

ROCK COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.

Rock County Sheriff's Office – Small Conference Room

The 3rd quarter meeting of the Rock County Traffic Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at the Sheriff's Office at 9:00AM.

In attendance: Ben Coopman, Barbara Abraham, Mike Flesch, Brian Zaemisch, Hank Brill, Ryan Mayer, Corey Foster, Madelyn Glaeden, Jeff Kuglitsch, Barry Irmen, Brad Altman, Dennis Ryan, Gary Groelle, and Shena Kohler

Absent: Tom Dunkin, Robert Spoden, Jude Maurer, Patricia Swartout, Tom Boguszewski

Capt. Groelle called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Barbara Abraham motioned to approve the minutes of July 15, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mike Flesch. Motion passed unanimously.

Fatal accidents reviewed (in order of viewing)

- **August 1, 2015** – 2 vehicles at W. CTH C and N. Pleasant Prairie Rd. – RCSO investigation. Video reviewed. No alcohol or drugs used per ME. 2 fatalities. Failure to obey traffic control signal identified as contributing factor.
- **September 21, 2015** – 1 vehicle at S. CTH K and W. Hafeman Rd. – RCSO investigation. Video reviewed. Alcohol use confirmed per ME. 1 fatality. Failure to have control and failure to use safety restraint were contributing factors.
- **September 15, 2015** – 2 vehicles at Milwaukee Rd. and Morgan Terrace. Beloit PD investigation pending. Video reviewed. Investigation ongoing. 1 fatality. Per DOT investigation, speed was likely a contributing factor.
- **August 29, 2015** – 1 vehicle and 1 bicycle at Milwaukee Rd. and Willowbrook Rd. Beloit PD investigation. Video reviewed. Alcohol and drugs were used per ME. 1 fatality.

Old Business

Reference May 18, 2015 crash – Ryan Mayer reviewed the data on the area of W. STH 11 and N. CTH H per the committee's request. Ryan said there was only one fatality in the last six years, which does not raise a red flag at this time. No corrective actions at this time.

Reference history of unique crashes – Barbara Abraham requested Ryan Mayer provide data on unique fatal crashes in Rock County over the past several years. Ryan

identified 76 fatal crashes in Rock County between 2010 and 2014 and distributed the committee with a map identifying the sites of the crashes. Ben Coopman noted that a number of the crashes did not occur at roadway intersections.

Gary Groelle noted that there have been 15 fatal crashes thus far in 2015, with 16 deceased as a result. This is an increase from 2014, when there were 11 fatal crashes, with 13 deceased year-to-date.

New Business/Public Input

Beacon Lights - Ben Coopman asked the committee what the municipalities used to mark school zones. Dennis Ryan explained that the city of Janesville uses beacon lights for all new schools. The committee discussed the use of beacon lights. Ben mentioned that the Town of Beloit has asked his assistance in acquiring beacon lights.

Signage at E. US HWY 14 and MM/Ruger Ave - Hank Brill discussed his concerns regarding signage on E. Highway 14 near MM/Ruger Ave. in Janesville. Hank suggested signage indicating that there should be signage indicating "merge right". Ryan Mayer has been asked to look into this concern regarding the signage in the area of MM/Ruger and E. Highway 14.

DOT Fatality Crash Data Review - Corey Foster followed up on fatality crash data as mentioned by Gary Groelle. Corey said there were 450 fatalities so far this year in Wisconsin, which is 63 more than this time in 2014. Per Corey, the DOT is conducting an analysis to look at the prevention of these incidents.

DOT Highway Safety Plan - Corey reported that the DOT Highway Safety Plan is used to identify funding needs and the DOT is asking for more input from the counties in updating the plan going forward. Corey said they would like to develop a work group and select an entity to serve as a facilitator to identify problems and determine optional remedies in Rock County. Anyone that is interested in participating should contact Corey.

DOT BOTS Traffic Safety Committee Efforts – Corey said BOTS (DOT Bureau of Transportation Safety) has initiated a focus on improving county Traffic Safety Commissions across the state. The initiative is aimed to develop baseline Best Practices Guidelines and to aid counties in building their committee membership and involvement. Corey distributed an article regarding Traffic Safety Commissions and a brochure titled, "Setting Appropriate Speed Limits on Wisconsin's State Highways". Brad Altman noted concerns regarding the need to restrict large semi-trailers to the two farthest right lanes on I-90 once the corridor is extended to four lanes on each side in Rock County. Brad suggested the committee address and push for this restriction.

DOT Partnership with Amish Communities – Corey mentioned that the DOT is working with the Amish communities on driver safety and the current development of a driver's manual. The DOT would like to extend the partnership to other counties in Wisconsin.

DOT TIME Meeting – The next TIME meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2015 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Edgerton WisDOT SW Region I-39/I-90 Project Office, located at 111 Interstate Blvd., Edgerton WI 53534.

Set Next Meeting Date – 4th Quarter Review

The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Committee will be held in January 2016 at the Rock County Sheriff's Office (large conference room). Patricia Swartout will provide committee members with the date of the meeting once scheduled.

Adjournment

Jeff Kuglitsch motioned to adjourn the meeting. Barb Abraham seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgt Shena Kohler #11519