

Sept 12, 2012 - Neillsville, Wisconsin

The Clark County Council took note of the off-road motorcycle enthusiasts attending the meeting and put the Knobby Ridge discussion as the first agenda item. Attending the meeting were 7 riders/enthusiasts, a good turnout since the meeting was at 9AM on a workday. Thanks are given to the riders attending that represented WOHMA, the Rapid Angels MC Club (Dyracuse MC Park), and individual enthusiasts. The riders came from as far away as 4 hours to attend the meeting.

A discussion was held the previous evening between a Council representative and local members of the club, to confirm the MOTR club position. Unfortunately they could not attend this meeting due to work schedules, but their comments were put into the public record.

An MOU (Memorandum Of Understanding) had been signed a year ago between the club and the Council. The goal and agreement was to rehabilitate the 6 mile loop and open it this past Spring. It turned out that the amount of work required to rehabilitate the trails was more than could be accomplished with the manpower and equipment that was directed to the task. Issues then discussed regarded mostly how the club was going to address the tasks with their limited resources.

At that point the discussion was open to public comment. It was offered to the Council that additional manpower and equipment would be provided by a number of resources outside the club. Both WOHMA and the Rapid Angels offered to put together work crews that would adopt trail sections and be responsible for rehabilitating those trail sections. Other attendees also offered to put together work crews and adopt trail sections.

An issue the past 2 years has been poor coordination of work days. They were called only days before scheduled and many riders from outside the area could not make them on such short notice. The new work crews have the option of scheduling their own work days that do not have to coincide with the clubs work days. That will make getting a group of friends together easier if they can set their own schedules. Some work days will need to be coordinated with the club when some of the more intensive fixes have to be addressed that could require machinery and muscle, such as setting blocks and adding fill on eroded hillsides. Otherwise, crews can come up as they can find time and do maintenance on their sections or as needed on the trail system.

But coordination of the efforts must be done in partnership with the MOTR club. Larry Stangfeld will be the coordinator for the rehab efforts and has to be kept in the loop on what is planned and when. He can then coordinate club resources and manpower as needed. Larry is also the contact with Brian Duell, Trails and Project Manager, Clark County Forest and Parks Department. Brian will be the liaison between the club and the Council and will determine if we have met the requirements to open the trails.

Contact info for Larry Stangfeld:

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Specific questions were asked regarding how to properly rehab the trails. Some of the crew chiefs have taken the DNR Trail Master Certification Course and will be available to provide

direction and training to those crew chiefs who need training on building and maintaining sustainable trails as well as safety issues. It was suggested that the club hold a training school or as an alternative the Trail masters could meet with interested groups to provide the training.

A trail tour will take place at Knobby Ridge on **Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012 (time tba)** with Brian Duell taking the crew chiefs around the 6 mile trail on our ATVs or dirt bikes and noting by mileage/odometer reading what has to be done at each problem area. Bring your notebooks. The tour should include all of the crew chiefs, so if you are putting together a crew of your friends then get in contact with Larry and let him know of your interest. There is no limit to how many crews can be developed.

A work day will first include working part of the day: please bring your ATV (to carry tools, water, maybe pull a small trailer to move bricks or materials) and your dirt bike to get around. After the work is done we will then ride the fixed sections to pack them down and evaluate the fixes. But no work, no play riding. The crew chiefs MUST keep records of who worked and how many hours. This info is turned in to the club and County and is used to meet the 50% match to the DNR for funds to help pay for the trail rehab materials and equipment rentals if needed.

The club needs to provide a detailed plan within the next 3 weeks on how they will be addressing the trail rehabilitation. If you can put together a crew then contact Larry with the specifics. The club also needs to know if anyone has power equipment that you will make available for your own team. Do you have a skid-steer, a small tractor with bucket, a dump cart to haul behind your ATV, do you have trail tools such as Pulaski's/Collins axes (available at Fleet farm or Ace hardware), Rouge Hoes (strong garden hoes), shovels, rakes, etc.

It would be a shame to lose this riding area, and the MOTR club needs our help to keep it open.

WOHMA has asked to adopt the last mile of the 6 mile loop. If you are interested in helping on that crew then contact me and let me know your interest. The Rapid Angels is also putting together a crew, you can contact John Lazar through the Rapid Angels MC Club web site if interested. Or better yet, get your friends together and put together your own action group.

Thanks for getting involved.

Sincerely,

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