



VILAS COUNTY ATV/UTV ALLIANCE Meeting Minutes

DATE November 12, 2024
TIME 6:00pm
LOCATION PI Pub Sportsbar & Grill
 11583 CR-B
 Presque Isle, WI 54557

Attendees (“X” – Present, “A”- Absent) - BOARD

X	Ron DeBruyne, Jr	A	Kirby Giampa	X	Lisa Penner
A	Lee Hoffman				

Attendees (“X” – Present, “A”- Absent) – CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

A	Corky Sheppard – Lakeland	A	Gary Lagueux – Landover	A	Mike Potts – Northwoods
A	Darwin Lohse – Lakeland	X	Gary Penner – St. Germain	X	LJ Schmalzer - Winegar
A	Glen Gauthier – LD Flambeau	A	Matt Towne - Sayner	A	Laurie Thompson - Winegar
X	Roger Flaherty - Landover	X	Rich Hajt - Northwoods	X	Eric Linnerud – Sayner
X	Jim & Mary Thompson - Lakeland	X	Tracy Weese - Boulder		

Attendees (“X” – Present, “A”- Absent) – GOVERNMENT/AGENCIES/OTHER

A	Jason Molle – VC Rec Officer	X	Todd Bierman – VC Park/Rec	X	Holly Tomlanovich - VC
A	Sara Pearson – DNR NAHL	A	Randy Harden - WATVA	A	Hank Wozniel - WATVA
A	Ron DeBruyne, Sr. - Emeritus				

Opening	Speaker	Comments
1. Call to Order / Roll Call	Ron	Ron called the meeting to order at 6:08pm
2. Establish Quorum	Ron	Quorum established
3. Call for additional agenda items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of agenda 	Ron	<p>Lisa requested that an item be added to New Business on who will be signatories on the Alliance checking account now that Lee has resigned.</p> <p>Roger made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of the signatories on the Alliance checking account.</p> <p>LJ seconded the motion.</p> <p>All – aye</p>
4. Call for any changes or additions to previous minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of minutes 	Ron	<p>No changes or additions.</p> <p>Gary made a motion to accept the April meeting minutes as presented.</p>

			<p>LJ seconded the motion. All – aye</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term financial investments • Donation to a cause 	Lee	<p>No report this month</p> <p>General thoughts are there is not enough money in the account for investment discussions.</p> <p>There is currently \$20,181 which includes monies from the DNR which needs to be paid out to the Clubs. Normal Alliance balance is around \$2,000.</p> <p>Decision made to provide donations on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Roger brought up the role of the Alliance currently. He is questioning the necessity of it. The Snowmobile Alliance has been around forever but the ATV Alliance started around 2016.</p> <p>Holly said that the Snowmobile Alliance was created to distribute DNR checks because the county had problems with clubs cashing checks. This is also the reason the ATV Alliance was started. Holly will check to see if there is a legal reason to have the ATV/UTV Alliance.</p>

Alliance Reports	Speaker	Comments
VC Recreation Officer	Jason	No report
<p>VC Parks & Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Trail Closing Status • TINs update 	Todd	<p>See Todd’s report</p> <p>The County is going through the process of either updating the TIN process or going through with a different process. The snowmobile clubs will also need to buy into any changes.</p> <p>Town of Plum Lake – some changes are being done to the ordinance regarding signage on Hwy155. The ordinance will be for year-round riding.</p> <p>SNARS – see Todd’s report. Todd would like opinions from the Clubs on whether they would be open to using this system to track mileage for grooming. Working with the application would allow for edits to system when more than 1 piece of equipment is being used (tractor, drag, grapple).</p> <p>Off-Road Vehicle Council – Holly suggested attending the meetings, especially in June, when the grants are discussed.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage discussion (winter/summer) 		<p>Ron wanted to discuss removal of signs by county personnel. They were pulled out and not put back and no contact was made with the club involved. Todd said we should discuss with Troy Schalinske regarding this issue.</p>
DNR NHAL	Sara	<p>See report</p> <p>Hwy J to Ross Lake Road – need to talk with Robin about moving counters to that route to see what the usage is next spring.</p>
WATVA	Randy/Hank	<p>See report</p> <p>Ron mentioned over-subscribed projects. Randy said WATVA was trying to get more money for trail related projects.</p> <p>Ron talked with Hank Wozniel regarding UTV plate reciprocity state to state. WATVA is not really in favor at this time due to the funding process.</p>
Clubs		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulder Junction ATV Club 		<p>Boulder Junction ran a petition this summer regarding the use of ATV/UTV in town. The petition started in May and ran through September. The goal was to talk with the DNR about opening trails in Boulder if approved. Results were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1530 signatures total • 439 residents (full time and seasonal) • 715 visitors • 376 neighbors <p>In addition, 50 business owners signed – 45 voted yes, 5 voted no.</p> <p>On 10/22 the petition delivered to the Town Board. The Chairman signed and accepted it and the item was placed on the Town Board agenda for 11/26 at 6:30pm.</p> <p>There were 48 no votes on the petitions.</p> <p>The Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce is highly supportive of opening the roads to ATV/UTV traffic.</p> <p>Lee and Pam Hoffman have now moved to Wyoming.</p> <p>Redo on Winchester opening: Possible to move forward with a resolution saying that all county highways should open to ATV/UTV traffic with the exception of Lac Du Flambeau. This resolution is already at the Highway Department.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lac Du Flambeau ATV Club 		No report

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lakeland ATV Club 		<p>Planning Wheelin for a Cause in October 2025. Gary needs to know the exact date so reservations can be made at the Community Center.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landover ATV Club 		<p>The Club received a \$50K grant from the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce. A New Holland wheel loader was purchased along with attachments. It has a 6 position blade in front, lift forks and grapple hooks plus a rotating brush for cleaning gravel off roadways and bridges.</p> <p>Spring Fever raffle are now on sale. 200 tickets are being sold at \$100 each with the drawing in May.</p> <p>Planning on doing some winter riding as a club much like was done this year.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwoods ATV Club (Manitowish/Winchester) 		<p>Working on getting the county highways open through Winchester to Mercer.</p> <p>Rich wants a multi facet approach with sheriff, county board, Winchester board to try and change the precedent. Rich and Ron will talk more after the meeting on how to make this happen.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Germain ATV Club 		<p>Handover is done with the Snoweagles and Bo-Boens. The only issue is with Fern Ridge Hill. The Bo-Boens would like us off of it. Gary asked Todd to look at possibilities for building another trail adjacent to the Fern Ridge Hill.</p> <p>Fall Fest was good this year.</p> <p>The Club switched over from a land plane to a blade with electronics. The blade is holding up much better.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sayner Barnstormers ATV Club 		<p>Working on opening roads. No other events are planned at this time. The concern is that there are some town board members who may not run and that could bring in some people who want to stop the road opening.</p> <p>St. Germain offered to put Sayner trails on their map for 2025 to help get things started for them until they are fully up and running.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winegar ATV Club (Presque Isle) 		<p>No events coming up this winter. Pork n Ride is being held on June 7 at Lynx Lake Resort.</p> <p>The Memorial Ride is going to become an annual event. The Club had 23 machines for the first one.</p> <p>The Club is looking to add more rides this summer. They are working with Jack Bourgeois on some ideas for the Club.</p>

Unfinished Business	Speaker	Comments
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1.	Discussion on opening additional county forest roads to ATV/UTV traffic	Ron	Todd said to talk with Chad Kiernan regarding this topic. Ron says opening more county forest roads would disperse some of the traffic. Todd said to make sure there is a plan on how to maintain anything that will be opened when talking with Chad.
2.	Alliance Website – status	Lisa	The website is up and running for about 1 year now. Any changes that need to be made, send to Lisa.
3.	Winter driving expansion	Ron	More UTVs are now enclosed with heat so we need to look at expanding riding for the winter. The ATV/UTV trails would need to be separate from snowmobiling trails.

New Business		Speaker	Comments
1.	Discuss current understanding of Alliance policy on rewards for missing signage or destruction of property	Ron	Ron suggested sunseting this policy as the Alliance does not have the funds to meet this obligation. Lisa made a motion to sunset the policy. LJ seconded the motion. All – aye
2.	Communication efforts during season in-between meetings	Ron	Suggestions included quarterly/monthly updates or a third meeting mid-summer. Roger suggested sending quarterly updates to Lisa to post on the website. Schedule will be for 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March – in person meeting • June – written update (send to Lisa) • October – in person meeting Also send Lisa any events so she can update the website calendar for 2025.
3.	8700-006 Review	Lisa	Lisa reviewed the cheat sheet created by Lisa and Todd.
4.	Bylaw updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 members from same Club cannot be signatures on checks • BOD members cannot be Club reps for voting purposes • Allow Secretary & Treasurer or VP/Treasurer positions to be combined if necessary 	Ron/Lisa	Changed the verbiage to “2 Club Board members from the same Club cannot be signatories on checks.” No changes No changes Tracy made a motion to accept the bylaw updates as presented with one change. LJ seconded the motion. All - aye
5.	Future of the Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of interest/involvement 	Ron	No discussion necessary. Previous discussion earlier in the meeting determined that the Alliance remains viable as long as people stay engaged.
6.	Elections	Ron	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President – Ron DeBruyne Jr • Vice President – Kirby Giampa • Secretary – Lisa Penner • Treasurer - Outstanding 		<p>Roger made a motion to accept the slate of electors for President, Vice President and Secretary. LJ seconded the motion. All – aye</p> <p>LJ offered to do the Treasurer position for 1 year. Lisa made a motion to accept LJ Schmalzer as Treasurer of the Vilas County ATV/UTV Alliance. Gary seconded the motion. All - aye</p>
7.	Decision on Signatories for Alliance checking account	Ron	Ron DeBruyne, Jr. and LJ Schmalzer will be signatories on the Alliance checking account.

Closing	Speaker	Comments
1.	Final Comments, Questions	All Nothing further was discussed
2.	Next Alliance Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 12, 2024 • First vote on bylaws change • TBD 	
3.	Call for Adjournment	Ron adjourned the meeting at 8:18pm.