



## OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 • 4:00pm to 6:00pm

### MEETING LOCATION

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, ODC Pueblo Room  
Clark County Government Center  
500 S. Grand Central Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89155

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#### 1. Call to Order

Ms. Debbie Burgos, Chair, called the meeting of the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Advisory Committee to order at 4:00pm. A quorum was established, the following were present:

PRESENT: Debbie Burgos, *Chair*

Sue Baker            Dave DesMarais    Ken Freeman    Michael Frye

Donald Jackson    Steve Paxton        Kenny Thatcher    Ross Williams

ELECTED OFFICIAL: Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick and Commissioner James B. Gibson

LEGAL COUNSEL: Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy District Attorney

DAQ STAFF: Marci Henson, Director of Air Quality

Jodi Bechtel, Assistant Director of Air Quality

Kimberley Jenkins, Principal Environmental Specialist

Brianna Holland, Administrative Specialist

#### 2. Public Comment

Ms. Burgos asked if there were any persons present in the audience wishing to be heard.

- Robert (Bob) Adams, Legislative Officer of Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada (MRAN), submitted a letter for input into public record; Mr. Adams also spoke during public comment. Mr. Adams conveyed to the group his displeasure with the amount of OHV recreational use outlined in the lands bill (four percent). Mr. Adams also mentioned that the boundaries outlined in the lands bill fragments loop-trails which eliminates the ability to compete and degrades the recreational value. Mr. Adams urged the group not to move forward with designating the three areas up for proposal: Nelson Hills, Sandy Valley Goodsprings, and Laughlin. Mr. Adams also submitted twelve pages of publicly signed petitions opposing Clark County's lands bill, he asked that they be submitted into public record.
- Spencer Gilbert, a member of the Blue Ribbon Coalition, an OHV recreation advocacy group, stated the reason of his attendance was to emphasize the importance of the Committee to recommend resolutions that allow for the various types of OHV recreation Clark County citizens enjoy.
- Christopher Asnoran, a citizen of Goodsprings, Nevada, voiced his support of OHV recreation areas, however, mentioned his concern with the amount of OHV recreation currently occurring in

Goodsprings and the lack of a buffer between Goodsprings and the proposed Sandy Valley OHV area.

- Kody Livreri, Vice President of Silver State Trailblazers (a local dirt bike club), voiced his concerns regarding the condensed OHV recreation areas portrayed in the land's bill.
- Steve Makar, a member of the public, asked for staff to research the number of OHV's represented in Clark County; Mr. Makar thinks this information would be helpful for staff and OHV recreational users within Clark County.
- Roy Ulrich, President of MRAN, voiced his concern about the lack of land available for recreational OHV users and the impact this would have within the Las Vegas community. Mr. Ulrich said if OHV users do not have adequate land for riding, they may use areas that prohibit OHV use.
- Nicole Sharp, a member from NORVA, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to protecting public lands for public use, expressed her support in protecting public lands for the entire outdoor/recreational community and mentioned that the land outlined in the lands bill for recreational use is not enough. Ms. Sharp suggested educating the public and different organizations on protecting public land.
- Michael Spielberg, a member of the public, expressed his family's enjoyment of OHV riding in the desert. Mr. Spielberg said he would like to keep the land designated for OHV use instead of giving it away to other projects such as stadiums and community housing.
- Ms. Henson read to the Committee a public comment that was submitted in letter form from Patrick Donnelly, Nevada State Director of the Center for Biological Diversity. The letter spoke of Mr. Donnelly's concerns of the proposed areas up for OHV designation as they have not been through a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Review, a review regularly completed by the BLM in its RMPs, under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. Areas must also be coordinated with the USFWS to ensure impacts to federally regulated species are avoided. Due to Nevada not having a state-level environmental review statute, staff are not required to conduct an environmental impacts review before making decisions about recommendations to Congress for a public lands bill, thus, staff have no way of knowing factual environmental consequence of designating OHV areas. Mr. Donnelly is concerned that the Nelson Hills proposal, an area that has been designated by the USFWS as critical habitat for desert tortoises, would cause irreparable harm. Mr. Donnelly's letter states that County staff pre-selected stakeholders to endorse the public lands bill resolution and asks that the process be terminated.

Ms. Burgos closed the public comment section.

### **3. Approve Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2019 (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Burgos requested a change to the minutes; asked that the minutes reflect Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick's attendance.

The Committee motioned for the meeting minutes from January 16, 2019 to be approved.

### **4. Update the Committee on the Proposed BCC Resolution Agenda Item (For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Kirkpatrick mentioned that the BLM has received several solar applications requesting a minimum of 244,000 acres to be used for solar development. In response, the BCC submitted a letter to the BLM stating that solar applications that are in conflict with the proposed lands bill will not be supported by the County at this time.

Mrs. Henson gave a presentation summarizing what the committee voted on in the January 16, 2019 meeting – the designation of Sandy Valley Goodsprings, Nelson Hills, and Laughlin as OHV

Recreation Areas through federal legislation. Ms. Henson also clarified for meeting attendees that the OHV recreation areas being considered by the Committee would not be the only places in the County where OHV recreation would be allowed; these designations are simply meant to protect these areas from being used for alternative purposes, but OHV recreation will still be allowed throughout much of the County outside of these designations.

Based on Committee feedback, the item was pulled from being heard at the BCC Meeting on February 19, 2019.

Since withdrawing the item from the BCC agenda, the County has received letters from environmental groups requesting that minor revisions be considered.

The revisions include:

- Remove lands designated as Keyhole Canyon ACEC from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area
- Remove lands with wilderness characteristics/proposed Eldorado Wilderness from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area
- Remove the proposed Hiko Wash ACEC from the proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area

The Committee also asked for the following revisions:

- Expansion of the Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area to the south in order to include some additional trails
- Access to the existing roads in the BCCE to allow for race route connectivity
- Inclusion of the western part of the proposed Hiko Wash ACEC in the Laughlin OHV Recreation Area

#### **5. Discuss and Approve Reconsideration of Resolution (For Possible Action)**

The Committee discussed to reconsider the resolution that was drafted from the January 16, 2019 meeting. This resolution recommends the BCC to seek designation of Sandy Valley Goodsprings, Nelson Hills, and Laughlin as OHV Recreation Areas, including the completion of Travel and Transportation Plans and Recreation Management Plans, within two years of the lands bill enactment; direct County staff to seek ways to expand these recreation areas; and for the purpose of Nelson Hills, the BCC directs staff to consider ways to connect the Nelson Hills race course through the Boulder City Conservation Easement (BCCE) while not violating the easement agreement. Committee motioned to approve and move forward with drafting and re-submitting the resolution to the BCC with the revisions requested from the Committee. Staff may prepare alternative recommendations which incorporate recommendations from the environmental groups.

For the record, Mr. Freeman and Mr. DesMarais agree to move forward with the resolution, however, they both have reservations in regards to the amount of land available for OHV use.

#### **6. Upon Reconsideration, Discuss and Approve Making a Recommendation to the BCC (For Possible Action)**

No action taken.

#### **7. Discuss and Consider Recommending that the BCC Adopt a Resolution for Race Courses (For Possible Action)**

Item tabled due to the Committee not having enough time to discuss.

#### **8. Update the Committee on completed Tracking List Items**

Item tabled due to the Committee not having enough time to discuss.

#### **9. Identify Emerging Issue to be Addressed at Future Meetings**

Item tabled due to the Committee not having enough time to discuss.

## **10. Public Comment**

Ms. Burgos asked if there were any persons present in the audience wishing to be heard.

- Steve Fleming, a resident who lives in Goodsprings, asked why citizens of Goodsprings were not asked for their input on OHV use or the proposed boundary.
- Robert (Bob) Adams, Legislative Officer of Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada (MRAN), requested staff adjust boundaries to encompass race loop-trails so they are not dead-ends.
- Christopher Asnoran, a citizen of Goodsprings, Nevada, mentioned an area in Goodsprings that has been approved for a Wolf Sanctuary. Mr. Asnoran reiterated his concern with OHV enthusiasts not obeying speed limits, and thanked the Committee for their efforts.
- Roy Ulrich, President of MRAN, thanked the Committee for their efforts and emphasized OHV recreation areas are not only for racing, but for those who enjoy casually riding OHV's as well.
- Garron Burwell, a resident of Boulder City, voiced his discontent with race loop-trails that are not connected as they make for an unpleasant race.
- Arlye Weisheim, a member of MRAN, thanked the Committee for their efforts and mentioned that racing organizations are like family and are good custodians of the desert. Mr. Weisheim would like for staff to either keep and connect racing trails or look for new trails for OHV use.
- Michael [inaudible], mentioned growing up off-roading in the Jean area and talked about his interest in teaching his grandchildren how to off-road.
- Spencer Gilbert, a member of the Blue Ribbon Coalition, an OHV recreation advocacy group, stated that OHV is an 87 billion dollar industry, Mr. Gilbert provided the Committee with industry statistics.

## **11. Next Meeting**

## **12. Adjourn**