



MOVING FORWARD WITH SAFETY

MEMBERS

Jerry Blystone
Roger Brandner
Michael Brouette
James Foley
Trace Frost
Chris Hardy
Richard Hoege
Todd Horn
Kenneth Hutler
Kathy Johnson
Penny Kiefer
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 Law Enforcement Training Room August 13, 2021 @ 9:30 AM

Commission Members Present: Josh Sween, Jerry Blystone, Chris Hardy, Chuck Miller, JoAnn Wingers, Ken Hutler, Avis Link, James Foley, Trace Frost, Joseph Ruf, Roger Brandner, Todd Horn, Michael Brouette, Wayne Smith, Richard Hoege, Charlene Schmid

Commission Members Absent with Notice: Penny Kiefer, Kathy Johnson

The meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Captain Todd Horn. Introductions were made by all present. An attendance sheet was distributed.

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

Motion by Hutler to approve the May 14, 2021 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Blystone. Motion carried.

Motion by Hutler to move new item of business ATV/UTV Routes to the first item of business. Seconded by Foley. Motion carried.

Captain Todd Horn opened up the discussion to those in attendance and invited one person from each organization/township/village to speak on behalf of their organization/township/village. The following are in favor of UTV/ATV road use in Columbia County, Springvale Township, Village of Cambria, Village of Wyocena, Wyocena Township, Courtland Township, UTV/ATV Club of Columbia County (Ellen Pulver). Township of Wyocena Resident (Dan Berg) spoke against ATV/UTV road use due to safety concerns.

Representatives from Johnson's Sales and Mad City Power Sports were also

in attendance and spoke to the interest of Columbia County residents purchasing UTV/ATV's but nowhere ride locally is an issue.

Captain Todd Horn thanked all citizens for attending and for their input.

Highway Commissioner Chris Hardy explained that the highway department has authority over the highways in Columbia County and explained the lengthy process that would need to be taken to get an ordinance drafted and approved by the county board.

DNR Warden Paul Nadolski spoke in regards to the DNR aspect. At the state level, they do not condone roadway use. Paul distributed a data sheet that included the fatalities from UTV/ATV crashes in the state of Wisconsin from the past five years. Paul discussed safety and liability aspects as well.

The committee discussed the aspects of safety, cost, enforcement, liability, uniformity and implementation across the county, recreational laws, and OWI/open intoxicants. There was also discussion about holding a meeting with municipalities and townships. The committee agreed that more information and groundwork is needed on this topic before a recommendation can be made.

Motion by Hoege to table this item until next meeting. Seconded by Smith. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on options for passing lanes on STH 33 eastbound at CTH F/CTH EE.

The first option discussed was the reconstruction/realignment of CTH F to merge into CTH EE to create one access point at that location. The county would have to look at costs and real estate acquisition to complete the project. Highway Commissioner Chris Hardy discussed costs and SIP program funding available to the county on a two-year cycle, 2023 being the next. Other options discussed were an eastbound left turn lane onto CTH F, 2-way left turn lane at the gas station area, westbound left turn lane at existing CTH EE, and a round-about. Charlene Schmid from DOT advised project could utilize HISA funds as well. DOT looking into project in that location to be completed in 2025. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Smith to have county highway examine the presented options and funding sources and report back to the committee. Seconded by Rich Hoege. Motion carried.

Review Speed Limit at Dekorra Park on County Highway V

Captain Todd Horn reviewed the notes from the August 2020 meeting where this issue was discussed. Speed board was placed there from 6/4/21 – 6/18/21. Discussion as to more of an issue near Hookers than the boat landing at this time. Issue appears to have been resolved with enforcement.

Review area of Chrislaw Road off of STH 113 for a possible speed reduction. Captain Todd Horn advised that a letter was sent to Lodi and West Point townships advising them it was a township issue as they are mandated to set a speed limit for a Rustic Road in their jurisdiction.

Review speed limit on HWY 16 from Boeck Road to Klappstein Road

Charlene Schmid from DOT discussed the speed study that was conducted by the state. Eighty-five percent of traffic was traveling at 60.4 mph. For this reason, the state would not support a speed reduction in that area. Suggestion to address movement vs. speed in that area.

Review Speed Limit on HWY 33 and Caledonia Street

Charlene Schmid from DOT discussed the speed study that was conducted by the state. Eighty-five percent of traffic was traveling at 54.2 mph. For this reason, the state would not support a speed reduction in that area. Speed study was done on the east side of HWY 33 north of Fairfield street monitoring

westbound traffic. Discussion as to another speed study needed further out between Wood Street and Caledonia Street just west of Blystones for a longer period of time, possibly a few weeks.

A motion was made by Horn for a second speed study to be conducted by highway over a few week period for both HWY 33 and HWY 16. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Whalen's Grade (CTH V and CTH CS) Area Parking

There has always been an issue with parking in this area due to undersized parking lot and increase in boat traffic on the lake. Improvements to this area have been made to include reduced speed limit from 45mph to 35mph, a three-way stop sign, all old signage was removed and replaced with new signage and more no-parking signage. Discussion followed.

Motion by Horn to table this agenda item. Seconded by Smith. Motion carried.

Traffic Safety Donation Account

Discussion regarding the use of donated funds.

A motion was made by Hoege to use \$500 from the Traffic Safety Donation Fund for purchasing bike helmets for the Sheriff's office to give out to kids. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

Speed issues on CTH V (near Cactus Acres and Red Cedar) in Okee

Captain Todd Horn reported that the speed board has been placed there on several occasions and the Sheriff's Office has increased enforcement in the area. Red flags have also been placed on the 25mph speed limit signs. Sheriff's office to continue enforcement in area.

FATAL ACCIDENT REPORT:

On July 4, 2021 at 3:16 p.m. there was a motorcycle crash on CTH N at the Dane County Line. Cycle was northbound on CTH N crested-hill and negotiated curve and left roadway. Driver was not wearing helmet, alcohol suspected. No issues for TSC to address.

On July 16, 2021 at 3:35 p.m. there was a vehicle crash on I39 at the Baraboo River Bridge. Speed and reckless driving appear to be factors. 1 fatality. No issues for TSC to address.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND HIGHWAY SAFETY INPUT

Year to date there have been 698 crashes in Columbia County, and nine of those crashes resulted in 10 fatalities. Year to date there have been 316 fatalities on Wisconsin roadways. The legislative updates can be found on Community Maps. Trace Frost will include this information which is updated weekly to the report and send it out. The ATV Crash info can be found at:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ATV/crashinfo>

The Drive Sober Campaign will run from August 20 – September 6, 2021. The 46 Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety is being held August 17 – 19, 2021 and is taking place as a virtual event this year.

Trace Frost discussed the Drivers Education Conference he attends. Outreach ideas for Columbia County Drivers Education teachers and students discussed.

Top three hot-spot locations in Columbia County for traffic crashes are I39/Hwy 78, Town of Caledonia; Cook Street/Dewitt Street, City of Portage; and HWY 51/HWY 60, Town of Leeds.

No other business to discuss at this time.

A motion was made by Hoega to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hardy. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: November 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook St., Portage, Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marie Darling-Ellis for Kathleen M. Johnson
Secretary, Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission

APPROVED