

MOVING FORWARD WITH SAFETY

MEMBERS

- Jerry Blystone
- Roger Brandner
- Michael Brouette
- James Foley
- Trace Frost
- Chris Hardy
- Richard Hoege
- Todd Horn
- Kenneth Hutler
- Penny Klefer
- Bob Koch
- Avis Link
- Chuck Miller
- Barry Pufahl
- Joseph Ruf
- Charlene Schmid
- Wayne Smith
- Josh Sween
- JoAnn Wingers

MISSION

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

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**
Columbia County Law Enforcement Center
John Roche Room
February 11, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.

Commission Members Present: Roger Brandner, Chris Hardy, Chuck Miller, JoAnn Wingers, Ken Hutler, Avis Link, James Foley, Trace Frost, Wayne Smith, Richard Hoege, Bob Koch, Jeremiah Johnson, Charlene Schmid via virtual, Jerry Blystone, Michael Brouette, Susan Fischer (for Joseph Ruf – Corporation Counsel)

County Employees Present to Assist: Marie Darling Ellis

Commission Members Absent with notice: Todd Horn

Commission Members Absent without notice: Barry Pufahl, Josh Sween

The meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission was called to order at 9:32 A.M. by Acting Chairman Richard Hoege. Introductions were made by all present. An attendance sheet was distributed.

Several public citizens were present to listen and/or speak.

Membership Update: Motion by Foley to accept Kathy Johnson’s resignation from the commission and appoint Bob Koch as Kathy’s replacement on the commission. Seconded by Hutler. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Hardy to approve the agenda as presented and that the meeting was properly noticed. Seconded by Foley. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hutler to approve the November 12, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

No vouchers presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ATV / UTV Routes on the County Road System. Review newly drafted ATV/UTV ordinance from the Highway Committee: Chris Hardy presented the draft ordinance. Susan Fischer from the Corporation Counsel Office for the county talked about how the county ordinance needs to line up with state statutes. Multiple questions from committee members regarding licensing and citations. Questions regarding liability of the county if this gets approved by the county board. More specifically, concerns with not following the manufacturer's recommendations on tires and intoxicated operation of the units. The public attendees were allowed to speak at this point and had many of the similar questions. Also, the public had concerns about the potential limits being placed on certain roads and access restrictions, even if this gets approved. Nancy Long, county board supervisor from Lodi and member of the Columbia County Public Safety Committee, expressed concern of how the county will be able to provide increased enforcement of the ordinance and state laws if this goes forward.

A motion (ORIGINAL MOTION) was made by Wingers to send this issue back to the Columbia County Highway Committee to continue work on establishing a county ordinance, to follow state law in crafting the ordinance, drivers licensing, and licensing of the UTVs/ATVs on county roads. Seconded by Hutler. More discussion on safety and vetting the ordinance ensued.

Brouette emphasized that this commission needs to remain focused on the safety of the county when dealing with this and all issues that come before it. Chris Hardy read a letter from the Recreational Off Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) that suggest atv/utv equipment is not meant for the roads (several members of ROHVA are manufacturers of atv/utvs).

Brouette moves to allow amendment of the original motion. Seconded by Smith. Motion to amend carried, not unanimously.

Smith moves to amend the original motion to add that the Traffic Safety Commission wants this moved on to the Highway Committee with the Highway Committee being informed that the Traffic Safety Commission does so with significant concerns regarding equipment being on the roads, licensing, enforcement, and insurability of all parties involved. Seconded by Brouette. Motion to amend the original motion to add this language passed unanimously.

A vote was taken on the ORIGINAL MOTION with approved amended language and passed unanimously.

2. Review any developments in funding and/or decisions with STH 33/CTH F/CTH EE. It is in the process of continued review with WisDOT. with possible HSIP money.

No action needed at this meeting, and shall be placed on the next meeting agenda.

3. Review video taken of CTH V near Rory Road. Residents (Chris and Michelle DuPont) of this area were at the meeting and expressed their concerns and desire of reduced speeds and more stop signs. Hardy informed the commission that a study would have to be done. The study could have an undesired effect with increased speed.

A motion was made by Hoege to recommend extra enforcement in this area, use of the mobile radar board, extra signage, and to have a traffic speed study performed before the commission's August meeting. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Review and action or decisions for the Lodi Street and Water Street intersection. Charlene from WisDOT stated that an all-way stop is not warranted per WisDOT standards WisDOT is recommending to remove some parking spaces near the crosswalk, trim landscaping, and more study by WisDOT Smith will be taking these suggestions to the Lodi City Council to review.

This is to be postponed until the next meeting for further review of the W.I.D.O.T.'s continued study.

5. Review any action or decisions for the HWY 51 and CTH DM speed zone signage.

Action is to be postponed until the next meeting, after the speed study is performed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider Proven Safety Countermeasures for Lane Departures. (Referred for Hwy Committee)
Chris Hardy spoke about the Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) On Hwy. J from Lindsey to HWY CS, problems are lane deviations, and a few accidents where drivers involved reported other drivers are running stop signs. Countermeasures suggested are a safety edge, rumble strips, wider edge lines, and design changes.

A motion was made by Hoege to recommend a center line rumble strip from Hwy V to CS on J. Seconded by Miller. Motion carries unanimously.

2. Discussion on Speed Control Countermeasures.

Per Hoege, postpone until the next meeting.

FATAL ACCIDENT REPORT

Three fatal crashes in Columbia County since the last meeting. 11/14/21- Hwy 51 and Kent Rd., 12/30/21- Sanderson Rd. Twp. of Hampden., 1/19/22 – Hwy 33 before off ramp to I-90, 3 vehicles, 2 fatalities.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND HIGHWAY SAFETY INPUT

Frost presented statistics from 2021 in Columbia County, 1201 crashes, 14 fatalities, 347 injuries. Five-year average is 11 fatalities per year. There has been an increase in horse and buggy crashes w/injuries and fatalities.

WisDOT has an opportunity for various agencies to use "Fatal Vision" at community events. It displays to the user how driving under the influence of marijuana or opioids would feel.

Marie Darling Ellis, Deputy Coordinator of Columbia County Emergency Management, talked about the April 9 open house that the Sheriff's Department will be having at the Law Enforcement Center from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Marie welcomed the commission to participate. Get in touch with Captain Horn if interested.

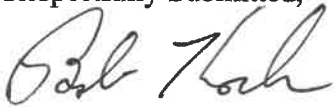
OTHER BUSINESS

Hardy discussed that he is in touch with the Township of Lodi to discuss possibly extending the guardrail down Lindsey Rd. further.

Meeting was adjourned by Acting Chair Hoege at 12:36 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: May 13, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook St., Portage, Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Koch".

Bob Koch
Secretary, Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission