



AITKIN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

307 2nd St NW Rm 216
Aitkin, MN 56431
Telephone (218) 927-7284

MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

July 21, 2021

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
c/o Jessica Seibert, County Administrator

The Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) supports allowing Class 1 ATV's on road surfaces in the same manner as Class 2 ATV's. Removing ATV traffic from ditches will lessen erosion of the ditches and road approaches and will reduce negative surface water quality impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Janzen".

Bob Janzen, Chair

Aitkin County SWCD

Sarah Olsen

From: mcgregoracehardware@scicable.com
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Highway
Subject: ATV Board meeting / McGregor Ace Hardware

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of the Aitkin County Mail System -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Aitkin County,

As an Aitkin County business operator as well as an Aitkin County resident I am sending this email to voice both my personal support and my business's support for the ATV ordinance change to allow class 1 ATV's on county roads. I believe having Aitkin County fall in line with surrounding counties on this ordinance would benefit everyone while also making it safer for ATV riders. Also, with the SOO Line and Axtell riding course being so close to McGregor - ATV riders do shop at and help support not only my business but all the business's in and around McGregor as I'm sure is the case in and around Aitkin as well. The popularity of the sport is growing more and more every year so I believe having Aitkin county be less restrictive to ATV riders would have more positive results then negative ones in our county.

My business address is:

22055 Sate Highway 210

McGregor, MN 55760

My Home address is:

48634 204th Ave

McGregor, Mn 55760

Thank you for your time and consideration,

--

Brent Nagengast
General Manager
McGregor Ace Hardware
Store # 17340
218-419-2920
mcgregoracehardware@scicable.com

Carol Johnson

From: Kay Ferrian <ferriank@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Highway
Subject: Class 1 ATV Ordinance

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of the Aitkin County Mail System -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hello. I am writing in support of changing the ordinance to allow Class 1 ATVs to ride on the inside ditch of county roads as opposed to the outer ditch. Aitkin County is surrounded by counties that make it easier and safer for their riders; it is unfortunate that we do not.

Kay Ferrian
20892 508th Lane
McGregor, MN 55760
763-913-9859

Carol Johnson

From: Rex Bowman <1bowmanland@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 10:52 AM
To: Highway
Subject: Proposed ATV Ordinance Change

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Rex Bowman land owner in Aitkin County

I fully support the proposed changes to the ATV ordinance for Class 1 atvs. I see only benefits from these changes. It will be safer for riders. Less environmental damage to ditches especially during wet conditions. This also will help lessen damage to land owner driveways. This also puts Aitkin County in alliance with surrounding counties ATV ordinances. This is a win for everyone. Riders will be safer and no confusion on rules when crossing the county line. Reduces erosion issues in ditches. Simplified rules for law enforcement. Promotes tourism. Helps businesses.

Carol Johnson

From: DAVID Sisson <dwsisson83@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Highway
Subject: Comments on the ATV ordinance proposal

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of the Aitkin County Mail System -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Aitkin County Highway Department,

We support the proposed changes to the All Terrain Vehicle ordinance that will be discussed at the public hearing on July 27, 2021. We do not expect to attend the public hearing, and would like to share our perspective through this message.

We believe that ATV's should be allowed to operate on the shoulder of paved county highways, or on the right side of the highway where the shoulder width is inadequate. We also believe that adopting the proposed changes would be beneficial to our county.

Not all county highways can be used under the present ordinance. It is often difficult, or even impossible, to ride on the outside slope of the roadway ditch. The roadway ditch is often interrupted by private residence driveways which can be difficult to negotiate safely. In these cases, it may also be inconsiderate to the home owners along the highways as tracks may be left before their properties and on their driveway slopes.

With the surrounding counties allowing operation on the shoulder, Aitkin County is at a disadvantage for growing tourism. ATV use appears to be steadily increasing and, by being more restrictive of their access, Aitkin County is not fully sharing in the potential economic growth. The proposed ordinance change would level the playing field for our county businesses.

In summary, we support the proposed ordinance changes allowing ATV operation on the side of county highways. We believe that this change would be beneficial to ATV operators, private residences and county businesses.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this proposal.

David and Leslie Sisson

20284 501st Lane

McGregor, MN 55760

dwsisson83@msn.com

Cell number 612-865-6363

Carol Johnson

From: marc@wiebusch.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Highway
Cc: eschulze46@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed ATV Ordinance Change(s)

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of the Aitkin County Mail System -- **DO NOT CLICK** on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Aitkin County Highway Department,

I am overall in favor of the proposed changes to the current ATV ordinances.

- * The current ordinance is inconsistent with many of the surrounding counties.
- * The proposed changes would allow riders to ride more safely. Along many county highways the outer slope and ditch has many obstacles and an inconsistent, often dangerous slope.
- * The proposed changes would make it easier for Class 1 ATV riders to protect the environment by providing a legal way to avoid wet and swampy areas. These sensitive areas must be protected whenever possible to prevent long term negative impact.
- * The proposed changes would further encourage tourism in the area. Snowmobiling use to provide a steady stream of tourism in the winter months to Aitkin county but in more recent years weather patterns have made this tourism inconsistent.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have or if you need any further suggestions or clarifications.

Best Regards,
Marc Wiebusch
Marc@Wiebusch.com
763-234-9994

31008 290th Place
Aitkin, MN 56431

July 27, 2021

RE: ATV ORDINANCE

Dear Board of Commissioners for Aitkin County:

We are in support of the ordinance to allow Class I and Class II ATVs to ride on the shoulders of ALL county roads in Aitkin whether they are gravel or tar.

It would be less confusing for our tourists that come to use our trail systems that are connected by many county roads. We fully understand the safety issues and our club, Up North Riders of McGregor, continue to work on safety signage, educating the riders on the laws, and youth training in support of zero deaths.

More businesses would be connected. Right now there are many that you can't get to on an ATV trail. The clubs have worked very hard to create more connecting trail systems, but passing this ordinance is the best solution.

As you know, we do not have the snowmobiling industry that we had in the 70s. My cousin, Duane "Greasy" Tibbetts, once owned a very profitable business called the Sled Shed in Aitkin. Due to climate warming, it is doubtful that industry will ever be the same. Many have migrated over to ATVs. We need Aitkin County to work with the ATV community to build the commerce as strong as the snowmobile industry once was.

COVID, and catch and release on Mille Lacs has also left our businesses unprofitable and in need of the tourism support more than ever.

It is our request that Aitkin County **join other surrounding counties** in support of our ATV industry and this ordinance is how you get it done.

Thank you for your consideration and our apologies we could not attend as we had a family event that took precedence.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of Glenn P. Monson and Denise M. Monson in cursive script.

Glenn and Denise (Dee) Monson

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: July 27, 2021

Name	Please check the boxes that apply.		
	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – please list.
TODD BROWN	Y		
JIM WHITE	Y	N	AITKIN Co. SEARCH & RESCUE
Dan Gureb	Y	Y	ACSO
Franklin Turnock	Y		
Darbene Turnock	X		
TERRY TUCKENHAGEN	X		
FRED NEUMANN	X		
DEBBIE NEUMANN	X		
Paul Wiechert	X		
HARLAN Kingsley	X		
EDWARD SCHULZE	X		

