



## **NorthWoods Regional ATV Trail Alliance Meeting (NWRATA)**

- When: April 8, 2026
- Where: The 40 Club, 950 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW, Aitkin MN 56431
- Time: Social Hour Beginning at 5:00pm, Meeting starts at 6:00pm
- Call-In: Dial 605-313-5798, Enter Access Code 3337593#

### **Minutes**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

- Welcome / Introduction of New Attendees - Alliance Chair Harlan Kingsley
  - Thirty people in attendance
- Secretary Report of January 14, 2026 - Becky Tuckenhagen
  - Terry Tuckenhagen 1<sup>st</sup>, Janet Donner 2<sup>nd</sup> approved.
- Treasurer Report – Ed Schulze – 2026 Alliance Dues-April 1st,
  - Perry May 1<sup>st</sup>, Steve Ferraro 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved.
- Guest Speaker (15 minutes) TBD - none

#### **Discussion Points:**

1. April 2026 Elections (President, Secretary, County Rep.) Nominations open in January.
  - a. President – Harlan Kingsley
    - i. Perry May 1<sup>st</sup>, Terry Tuckenhagen 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved by unanimous consent.
  - b. Secretary - Becky Tuckenhagen
    - i. Harlan Kingsley 1<sup>st</sup>, Janet Donner 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved by unanimous consent.
  - c. County Rep - Chris Johnson
    - i. Steve Ferraro 1<sup>st</sup>, Fred Neumann 2<sup>nd</sup> Approved by unanimous consent.
2. Northern Off -Road Expo Participation Discussion (April 10 & 11, 2026)
  - a. Push it out on our club pages. Set-up time 1:00, need to have everything set up by 10 am Friday when Fire inspector will do a walk through. Certified instructors - bring your safety vest to help with the Safe Ride Booth if needed.
3. GIA changes for 2026 & Sponsor Meetings. See below Karine Finken

4. Grant Manager Best Practice Document comments – Perry May. See attachment.
5. Northwoods Maps for 2026. Christy Holloway
  - a. Expanding size – check your kiosk to see if it will fit. Just a ¼ size larger in width. Need information about sponsor, trail changes etc., to make sure info is on the map. Advertisement added that will encourage selfies. **Deadline April 22<sup>nd</sup>**
  - b. **See separate email reminder.**
6. ATVMN Legislative Reception summary on March 11 Summary -Dave Rogowski
  - a. It was good to show support for Pro ATV recreation. Good showing from the Northwoods. Have support from Nathan Weisenberg and others.
  - b. Appreciated the support to defeat sf1245. Be on the lookout for more Anti-ATV bills.
7. ATVMN Vision Conference summary on March 28 summary – All who attended.
  - a. Again, biggest result there is not enough money. Talked about Opt-In to make contribution when getting a license. If it happens, it will go directly into out GIA maintenance fund.
  - b. What qualifies as an ATVMN club? It might soon be that club officers would have to be a member of ATVMN. This has yet to be determined.
  - c. Bruce Lawrence – enforcement. June retirement.
8. New 2026 Selfie Stations for Rapid Riders, White Pine Riders, Axtell, Evergreen PAC replacement. Still in the works.
9. Date for Axtell Jamboree – September 26, 2026.
  - a. Suggestion to have some type of friendly game/competition to get people more involved.
10. ATVMN Ride and Rally Sponsorship?? Perry May made a motion to do Half Throttle Sponsorship \$1000, Janet Donner 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved. Comes with 2 meal and event tickets. Alliance will pay for the sponsorship.
11. Solana State Forest proposal.
  - a. Chris Johnson is still waiting on approval for designated atv trail. Karine Finken – still waiting on approvals on state forests as a whole. OHV state forest planning. Still going through the process. Will need to go out for public comment. Solana is part of that process. Hopefully, another year but not counting on it. Solana – county part can do their part.
12. Trafx trail counter data share with DNR
  - a. can we have a master trail counter list, so we know where trail counters are and are not to avoid overlapping or duplicates. Get info once a year. Perry to head up what type of data, locations, what to do with data afterwards. It also tracks trends. Different type of counters. DNR will share the data once we have goals.
13. DNR Update – Karine Finken
  - a. moving into next year no new funding for new trail development. Focusing on existing trails, safety etc. until some sort of funding changes or license increases to get more

funds. GIA awards should come out in next week or two. Fun extras like picnic table, shelters, etc are not being funded this year. New GIA requirements for RFR's DNR will monitor any club that got 50k or more. Also, a percentage of clubs will be picked at random to review trails.

b. Thanks to all who attended the GIA workshop and the sponsor workshops.

### **Aitkin County updates:**

- Widseth Smith Nolting (WSN), and Mille Lacs East Side ATV Trail work
  - Contractor Services were chosen for project with lowest bid to Big Wolf. Siteworks @ \$640k.
  - Aitkin county is building the puncheons on the Trail section to keep costs within budget.
  - Trail as of 4/1/2026 was grubbed out and awaiting further work after the ground dries and areas are reachable with equipment.
  - Major Construction will start when Road restrictions go off in Mid May. On task to be completed with Phase 1 by Fall hopefully 10/1/2026
  
- ATV Dedicated Fund Grants 1 & 2 updates /deadlines Fund #2 Amounts left:
  - Deadline for Submitting Bills 5/15/2026. **Please contact Chris Johnson to find out your remaining balance in funds**
  
- **Club / Trail Updates – All**
  
- **Aitkin County** – (Rabey, Rat Lake, Soo Line, Axtell)
  - Rabey line – Awaiting funding for 2026 to begin work on large holes that are developing again on the trail. Rental of a track hauler will be looked at. If other clubs have track hauler work, we may be able to pencil in use as well.
  - Soo lines – New grader has been serviced. Will be looking to clear trees and over hanging branches (to not take out windows on the machine) in the next couple of weeks. Hoping to get after grading ASAP.
  - Axtell – Will be opening as soon as the weather warms up and the Soo lines dry up enough for OHVs to traverse. Looking into putting up a shelter.
  - Rat Lake Trail – We will be focusing the 2026 GIA season into the Hwy #3 section of the Trail to fix all of the washout and mud hole areas or at least until funding is expended.
  - DNR roving crew not available this year.
  - 62 plus miles of Soo Line that the county grades, trying to stay on a 2 week turn-around.
  
- **Blind Lake ATV Club** – (Blind Lake Loop & Connector) Bob Schaefer.
  - Anxious to get out, see how logging affected trail. Moving newest shelter to a different location. General maintenance, grading.
  
- **Central Lakes** - Crow Wing Southern Loop, Fort Ripley, Ripley Connection – no presence

- **Cuyuna Iron Range Riders** – Miller Black Bear, Mississippi North woods. Andrew Suchla.
  - Working on reroute. Brandon ride July 25th
- **Eagle Country** - (North Soo Line /Cass County) no presence
- **Evergreen PAC** - (South & North Soo Line) Carlton County Fred Neumann.
  - Safety training May 2nd
- **Mille Lacs Drift Skippers** - (Red Top, Foxy, South Soo Line) Steve Dubbs.
  - 2 miles of Soo line trail resurfacing. Trail days April 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Milles Lacs Trails Inc** – (Mille Lacs East) Chris Johnson. still in process
- **Northwoods Quads** – (Hill City, Moose River Connector) Harlan Kingsley.
  - Not much yet. Youth safety April 25<sup>th</sup>. Logging in areas, gravel stockpiled.
- **Over the Hills Gang** – (Emily/Outing/Moose River, Emily /Blind Lake) Perry May.
  - Youth safety May 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>, Pork n Ride. Winter riding was nice riding this year. Not much winter riding activity on trails after Getting Loose on the Moose. Puncheon replacement south of Emily is ongoing.
- **Pine Center Sportsman’s Club** – Pine Center Trails Steve Alberg
  - Youth safety training. Working on signage. Waiting for signs.
- **Rapid Riders** – UPM Blandin Trail Jerry McKnight.
  - Class 5 on east side of Hwy 200, did west side last year. Youth training June 9 and July 18<sup>th</sup>. July 15<sup>th</sup> Life Options help with disabilities ride.
- **Up North Riders** - (Lawler Loops) Fred Neumann.
  - Regular maintenance, erosion problems, rock to be put down. Had our ice ride on Valentines Day 250 people. warm weather helped even though power went out. Always an adventure.
- **White Pine Riders** - (Solana) Dave Rogowski.
  - Safety training April 25<sup>th</sup>. Fifty puncheons to do, lumber ordered. Eight members of club going to Moab in April.

### **Open Forum**

- HF4806 introduced in house today (4-8-26) for increasing weight to 3500 lbs.
- Sara Thompson-Itasca County
  - A lot of work along with state and federal funding going into our trails. Need to get ahead of the antis and find out why they are against it.

Sara is involved with the Greater MN Parks and Trails. There may be Community Grants available for application for trail maintenance and such. Good legislature is in the works to hopefully increase the cap on those grants. Contact Sara Thompson to get more information about these grants.

[sara.thompson@co.itasca.mn.us](mailto:sara.thompson@co.itasca.mn.us)

**Next Alliance meeting 7/08/2026**

**Adjourn** Terry Tuckenhagen 1<sup>st</sup> Jeff Tidholm 2<sup>nd</sup>, adjourned.