Location: Rachel Carson State Office Building, Room 105, 
400 Market St, Harrisburg, Pa 17101

Meeting start time: 10:00am

Committee Meeting Attendees:
Jack Clark, PA Off-Highway Vehicle Association, Chairman
Eric Bruggeman, PA Off-Highway Vehicle Association, Secretary
Jeff Grove, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Jason Albright, DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Mike Hoffman, DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Josiah Jones, PA Travel Council
Arlene LaTourette
Karen Piego
Brad Gosser
Jacob Newton, DCNR
Brad Gosser, PA Department of Economic Development Association
Scott Bearer, PA Game Commission
Bob Monroe, Allegheny National Forest
Liz Krug, PSSA
Jim McGuire, PA Township of Supervisors
Denny Mann, PAOHV Alternate
Al Sain, PAOHV Alternate
Fred Brown
Don McClure
Stacie Amsler, DCNR, Administrative Services
Robb Miller
Danielle Papinchak

HANDOUTS:
Agenda
Snowmobile Fund Expenditures
ATV Fund Expenditures
SAAC Committee Members
October 31, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Senate Bill No. 147
Summary of Snowmobile/ATV Accidents and Safety Training

INTRODUCTIONS:
Jack Clark initiated the Snowmobile/ATV Advisory Committee (SAAC) Meeting. Committee members, attendees and guests of the meeting provided introductions.

MEETING SUMMARY

1) Review of October 31, 2018 meeting minutes:

- One clarification was noted to the minutes: Landowners that charge a fee are excluded. Some running for-profit organization for operations would be excluded but those charging fee for insurance, maintenance, taxes will not be excluded.
- Nick Troutman made a motion to accept meeting minutes and they were seconded by Eric Bruggeman

2) Mike Hoffman provided the Snowmobile/ATV accident report:

- Snowmobile accidents in 2018: 3 accidents w/ 2 known injuries and zero fatalities
- Snowmobile accidents in 2019: 4 accidents w/ 3 known injuries and zero fatalities
- ATV accidents in 2018: 137 reported w/ 90 known injuries and 34 fatalities
- ATV accidents as of May 2, 2019: 9 reported w/ 7 known and one fatality

3) Mike Hoffman provided the summary of youth safety training instructors:

- 68 youth snowmobile instructors are certified by DCNR
- 65 youth ATV instructors are certified by DCNR
- 2018 ATV Instructor Trainings were completed in Erie at end of July. As a result, 10 new instructors certified
- Bald Eagle SF office held training in early September with 7 new ATV instructors certified
- There were no 2019 ATV Instructor Trainings not held as of May 2, 2019
- Youth Safety trainings for Snowmobiles in 2018 included 2 safety classes that totaled 70 students ages 10-15
- As of May 2, 2019- one snowmobile safety class totaled 3 students, ages 10-15
- Summary for the year 2018: 132 safety classes instructed 409 students. 95 students were ages 8-9 and 314 students were ages 10-15
- In 2019- 23 safety classes were taught to 65 students. 10 students ages 8-9 and 55 were age 10-15 as of May 2, 2019

Comments and Questions for Safety Training and Statistics:

- Eric Bruggeman asked for clarification on whether any adults were trained 16 years of age or older?
- Dennis Mann questioned how the instructors should complete paperwork for the adults. **Mike Hoffman to follow-up.**
- Arline LaTourette and husband are instructors for snowmobile classes. Used to be 8hrs of material and hands-on. Concern over quality of training that's offered online for only around an hour. Jason Albright mentioned that Michael Hoffman does not have this information as yet, since he is new to his position within Forestry, but he will follow-up.
- Jack Clark clarified that online training is not acceptable for the youth. There is still a need for hands-on training for youth. Jack suggested adults should have certificate for insurance companies
- Arline LaTourette noted it has been difficult getting materials this year

4) Restricted Account Discussion:
• Jack Clark provided background on the fund split, which correlates to the number of registered ATVs vs Snowmobile registrations
• Stacie Amsler clarified the old fund originally combined Snow/ATV funds.
• A handout was provided that defined the personnel costs that were charged by Bureau, along with operating costs, but the bulk was administrative service costs.
• Bureau of State Parks and the Bureau of Forestry have small amounts for piping, culverts, and signage on trails. While fixed assets and grants also come out of this fund
• An audit is completed every other year, with 2018 being the last audit
• Anything expense can’t be determined as snowmobile or ATV related is split 15% and 85%, respectively based on license count

Comments and Questions for the Restrict Account Discussion:
• Jason Albright clarified that the fund’s operating expenses for trails and maintenance are only for state land and private land trails and maintenance would come from the fund’s grants
• Liz Krug indicated the Snowmobile fund receives less than $500,000 per year and asked where does the liquid fuels tax go? Stacie Amsler indicated those funds are separate and it is harder to spend money from the liquid fuels fund
• Brad Gosser asked if any snowmobile funds go the Allegheny National Forest and Jack Clark clarified that state provides funding for trails in Allegheny National Forest
• Stacie Amsler response that any fee increase would need to be passed by legislature.
• Registration level is next to nothing in comparison to other states
• Jack Clark indicated after the fiscal year 17/18 split, only $18,000 went to grants to snowmobiles. Driven by fact that other fund expenditures are fixed costs and grant funding comes from what is left over after funds are split

5) Sunday Hunting Discussion with Robb Miller (Governor’s Advisor for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation)
• Senate Bill 147 introduced by senator Dan Laughlin from Erie
• Would remove statute from legislation and give Game Commission authority to decide on how best to expand Sunday hunting (which Sundays and species)
• Very limited Sunday hunting in PA would be proposed. Currently, PA is in the minority as approximately 47 other states have legalized Sunday hunting.
• Robb indicated Sunday hunting a divisive issue. Did poll and found public opinion is split 50/50 in Bradford, Lycoming, Union, Sullivan, Susquehanna counties

Comments on Sunday Hunting
• Dennis Mann indicated it is PAOHV opinion that it’s up to the Game Commission on their land, however DCNR land has various special events on State Forest Land. For example, in Michaux State Forest there are approximately 32 special events per year.
• Jeff Grove indicated the Farm Bureau has concerns. Farm Bureau has oppositional view on Sunday hunting for many years. Issues coming from PA being 2nd biggest hunting state and one of the most rural states.
• Both the Keystone Trails Association and the Equine Council have expressed concerns about the legalization of Sunday hunting

6) Trespass Law
• Trespass law offenses are not considered a misdemeanor in PA where it is in other states. Believes if level raised to misdemeanor, requiring offenders to go to court would be important segment.
• Robb Miller indicated Sen. Laughlan attempting to address trespassing in this bill. Clearly makes responsibility of Game Commission officers to enforce trespassing. Believes bill is tied up in appropriations.

7) **ATV Connector Trail- Jason Albright (DCNR Assistant State Forester)**
• DCNR contract Larson Design Group back in 2017 to conduct a feasibility study for Bloody Skillet/Whiskey Springs connection
• Have consistently had requests for connector since Bloody Skillet came online back in 2006. As such, DCNR gave list of constraints consistent to those applied to any activity on state forest land
• Public involvement included 5 different stakeholder group meetings held in Lock Haven. The meetings were separated by user group.
• Larson began field work in Summer 2017 through Fall 2017.
• Two public meetings were held in the winter of 2018 to discuss Larson's conceptual route
• Jason confirmed private land ownership, state roads, and other issues needed to be addressed
• Jason updated the current Fiscal Code would require DCNR and PennDOT to cooperate to develop the proposed connection by April 1, 2020, and a more regional connection in northcentral by April 1, 2024.
• DCNR convened a group of Forestry staff to put together a route that could possibly be completed by 2020. Route was presented at October 2018 SAAC meeting. 80-90% on state forest land with approximately 5-miles on PennDOT roads. PennDOT roads are essential for the SR 144 bridge into Renovo, and northwest of Renovo along routes 120 and 144. Constrained by private landowners, a cliff face, railroad tracks, and the Susquehanna River along route 120.
• Cost Estimate for Construction - Larson Design Group estimate around $20 million while DCNR's engineer estimate at about $16 million.
• Next steps for the trail connector include continued work with State Police, PennDOT and Governor’s Office to find a way forward and work through safety concerns.
• DCNR needs to work with community, economic partners and private citizens in area for connection to be successful.

8) **State Forest Trail Projects Update**
• Haneyville trail widening project is underway in 2019
• Potato City connection opening portion of Township road along Route 6 to Forestry trail system
• Lyman Run State Park pilot project will open campground to ATVs
• Northern connector between Whiskey Springs and Denton Hill trail system will still require PennDOT assistance.
• Comments/Questions
• Al Sain commented on Haneyville trail widening for larger machines. Don't know how to size bridges due to uncertainty of future machine sizes.

9) **Penn's Parks for All Presentation - Paul Zeph (DCNR State Parks)**
• Survey was completed in summer 2017 via online and physical survey in parks.
Survey responses indicated general inappropriateness of motorized use for trails in state parks. People may not understand snowmobile aspect of trail use. High agreement from public on directing more resources for protection. Overnight accommodations and modernization of parks for RV’s, remote tent camping, larger cabins, central social halls, modernizing cabins, internet service were all requested. Gather additional input and suggestions over summer and fall before rolling up into final report for spring 2020 that will be general direction for next 25 years.

Questions on State Parks Update
- Eric Bruggeman asked if a master plan was being completed for Denton Hill and what efforts are being proposed for ATV use in area?
- Paul Zeph indicated the original plan was to return downhill skiing. However, with industry and climate change, need to have 4 season operation for financial success. Then DCNR will consider looking at broader system and what they will do for ATV users.

10) User Group Concerns
- Al Sain indicated his Indian Creek Trail Club is struggling with grant they got to build a pole building. Received grant then delivered requirements for prevailing wage rates and other requirements. Need upfront clarity on grant applications especially for construction projects.
- Grant process concerns reemphasized by Clint LaTourette and Arline LaTourette (PSSA). Their opinion from club that participates in grant program is that the process becomes arduous and they would rather not do the work for the grant in the future. Have issues when no snow during season.
- Bob Monroe (ANF) indicated he has been talking to Mike Hoffman about increasing funding amount. $250K over 5yr period is the current budget, but would like to increase to $500k. Offered to present strategic plan at next meeting. Noted that he observed several snowmobiles for sale on way to meeting due to lack of snow.
- Eric Bruggeman— any increase in registrations for accessibility devices for hunting on Game Commission lands? Scott- new to role at Game Commission, but would follow-up at the next SAAC meeting.
- Jeff Grove highlighted a point of awareness to SAAC members about rogue riders. Not many with Snowmobiles, but newer concerns with trespassing on farms creating biosecurity issues. Possible transfer of bio pathogens from one area to farms. May be point to make in educational outreach.
- Dennis Mann indicated PAOHV has simulator trainings in locations across state. PAOHV covers trespass issues among other topics. Any additional information to be passed along on bio hazards to include in future. Following the meeting, Jeff provided biosecurity information to PAOHV.
- Eric Bruggeman asked whether the Farm Bureau is still offering ATV safety training to farm community. Jeff indicated the Bureau is tasked with farm safety but not sure where ATV safety is completed. Penn State extension service also doing a lot on ATV safety training and they have an extension personnel in every county.
- Brad Gosser noted the increase in popularity of ATVs and people continuing to trespass. Brad asked if DCNR or anyone in the state have any incentives available for assistance bringing local groups or people throughout state together to develop clubs and develop trail system? Al Sain suggested to provide grant opportunities to clubs just getting started. Al’s club has 40 miles of trail and five years of financial history that goes into
grant applications. Clubs just getting started without all this information may not receive funding due to complex grant process.

- Brad Gosser suggested DCNR need to provide streamline grant guidelines for ATV projects
- A general question was asked on funding for $16-20 million cost estimate of Connector Trail. Is money coming from ATV fund or other funds available in the state, such as tourism? Jason Albright indicated the cost far exceeds anything we’ve gotten through ATV fund and will need to look elsewhere for additional sources
- Dennis Mann noted one issue that didn’t make agenda is sizing of ATVs for youth age 16 and under from Chapter 77 changes. Proper certification and warning label attached to ATV is confusing. The law stated that it used to be up to parent what size machine for youth to ride. Mike Hoffman to clarify.

11) Officer Nominations
- Option was given to either put together a volunteer nominating committee at this meeting to find officer nominees to vote on at fall SAAC meeting or vote to retain current committee offers. It was confirmed that Dr. Jack Clark, Liz Krug, and Eric Bruggeman were the previous Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively.
- Arline made motion to vote on keeping current committee officers for the next year.
- No nominations were made for any of the committee officer positions.
- Vote commenced and none were opposed to retaining Dr. Clark, Ms. Krug and Mr. Bruggeman as SAAC committee officers.

12) Next Meeting
- Jacob Newton to schedule fall SAAC sometime in October 2019 and email meeting handouts to members.

Meeting Concluded at 12:15pm