



Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association

AGENDA

Quarterly Meeting – January 30, 2011 West Branch, Michigan

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introduction of Executive Board
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. President's Report
- V. Vice President's Report
- VI. Secretary's Report
- VII. Treasurer's Report
- VIII. Membership Secretary's Report
- IX. Associate Membership Secretary's Report
- X. Web Site Administrator's Report
- XI. Boondocker Editor's Report
- XII. PR Committee
- XIII. Trail Ride Committee Report
 - a. Gitchee Gummee?
- XIV. 4WD Safety Awareness
 - a. Recently incorporated into the State's OHV Safety Awareness Program
 - i. Will teach ATV, Full-Size, Motorcycle and Side-by-Side
 - ii. State Certified to Teach following Academy Attendance
 - b. Silver Lake Opportunity this year
- XV. Land Use Report – KOTARO
 - a. Federal Land Use (NFS)
 - i. Work Savanna Ecosystem Restoration Project

GLFWDA spoke about the Savanna Ecosystem Restoration Project at the Otto Township Meeting in October. Attendance was high due to newspaper and TV coverage. The local community is NOT happy about the NFS' desire to cut 4500 acres of 120 year old trees and close the last 10 miles of roads in the area for the Karner Blue Butterfly. We have made a great many allies due to this meeting. We proposed a plan to get the roads in the Project Area put back on the CRC books as Act 51 roads.

Meetings were held with various township officials to form a "Friends of the White River" Non-Profit group so that donations could be sought to pay for legal representation to oppose the Savanna Project.

There were further discussions with township officials and Carla Boucher about how to properly include our Forest Plan Appeal points in the Savanna EA Project Comments to provide GLFWDA/UFWDA with legal "Proof of Harm" to aid our Appeal of the Forest Plan. These were included in our comments, which were written and delivered at the end of October.

- ii. Region 9 Review of the Baldwin Ranger District

Bob DeVore and Pat Brower along with the President and LUC Chairman of the Two Trackers attended the Review at the request of District Ranger Les Russell. Positive

contacts were made with several NFS persons as well as Lynn Boyde (DNRE's Director of FMFM) who were all in attendance.

iii. NFS Baldwin District ORV Route

The Two Trackers LUC scheduled a mapping day on January 29, 2011 to map possible paths for the Baldwin District ORV Route.

iv. NFS Hunting/ Snowmobiling/ ORV Ban on Semi-Primitive Areas

GLFWDA received a letter outlining the NFS actions that will take place in relation to Kurt Meister's Appeal of the forest Plan of 2006. This would ban hunting, snowmobiling and ORVing in all Semi-Primitive Areas on the NF. GLFWDA LUC will be commenting by the February 11th deadline.

b. State Issues

i. MSTAC

DNRE Staff covered Federal and State fish and game funding sources and how they're requirements impact trails of all types with most of the time was spent on the Federal Pittman-Robertson Act. Most of these funding sources are restricted use funds that can only be applied to the subject for which they were set aside (like the ORV Fund). Trails links and website locations were demonstrated, and a presentation of Tread Lightly's new Respected Access initiative was made. The 2011 MSTAC meetings will be held on 4/20, 7/20 and 10/19 at the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center (RAM Center).

ii. ORVAW

GLFWDA now holds a position on the ORVAW. The ORVAW will handle the day to day operational items in much the same way the former ORV Advisory Board did. The only difference is that they will report to the MSTAC instead of directly to the DNRE. MSTAC will have a work-group dedicated to each trail discipline; ORVs, Equestrian, Snowmobile, and Non-Motorized (Hiking and Biking).

Our first ORVAW meeting was held immediately after the MSTAC. 2011 meetings will be held on 2/9, 5/11, 8/10 and 11/9, in Lansing. Meeting location is TBD. We were also updated on what issues were before the Advisory board before it was dissolved. Safety Education and ORV Program signage were the primary two topics.

A conversation with ORVAW member John Chad of Happi-Trails ATV Club yielded two opportunities for GLFWDA. Happi-Trails is hosting the 3rd Annual Grayling AuSable Recreation Expo on May 14 and 15, 2011 and invited GLFWDA to participate. Information is available at: <http://www.happi-trailsatvclub.com/Grayling-AuSable-Recreation-Expo.html>. This should be a good opportunity to recruit members and introduce ourselves to many of the government officials in the area. The other opportunity is that Happi-Trails and several other organizations in the area are attempting to get an ORV Route designated that would travel from Grayling to the Bridge and have asked GLFWEDA participate in the effort.

iii. Gladwin Open House

The Gladwin District Open House was held to give the public the opportunity to comment about the projects the District plans to undertake in 2012. The LUC obtained numerous documentations regarding the various projects. The documents contains a great deal of information about the logging that will take place in each compartment and a map that does show the road system in each, but there is NO

information about which roads are to be closed. It was determined that this is because road closures are done on a site specific basis that will only begin when each timber sale is administered. Because dates of timber sales are weather dependent, the administration of the sale will only leave about a two week period between the inspection of the road system and the decision governing which roads are to be closed. This leaves GLFWDA little opportunity for involvement. It was suggested that the user community select which roads were most desirable send in an early request that they be kept open. These requests, however, are merely "taken under advisement". This indicates that the comments or requests don't carry any real weight and are not appealable through the current process. This process MUST be improved if GLFWDA and the public is to have ANY real affect upon the road system on State lands. The LUC will attempt to locate the project list and descriptions in the DNRE's database and post them to the website for review by the membership so that a compilation of comments can be sent to the District Manager in a timely fashion.

iv. ORV Safety Training

The new Draft of the ORV Safety Training Manual was released but still had a few issues with our suggested material. The most notable of these was the lack of any strapping information. Submissions were reissued. DNRE is concerned about liability. We have scheduled a teleconference to attempt resolution. It is GLFWDA's position that the State's liability exposure for the inclusion of strapping information is little different than what they have already accepted for their inclusion of winching information. The inclusion of information only demonstrates that the DNRE is attempting to lessen the dangers by ensuring that students are taught proper procedures BEFORE attempting an extraction with either device.

- i. DNRE has also decided to form a new ORV Safety Education Advisory Committee to provide input on all aspects of the Department's ORV Safety Education Program. GLFWDA has also secured a position on this committee as well. The seven member Committee (5 Instructors and 2 DNRE Staff) will have their first meeting at the RAM Center on January 13, 2011.

v. Stump Hill Closure

The LUC has formed a Sub-Committee to investigate the feasibility of getting Stump Hill re-opened as part of an ORV Route. Paul Hittie, Pat Brower and JR Osborne have been appointed to the Committee. Eastern U.P. District Manager Pat Halfrisch will be retiring effective January 1, 2011 and has expressed a willingness to join the Committee as a Consultant if GLFWDA desires his assistance with the issue.

vi. Lower Peninsula Citizen's Advisory Councils

Oct. 13th - Bob DeVore and Pat Brower submitted Applications and Resumes for consideration to be named a member of the Western LP Citizen's Advisory Council. Neither was named to the CACs.

vii. Trans UP ORV Trail/Route

Pat Brower attended a combined meeting of MiTrale, SORVA and DNRE to discuss progress of the Trans U.P. trail/route that has been in the works for several years now. Progress is being made, but there are still several hurdles to overcome. Lack of public ownership in several places is a big one. The NFS is another. Most of this project WILL be ORV Route available for 4x4 use. This is primarily old RR Grades, but

at least it establishes motorized travel corridors in many new areas that can be added to later if we wish. Maps are available if anyone would like copies of them.

viii. Legislation

GLFWDA will be bringing the failed Bills from last session to Senator Hansen for review. We will work with him to rework the Bills so that they can be introduced in a manner that will yield a more positive outcome. We are currently waiting for a return call from his scheduler as to a meeting date.

ix. Senatorial Route Ride

The GLFWDA LUC will be putting together a Route Ride on Drummond Island for a group of State Senators. Senator Hansen will assist with the invitation list. We will be looking for vehicles to chauffeur the Senators around the Island when the time comes. We are looking at August, but the date will depend on when activity levels are low in Lansing. We are currently waiting on a return call from Senator Hansen's scheduler as to a good weekend to host the Ride.

c. County/Local Issues

i. Monitor Oceana County Roads Project

Oceana CRC dropped over 80 miles from their Act 51 map back in 2006. The LUC is attempting to have these put back on the map. The OCRC supports the concept, but is unwilling to act until local support can be demonstrated. This will be accomplished by obtaining a Resolution of Support from each of the 16 Townships in Oceana County. These are being obtained this month. The OCRC Managing Director has expressed strong support for the measure; however the Commission has indicated a reluctance to entertain a Motion without support of ALL the Townships in Oceana County. The Commission would like to see all formerly Act 51 Certified roads in the County re-adopted. This includes roughly 133 road segments in virtually all Townships.

56th St Abandonment

GLFWDA intervened to on behalf of land owners who were considering petitioning the Oceana County Road Commission (OCRC) for Abandonment of 56th St Seasonal Road because of erosion and 4x4 damage to the hillside.

The section of road was inspected with the landowners and a plan was developed to repair the damage and put the road back on its original line. After inspection, the OCRC was contacted for approval of the plan and accepted the proposed correction. Work is to be performed in the spring of 2011.

ii. Mounds ORV Park (Rock Course) – Phase III

iii. Sullivan Twp Property Scramble Area Project

New GLFWDA LUC members Roger Maynard, Linda Molenkamp, Scott Waldron, Terry Carlson, and Michelle Borgeson have taken up a project to attempt to get the Sullivan Township property re-opened to ORVs as a scramble area.

XVI. Trail Maintenance

- a. We have not made payments to the clubs due to our not having all the required paperwork from all clubs
- b. Club Desires
- c.
- d.

XVII. Old Business

- a. Dates for Quarterly Membership Meeting 2010
 - i. (Winter) January 30, 2011 (West Branch) in Conjunction with Sno-Fari
 - ii. (Spring) April 17, 2011 (Hart) in Conjunction with Two-Trackers 13th Annual Forest Clean-up
 - iii. (Summer) Date TBD, Location TBD, in Conjunction with MS&G DOA TBD
 - iv. (Fall) Date TBD, Location TBD, in Conjunction with Troll's Fall Color Tour TBD
- b. Position Requesting a Replacement
 - i. Associate Membership Secretary
- c. Association Memberships Renewals
 - i. Tread Lightly
 - ii. UFWDA

XVIII. New Business

- a. DITA Ad
 - i. \$445 for a two-year ad in the DITA Magazine which is available in INFO Booths and Rest Areas throughout Michigan
- b. Au Sable Recreation Expo Hanson Hills Recreation Area
 - i. May 14-15, 2011
 - ii. Hanson Hills Recreation Area
 - iii. Volunteers?
- c. UFWDA Annual General Meeting
 - i. To be held June 8-9, 2011 in Little Rock, Arkansas
 - ii. SuperLift Off-Road Park Trail Ride (Post)
 - iii. Delegate?
- d. 2011 Michigan Off-Road Expo
 - i. June 17-18, 2011
 - ii. Birch Run Expo Center
 - iii. Volunteers?
- e. Clare County Off-Road Club

XIX. Club Reports

XX. Associate Members Reports

XXI. Upcoming Dates of Importance

- f. 2011 Quarterly Membership Meeting Dates and Locations
 - i. **April 17th** Hart
- g. Additional Dates of Importance
 - i. 13th Annual Two Trackers Forest Clean-up **April 17th** Twin Lakes
 - ii. 10th Annual Jeep Blessing **April 30th** Mesick
 - iii. Au Sable Recreation Expo Hanson Hills Recreation Area May 14-15th Grayling
 - iv. UFWDA Annual General Meeting **June 8-9th** Little Rock, Arkansas
 - v. 2011 Michigan Off-Road Expo **June 17-18th** Birch Run

XXII. Members Discussion