



### COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Columbia County Law Enforcement Center  
Basement Training Room  
February 8, 2019 @ 9:30 a.m.

#### MOVING FORWARD WITH SAFETY

#### MEMBERS

Robert Andler  
Jerry Blystone  
Michael Brouette  
Roger Brandner  
Joe Davis  
James Foley  
Chris Hardy  
Richard Hoege  
Sgt. Todd Horn  
Kenneth Hutler  
Kathy Johnson  
Scott Klicko  
Avis Link  
Ryan Mayer  
Chuck Miller  
Margaret Rudolph  
Joseph Ruf  
Sgt. Mike Vasquez  
JoAnn Wingers

#### MISSION

Columbia  
County  
strives to  
make our  
roads the  
safest they  
can be.....

**Commission Members Present:** Sgt. Todd Horn, Chris Hardy, Ken Hutler, Chuck Miller, Joe Davis, Sr., Ryan Mayer, Michael Brouette, Kathy Johnson, Roger Brandner

**Commission Members Absent with Notice:** James Foley, Robert Andler

**Commission Members Absent:** Margaret Rudolph, JoAnn Wingers, Joe Ruf, Jerry Blystone, Richard Hoege, Scott Klicko, Sgt. Mike Vasquez, Avis Link

**Guests:** Trace Frost (BOTS), Erin Salmon (Village of Pardeeville), Bob Becker (Village of Pardeeville), Keith Miller (District 19 Fall River), Brad Allen (Portage Daily Register), Ron Huebner (Town of Fountain Prairie), Gus Knitt (Pardeeville School District), Tom Borgkvist (District 3)

**The meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Sgt. Todd Horn. Introductions were made by all present. An attendance sheet was distributed.**

***Motion by Miller to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Hardy. Motion carried.***

***Motion by Hardy to approve the November 9, 2018 meeting minutes with corrections. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.***

***Correction #1: OLD BUSINESS, #3 should read: Intersection of CM and CX for potential signing options, particularly travelling westbound on CM to turn southbound on CTH CX***

Chris Hardy conducted a traffic study (results attached) and gave an overview of the outcome of the speeds in all directions, 15 accidents over the last 10 years, **and one fatality that was located south of the intersection, not at the intersection.** It was decided by the commission, that no changes were needed.

***Correction #2: FATAL CRASH should read:*** Sgt. Todd Horn presented information on the triple fatal crash that occurred on State Highway 127 and CTH O. He also presented a slide show which included a map of the area. The crash was a T-bone crash from failure to stop at a 4 way intersection. **The intersection is signed and has rumble strips.** The three fatalities were not wearing restraints and OWI and THC were in their system. The area was shut down completely for the

crash investigation. Communication was great between police and fire. The driver of the Silverado pickup that hit the vehicle was also cited for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI).

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Stop sign at CTH DG and Fields Road. Concerns about placement and if signage is needed (Supervisor Keith Miller)**

Sgt. Horn displayed a video of the area of concern. Keith Miller explained the situation and the difficulty of moving farm machinery in this area. Discussion. Chris Hardy distributed and gave the speed study results. Average speed was less than 30 mph in this area. Chris also explained the driveway hazard on corner and discussion will be made with the farmer regarding removing it. Crash data (2) does not warrant a change to any signage in this intersection. A motion to take no action at this time was made by Horn and seconded by Chuck Miller. Motion carried.

**2. Recent Flooding in Columbia County Review**

Kathy Johnson gave an overview of the August-September 2018 flooding issues in the Highway 33 area, (City of Portage and Town of Caledonia) and included that a bridge was replaced by culverts several years ago. Johnson discussed the meeting that was scheduled with the local citizens and businesses on Highway 33, Columbia County Highway Department, Columbia County Emergency Management, with the DOT (Department of Transportation) to express their concerns about the flooding issues that continue in this area regularly over the last few years. Chris Hardy explained that DOT Maintenance is going to review the culvert replacement and see what can be done. Hardy also explained an area of concern within the Fish & Wildlife area. DOT & DNR both had drones up during the flooding surveying the area. Joe Davis, Sr. explained that the State Patrol now has a drone program up and running with five drones, trained pilots, and is a resource to all local law enforcement.

**3. STH 22 Construction for 2020 to continue to place six-foot paved shoulders for buggy traffic from CTH CM to possibly STH 33**

Ryan Mayer explained that the design process is ongoing and DOT will decide to pave 5' and rumble strips or 6' shoulders. Discussion continued regarding Amish buggy usage on Highway 33, Highway 44, and Highway 22. Mayer stated that 6' shoulders for Highway 22 is still in the plan. Final plans are due August 2019 for this project.

**4. Review area and eastbound traffic on CTH V and STH 188 for a School Bus Stop Ahead sign**

A Google Map of area was displayed. The public would like to see a School Bus Stop Ahead sign placed. Chris Hardy distributed and gave an overview of the speed study and the average speed in this area was 27 MPH. Hardy spoke with the resident on the corner regarding cutting the pine trees and they were not interested in removing them. Hardy reviewed the whole situation and stated that the stopping distance is good and no need for a sign. Hardy made a motion to leave as is and not place a sign. Horn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**5. Review intersection of East Albert Street and East Cook Street/STH 33 in the City of Portage**

Sgt. Horn explained the intersection. Chuck Miller gave crash history of six crashes in 2018, that there is heavy traffic on both Albert Street and Highway 33, hard to see over guardrail, maintenance of clearing shrubbery is good, guardrail is so close to highway between the Columbia County Jail and Albert Street on Highway 33, Meigs causes more semi traffic in area off from Superior Street, more traffic will come off of Wauona Trail later this year as this will be the detour off Wisconsin Street during construction, and he would like to see traffic slowed through this area. There was discussion regarding the traffic congestion in the area on Highway 33 near the Fort BP and County Highway EE. County Highway EE

formerly ran behind the Fort Tavern (n/k/a Fort BP) off from County Highway F years ago. Sgt. Horn stated he would like to see a speed study completed through this area later this year. Ryan Mayer distributed a Collision Diagram & an Intersection Crash Rate Worksheet and explained that there is not much DOT can do. Chuck Miller made a motion to propose the speed limit be lowered from 45 MPH down to 35 MPH from the Columbia County Jail to 500 feet east of Superior Street on Highway 33. Sgt. Horn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Fair Booth**

Sgt. Horn stated that the TSC could have a booth free for the 2019 Columbia County Fair and suggested it be tabled until the May 2019 meeting. Horn made a motion to table it to the May 2019 meeting. Chuck Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **2. Hazardous Bus Route Study, Village of Pardeeville – East LaFollette Street from Main Street (STH 22) to the Pardeeville Elementary School**

Sgt. Horn displayed a video of the area and explained the areas and concerns. The street has white painted markings along the edge of the street where children are expected to walk. Some area has curb and gutter and some does not. When snow covered, painted lines cannot be seen. Horn suggested curb, gutter, and sidewalk be installed in this area. No motion was needed from the Traffic Safety Commission as this was information only. DOT suggested the school talk to them as they have people that work on these types of situations and there may be Safe School Grants available, but very competitive.

### **3. Review the hill portion on STH 22 near Cuff Road for guardrails**

Sgt. Horn displayed a video of the area. Ryan Mayer stated that the designers would have looked at the slope and depending how it was designed guardrails may not be necessary. Mayer to check with the designers of the project. This will be tabled until the May 2019 meeting.

### **4. Review the STH 16/Portage exit ramp off of I39 North for yield sign**

Sgt. Horn displayed a video of the area. Ryan Mayer to check to see if yield sign can be placed.

### **5. Review area of Cascade Mountain Road at Fox Glen on the Baraboo River for a possible guardrail or security cable**

Sgt. Horn displayed a video of the area. Discussion. A motion was made by Sgt. Horn to send an advisory letter to the Town of Caledonia to install a guardrail or security cable in this area. Chuck Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried. A letter will be drafted and sent to the Town of Caledonia.

### **6. Highway Presentation: Snow & Ice Control Policy**

Chris Hardy gave a power point presentation regarding the Snow & Ice Control Policy Columbia County now has in place as well as the a Field Operations Policy for the Columbia County Highway Department staff. The Highway Department covers all of Columbia County roads except for the Towns of Dekorra and West Point. The department consist of 49 snow plow routes with 54 drivers in which five of these are on the Interstate and Highway 151 at all times during a storm. Chris explained the different road systems, hours for employees, materials used depending on weather situation, and requirements for road cleaning. The Snow & Ice Control Policy will be placed on the Columbia County Website for the public to view soon.

## **FATAL CRASH REPORT**

- Trace Frost gave the fatal crash statistics. Statewide there have been 43 fatalities compared to 63 last year at the same time. Preliminary statistics show that Wisconsin will have had 576 in 2018 which is down from the 594 in 2017 and 588 in 2016. Columbia County had 11 fatalities in 2018 which is up 1 from the 5 year average of 10.
- Trace Frost stated that the Governor's Conference will be on August 20-22, 2019 at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

## **TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND TRAFFIC SAFETY INPUT**

- Joe Davis from BOTS stated that the Traffic Grants (3) are out and this is the first of a three year cycle. Wisconsin Dells Police Department administers the speed grant for Columbia County. There will be a task force to perform enforcement with the grants and will be required to report back to the Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS).
- Joe Davis stated BOTS would like to have unique accident stories presented at the Governor's Conference on Traffic Safety. He would like Columbia County to give the fatality at Cascade Mountain Road story at this year's conference.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

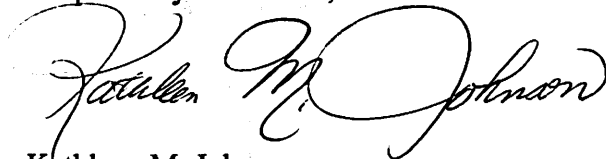
### **Columbia County Fatal Crash Report**

- Sgt. Horn presented photos and information on the January 21, 2019 crash on Cascade Mountain Road/Fox Glen Road in the Town of Caledonia. The single occupant of the car was transported to a Madison Hospital via Med Flight and deceased six days later.
- Sgt. Horn gave an overview of the January 15, 2019 crash on County Highway B/ Kuehn Road where the single occupant was ejected and deceased.
- Sgt. Horn gave an overview of the November 16, 2018 crash on Highway 60/ Hillestad Road where the single occupant was ejected and deceased.

**A motion was made by Chuck Miller to adjourn the meeting. Chris Hardy seconded the motion. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.**

**Next Meeting Date:** Friday, May 10, 2019 at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathleen M. Johnson  
Secretary, Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission