

Nov. 11,2006

## Special Committee on Wisconsin State Trails Policy

My name is Frank Trimmel. I have been a Regional Coordinator for NOHVIS-WATVA and a Langlade County Supervisor. I am currently the President of the Parrish Highlander ATV Club with a membership of 486, President of our tri-county ATV alliance of over 1000 members (L.O.L.) and Town Chairman of Parrish in Langlade County. I tell you these titles not to brag but to show my involvement with ATViing at many levels and to qualify myself as a knowledgeable witness.

At the last meeting, held in Madison, I was hoping that everyone would be honest with their presentations and that some good could come from these meetings. Therefore, I didn't address some of the very ugly aspects of the sport of ATViing. After witnessing the misinformation that I heard, I now realize that change for some people and organizations is impossible. So today I need to set the record straight.

### 1. Department of Natural Resources

The DNR offices in the north/northeast as they pertain to ATViing are nothing but a bunch of obstructionists who constantly scheme and conspire against the sport of ATViing. Why would they do this? That question used to haunt me over and over, until others pointed out to me that the DNR is and is led by green extreme thinking. Extremist that care only for plants and animals at the exclusion of certain people. Extremists that will do anything and say anything, whether it's true or not, to win. How did this happen? Children have been taught in our schools, from kindergarten through Conserve School and the university systems, that our environment comes first, before jobs and people. I contend that

you can be both stewards of the land and also serve the people.

I suggest you take the ATV program out of the hands of the DNR. Would you want your sport to be controlled by a governmental unit that has openly shown it's contempt for your sport. I have included evidence of my allegation in my testimony which I have presented to you.

## 2. Wisconsin ATV Association (WATVA)

It was suggested at our last meeting that WATVA and the DNR are the same because the DNR pays WATVA \$250,000 through a grant. During Rob McConnell's testimony he stated that WATVA does not receive any money from the grant to NOHVIS. They are the same. The grant money merely goes to an account for NOHVIS and then is controlled by Randy Harden and his family. When I was a Regional Coordinator, working for Randy Harden, he told me that "this is the first time he's had a regular monthly paycheck". Meaning his check from the DNR grant. My question. Would you disagree or go against the DNR if they paid your salary? I personally know what happens if you do disagree with the DNR.

We also heard the Vice President of WATVA talk about unobligated funds. He says that we should turn that unexpected increase in ATV registration money over to law enforcement (Sheriff Departments). Coincidentally, the DNR has been after more money for that purpose too. If that is so important let the DNR find money in their over \$1 billion budget. The DNR is so top heavy with environmental specialists that no one is left to do the work. Look around you at all the DNR representatives at this and every meeting I have attended regarding ATVing. Don't they have something constructive to do other than sit here and do nothing? There are no unobligated funds, that money is earmarked for maintenance of ATV trails, new trails and supporting

ATV amenities. Do you find it strange that Brigit, from the DNR, stated that there has been a 6% drop in ATV registration while Rob told us there has been an unexpected increase?

It is very obvious to me that draining the ATV fund it would play into the hands of the DNR. No money, no new trails. This seems to be their goal. Also the purchase of land for a new ATV park in southern Wisconsin has been suggested and that our registration money might have to be used. Another ploy to drain our fund. The state already owns enough land to provide ATV opportunities if they wanted to.

The Vice President of WATVA, Rob McConnell, who's salary comes from the DNR, is also on the Off Road Vehicle Committee (ORV). He asked that you return statutory powers to the ORV so that they could disagree with the DNR. The DNR controls the ORV too. What a smoke screen, Rob, I thought you had more integrity.

### 3. Formula for ATV funding

I gave testimony at our last meeting that there was sufficient trail maintenance money ( \$450/mi) if the money we was used as intended. Clubs should be involved in maintaining their trails at \$8/hr rather than governmental employees at \$40/hr. However, we need more money to develop new trails. We have approximately 1700 miles of ATV trails compared to 25,000 miles of snowmobile trails. That computes to 132 ATVs per mile of trail. And our sport continues to grow at a fast pace. Unless more trails are provided, more fatalities and injuries will occur. You can do something about changing that outcome. We need to change the formula for ATV funding. The formula for ATVing is out of whack. ATVers get gas tax credit for 25gal of gas/year/machine. Snowmobilers get 50 gal/year/machine. The ATV season is 11 months a year while the snowmobile season is only three months. We have more ATVs

registered than snowmobiles. The bottom line is, we need 50 gal/year/ machine so that we can build more ATV trails.

Thank You. Are there any questions?