

Indiana Four Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA) Meeting Minutes  
 Date of Meeting: March 16, 2018  
 Location of Meeting: Turkey Run State Park Inn, Dogwood Room

Officers present

X	Jason Bradburn, President	X	Jim Fugit, Membership
X	Lynn Smale, Vice President	X	Ryan Sweeney, Environmental/UWFDA Delegate
X	Annette Wheatcraft, Treasure	X	Steve Guzior, Public Relations
X	Tish York, Secretary		

Clubs present

X	Fat Boys Jeepers	X	Monroe County 4x4 Club
X	Hoosier Wranglers	X	Northwest Indiana Jeepers
X	JP Frog Off-Roaders	X	Offroad Trail Rods
X	Independent (2)	X	Safe Wheelers of All Kinds (SWAK)
		X	Southern Indiana 4x4 Club

Quorum Present: Yes

**Previous meeting minute review**

Presenter: Tish York

Minutes were reviewed from the last quarterly meeting on November 11, 2018 at Twin Peaks in Indianapolis.

**Treasurer Report**

Presenter: Annette Wheatcraft

- There is currently \$8,927.45 in the bank account.
- IFWDA website is worth keeping. There was an increase in website visitors with 2.5k visitors and 214 poste engagements.
- The August 2-4 Interlake Event Flyers are available. Annette will be taking deposits during the convention.

**Membership Report**

Presenter: Jim Fugit

There are 11 new independent members.

## Public Relations Report

Presenter Jason Bradburn

Steve Guzio has been appointed as the new public relations officer.

## Environmental Report

Presenter Ryan Sweeney/Ben York

Environmental report:

- (Ben York) The DNR reported at the March Trail Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting that Redbird would be closing on March 11<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated to be reopened in June/July. Volunteers are encouraged to help with trail cleanups and trail signage.
- Jason Bradburn motioned to have two Environmental Representatives. Ben York was appointed as the second Environmental Rep.

## DNR Discussion

Presenter Carman Jackson, Property Manager, Indiana DNR, Interlake and Redbird SRAs

- Adopt a trail program – there was very low involvement from the groups included. Only one group was coming out for maintenance of trails. With trails being renumbered, the decision was made to remove the program. If anyone has any additional questions regarding the trail adoption program, please reach out to Carman.
- Redbird SRA is not solely devoted to offroad use. Offroad use is to remain as the primary use. There is an opportunity to use all the land at Redbird, but a lot of it is not able to be used for offroading. There is dedicated money from grants for offroad use. If Redbird were to close or remove offroading, Redbird SRA would have to repay that grant money.
- There are 700-800 acres of land that can be used for offroad use. The remainder of the property is too sensitive. Redbird used to be used for coal mining – wash and load. Under the green is tons of coal. There is millions of dollar of reclamation that needs done. Redbird is on the second phase of hydrology. The water in some areas has a 1ph. This is not something that vehicles or horses can be in! These areas cannot be used for vehicle or equestrian use, but are great for hunting, hiking, and fishing. In order to get hunters, hikers, and fishers to those areas, there must be paved access. This paved access has been in the Master Plan and will be funded through Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). Redbird won over 3 other properties to get this funding and received more money than expected.
- The Master Plan includes moving the gate house. The design plan will have Redbird set up similar to Interlake. This setup will allow Redbird to be used at its full potential. Long term, Redbird will have camping, which will likely be in the current parking lot.
- Redbird trail improvements – Redbird is currently closed to ALL recreation. During the last design meeting, redbird was informed that they had to close. Pre-construction meetings expected 4-6 months of closure. This was moved to 3 months. Redbird only has a crew of five. Since there is no revenue at this time, Redbird will remain at winter staffing levels. It is tough to meet goals

with minimal staff. DNR staff is going to focus on Trail 3. Redbird is seeking volunteers and volunteer days to work on the remainder of the property. Looking for small teams with projects. Reach out to Carman if there is any suggested projects. One major project is Bertha's Hill.

- Although Redbird is closed, Interlake is open. With 3500 acres of modest to moderate and even extreme trails. Interlake was a former mine. There has been more reclamation and it is diverse. There are 50 dual track miles and 45 single track miles. There are new Porto john facilities on the north end. There is also a new section of trail – trail 6 that will be opening soon.
- Due to the closure, there will not be a Hi-lift event this year.
- Redbird will be open for Hallo-wheeling. Hallo-wheeling is Redbirds largest event. There is a night ride and Halloween displays. Very fun event for families. Redbird Foundation is always looking for volunteers and help with this event.
- The Trail Advisory Board (TAB) is a federally mandated board. The board members are appointed by the director of the DNR. Without this board, RTP money would not go anywhere. The next TAB meeting will be held June 20<sup>th</sup> at Interlake SRA. This is open to the public.

### Upcoming Events

Presenter

Jason Bradburn

- May 18<sup>th</sup>, Spring Fling in Chesterton, IN. IFWDA meeting will be held at the Wilson Shelter. NWIJ will be having a cookout.
- June 5<sup>th</sup> – Jeff Wheatcraft Memorial Run. Hosted by Southern. Wheeling will be on private property.
- August 2-4 IFWDA quarterly meeting at Interlake. Event flyers passed out during the convention. Will be posted online soon.

### Walk-In Items

Presenter

Jason Bradburn

- Pledge of Allegiance will be added back into the meetings. Jason led the Pledge of Allegiance.