

Update on Proposed Off-Highway Motorcycle Legislation

In December 2010, we submitted input to the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) for their use in drafting legislation to enable and regulate off-highway motorcycling in Wisconsin. Representative Mursau is the sponsor legislator whom the LRB is drafting legislation for.

In short, the legislation provides for a sticker program to allow us to generate funds to develop and sustain off-highway motorcycle trails in Wisconsin. There are other components to the legislation that are required for us to have a viable program on public lands and waters in Wisconsin. Additional detail will be covered and explained as we circulate a draft of the legislation.

During 2011, there were a lot of higher priorities in state government that left our project largely untouched for much of the year.

Near the end of 2011, we received a skeleton draft back from the LRB via Representative Mursau. This draft was not sufficiently developed to circulate as proposed legislation.

We carefully reviewed what was in the draft and did a lot more work to make it more complete and comprehensive. Part of the work involved coordinating with some members of our recreational interest group, state government personnel, and with another motorized group (ATV) that had some significant experience with developing legislation.

We also reconsidered what is best included in the statute and what is appropriate to be included in the DNR administrative code. Administrative code is a set of regulations that essentially establishes a regulated procedure for implementing a statute.

The result of the review of the skeleton draft of the legislation was that we were able to submit comprehensive input regarding the draft to Representative Mursau.

Representative Mursau is now working with the LRB to develop a more complete draft of the proposed statute. Once that draft becomes available, we will be able to more widely circulate the proposal to ensure we have the legislation that we need. We will be asking clubs and riders to review the draft so we can answer questions and ensure that concerns are addressed. It will be important that we work this draft with some agencies within the DNR to make sure we implement the best business practices that will serve us well now and in the future. We also want to coordinate with others affected by this legislation to eliminate any conflicts and hopefully garner their support.

We anticipate that our proposed legislation will be introduced in January 2013. Although it will take time to implement the law and for funds to be generated via the registration program, it is never too early to start developing potential single track motorcycle trail projects.

Feel free to address questions or concerns to the project point of contact at bryan.much@charter.net. If you e-mail me a phone number, I will be happy to contact you to discuss this matter further.

(Last Update: April 2012)