crew in employee wages and equipment in all the responses to incidents needed in the West Desert area of Juab County.  The amount available for SAR funding was stated on the application and this request exceeded the amount of	Juab County EMS Department	\$459,887	\$350,000	Search and Rescue

	funding available. The Division did not feel comfortable paying the county for employees' wages.				
6	OHV Roads/Trails Mapping: Garfield County would like to update its GIS files on our OHV trails and roads. We would work with SUU or Dave Maxwell to contract the work. Currently, we have several different maps from BLM, Forest Service, Garfield County, NPS, State, and NRA which all have some of the roads but not all in the County. This effort would be to combine all of these maps into a single GIS file which would be maintained by Garfield County and shared as needed with the other entities. This map would document all the roads/trails in the county and be used to maintain and defend access for OHVs. It will also be used to update our OHV maps.	Garfield County	\$12,000	\$9,000	Access Protection
7	Ambassador Program: Moab is known nationwide as an OHV destination, and the motorized trail system is receiving more use every year. Education about minimum impact behaviors in the desert environment is crucial to maintain the trails, the landscape, and a sustainable economy centered on outdoor recreation.  Grand County has established a successful Trail Ambassador program for non-motorized user groups that is tailored to local issues. Now the county, with support from local partners, seeks to expand the program to include the growing OHV community. Paid, part-time Motorized Trail Ambassadors with a background in OHV recreation and knowledge of local trails will educate the public at popular trails and trailheads and provide "preventative SAR" services to improve trail safety.  This application was not funded because the main request was for a jeep and funding for this grant does not come from vehicle registrations. The council asked program staff to	Grand County	\$219,861	\$111,866	Education

	work with the applicant and have them reapply with a request for an OHV and work with the OHV Program's Trail Host.				
8	Kane County Sheriff Search and Rescue Quick Trail Response: Kane County Utah has some of the most spectacular landscapes in the world. Our area has become a destination for OHV enthusiasts across Utah and the surrounding states. Due to the hundreds of miles of OHV trails, forest roads, limited access slot canyons often accessed by OHV users, and the addition of 35-plus miles of new off-road bicycle trails, Kane County continues to attract many visitors to our public lands. While we love to see the visitors, the increased visitation also means increased law enforcement, EMS, and search and rescue calls for service in those areas. As first responders, we are always trying to find ways to quickly access distressed visitors. This grant project will be a giant step in a positive direction.  This application was not recommended because the applicant had an inaccurate budget total and the request was for a total of eight machines. The council did not feel comfortable funding four ebikes without a statement of use for OHV SAR.	Kane County Sheriff's Office	\$60,000	\$30,000	Search and Rescue, Education
9	<b>Mini Excavator:</b> Garfield County will purchase a mini excavator and trailer to help remove debris from OHV roads and trails and to repair washouts.	Garfield County	\$150,667	\$113,000	Trail Work
10	Equipment Operator (Originally requested \$6,000): Contract with an operator to run equipment seasonally for trail maintenance. Garfield County will provide vehicles and equipment.  The Council doubled funding on this project because the cost seemed too low for the work that needs to be done.	Garfield County	\$20,333	\$12,000	Trail Work
11	Search and Rescue Rapid Response	Washington	\$90,000	\$60,000	Search and

	EMS UTVs: This project is to give Washington County Sheriff Search and Rescue EMS the capability to rapidly respond to remote ATV, UTV, and Motorcycle accidents in Washington County. The Purpose is to get medical treatment to accident victims as soon as possible.	County Sheriff Search and Rescue			Rescue
12	Purchase of OHV for Search and Rescue Response: Purchase a new OHV, associated customizations, and equipment to use in Search and Rescue operations in the Grand County/Moab area.	Grand County Search and Rescue (GCSAR)	\$57,730	\$43,297	Search and Rescue
13	Wasatch UTV - Medbed: This UTV is used by Wasatch Search & Rescue to access all OHV trails in Wasatch County. Wasatch County has become a major home for OHV use. This UTV will be located in the Search & Rescue First Response trailer. We have guys on call 24 hours a day to respond to Emergency calls on OHV trails within the county. This UTV will be used to haul SAR personnel and EMTs to an accident scene and haul patients back to the trailhead.  This application was not funded because the two required letters of support were from the primary and substitute project managers. Letters of support from the primary and/or substitute project managers are not accepted.	Wasatch County Search & Rescue	\$25,887	\$19,415	Search and Rescue
14	Wasatch SAR Medbed UTV: UTV Medical Bed for SAR operations. This is a 6-seat UTV Modified with stokes and backboard used to haul patients injured in the backcountry. Used to evacuate to the ambulance for transport to the Medical Center.  This application was not funded because the two required letters of support were from the primary and substitute project managers. Letters of support from the primary or substitute project managers are not accepted.	Wasatch County Search & Rescue	\$35,750	\$26,813	Search and Rescue

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15	OHV Trails & Interactive Mapping in Greater Zion with Utah.com: OHV recreation is at its highest use ever in the State of Utah and with over 80,000+ miles of public OHV trails in Utah, educating riders for a safe, successfully fun ride while protecting the trails for long-term sustainable use is more important than ever. The Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office has partnered with Utah.com on a trail video, interactive map, and educational/promotional project. This grant will help inform the user and assure a safer experience for those riding the trails in Greater Zion (Washington County).  The council felt this request fell under a category that is no longer funded by this grant. The council did not feel that it was an education or trail work project.	Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office	\$200,000	\$150,000	Trail Work, Education
16	Grand County Emergency Medical OHV Access Program: GCEMS wishes to develop an Emergency Medical All Terrain Access Team to increase emergency medical response capability in off-highway areas. This project will greatly improve response times and the capability of emergency medical care on single-track trails and other OHV trails not accessible by ambulance.	Grand County Emergency Medical Services Special Service District	\$53,903	\$34,000	Search and Rescue
17	<b>Trails UTV East Side:</b> Garfield County would like to purchase a UTV to help cover roads and trails on the Eastern side of the County.	Garfield County	\$37,500	\$28,125	Trail Work
18	Color Country OHV Trail Maintenance and Equipment: Project is to provide resources to maintain the Color Country OHV Trail System in Iron County the past two years floods have left sections of trails in disrepair. Supplies, materials, and equipment needed are for OHV and worker safety, tools, and materials to replace signs, markers, etc. We are also requesting to purchase a trail dozer to repair trails and washouts in steep terrain. The trail dozer may be shared with public land agencies as well.	Iron County	\$131,091	\$90,139	Trail Work

19	OHVs and swhchs.org: OHVs and swhchs.org is a project to define 40+ miles of OHV Trails on private property, in preparation to convert the OHV Trails to easements to be deeded to Iron County. This grant will confirm the title and property ownership or control, creating GIS Maps, for use by the Cedar City OHV Club to ride and identify and name newly planned trails. These newly planned easements for Iron County will be transferred as part of a larger grant request in the next F.I.G. cycle.	Southwestern Heritage Center Historical Society	\$75,000	\$50,000	Trail Work
20	Utah Immigrant Community OHV Education: According to 2020 Census data, Utah's population has increased fast, Population estimates for July 1, 2021, released by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, indicate the state has added approximately 71,936 people since the 2020 census, reaching an estimated 3,343,552 Utahns. Immigrants are the key power of increase. There are about 700,000 immigrant populations in Utah To educate the new immigrant, will bring new purchasing power to OHV.  The council did not fund this application because the applicant received an identical grant during a prior cycle. The council would like to see the first grant complete before they fund the project again.	Utah Chinese Association	\$70,000	\$30,000	Education
21	Excavator for OHV Trail Work and Trail Hosting around Moab: This project will provide a mini-excavator and off-road trailer to improve motorized trails on BLM, USFS, and state lands in southeast Utah. Also in this area, it will expand the Utah OHV Trail Host program by training and providing stipends for a dozen volunteers to host each month over two years.  Council Member, Tyson Todd abstained from voting on this application.	Ride with Respect	\$147,938	\$73,725	Trail Work, Education
			Total Project Cost	Requested Funding	

\$ 1,495,039

	Total Project Cost	Funding Recommended	
Total of the 13 applications recommended for funding:	\$ 975 992	\$ 654.465	

Total of all 21 applications: \$ 2,214,177

# 4:25:45 9. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF FIG FY23 Q1 - SUMMER

Chair Tolman asked for a motion to approve the \$654,465 in grant funding across 13 applications.

TYSON TODD MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING AS STATED. KIRK CHESTER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

# 10. BREAK

No break was taken at this time.

### 4:28:10 11. SET NEXT MEETING DATES FOR 2022-2023

The council went through the remainder of this and next year and set five future meeting dates.

#### 4:39:45 12. DIVISION UPDATE

OHV Program Manager, Chase Pili was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments out of the state. Ms. Toker stated that Mr. Pili would provide the council with an email updating the council on division updates.

# 4:40:05 13. OTHER BUSINESS, RIDING ACCIDENTS, AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY ON TRAILS

Mr. Johnson discussed an increase in riding accidents and incidents happening on the trails. He asked the council what solutions could they work towards as an advisory council. The council discussed a hotline to report illegal activity, similar to what the Paiute Trail Committee did on their signs. The council discussed that this is an education and access protection issue.

The council discussed how HB 180 could assist with these ongoing issues.

# 5:01:50 14. ADJOURNMENT

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

ERIC NELSON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. FRED CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.