

HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

Committee/Board: HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION

Date of Meeting: Thursday, April 19, 2018

Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room
Buffalo County Courthouse - Alma, Wisconsin

Ms. Brunner called the Buffalo County Highway Safety meeting to order at 1:05pm, on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Buffalo County Courthouse, Alma Wisconsin.

Buffalo County Highway Safety Commission members present were:

NAME:	REPRESENTING
Steve Sedlmayr- EXCUSED	School Districts
Mike Schmidtknecht	Sheriff's Office
Randy Wiessinger	WI DOT
Rick Tumaniec	WI DOT
Jerilyn Baures- EXCUSED	Population
Norita Willadsen	Nurse
Bob Platteter- EXCUSED	Highway Department
Bruce Fuerbringer-interim	Emergency Management
Jeremy Brunner	WI State Patrol
Melissa Brunner	Coordinator, Sheriff's Office

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nt: Jenny Ehlenfeldt, and Lee Engfer

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Motion by Mr. Tumaniec to approve January minutes as presented, second by Mr. Brunner. Motion carried.

Public: Ms. Ehlenfeldt didn't have any specific concerns; she wanted to be sure that communication was kept open between the City of Buffalo City and the county. There have been public concerns within the city of individuals being reckless with their use of ATV/UTVs but law enforcement has been patrolling the area and putting a stop to that activity.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht had asked if Buffalo City would be interested in extending the speed zones. Mr. Engfer stated no, as he is on the board. Currently, speed zone is at 35mph now but the City is looking to decrease it to 25mph. Mr. Tumaniec believes that if the city wants to drop the speed zone more than 10mph that they would have to go through the state. It was discussed that speed is always a concern since there is no longer an active police department; additionally, parking has always been an issue. There is limited parking on the west side of the city. Many people want to access Spring Lake and are always looking for ways to access it off of county roads but just for crossing purposes. Ms. Ehlenfeldt may look to the City of Mondovi for guidance since they have previously dealt with this issue. Mr. Tumaniec cited Act 87, which enables approval of municipalities to create an ordinance of ATV use without state approval. (Act 193-AB442) ATV route signage.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that the agency is preparing for the spring flood run, extra patrol staff has been scheduled. The weather appears to be nice for the weekend but the highway department has not swept the roads.

Sheriff discussed the area's rise of drugged driving; 5-years ago the county wasn't dealing with many of these types of calls.

Mr. Fuerbringer advised the committee that he has been working with Minnesota regarding law enforcement radio communication. He learned that Minnesota is forbade from using Minnesota funded equipment across state lines. However, there is a patching system set in place regarding the ambulance services. He is looking to put together an emergency planning meeting based on an event from a 1990 disaster. At&t is signed to get 30+ towers in the area so there are no longer dead spots; if this happens, it should be within the next 5-years.

Mr. Wiessinger stated that there were two fatalities for Buffalo County: 1) Pedestrian v. car (hours of dusk) and 2) 1-vehicle with alcohol and speed to be a factor. There was a discussion of crashes in Buffalo County versus other counties. According to state statistics, for every 41 crash injuries there is a death; this could be a direct result of not having a medical facility nearby. Medical services tend to use Predictive Analytics to stage their services within the area. Who are the ones having crashes? Transients? Certain age groups? In Buffalo County, 45.5% of crashes are alcohol/drugged related. 19.4% of crashes individuals are unbelted and sustain serious injuries.

Reminder that August 21st-23rd is the Governor's Conference in Lake Geneva.

Mr. Tumaniec informed the committee that the last segment of Highway 88 will be done this summer. County Road U to Highway 37 will be started early June, weather permitting.

He advised that he talked with his people at the state level regarding the Winona crossing and funding is a challenge for those types of standalone projects; they understand there is an alarming issue of crashes there. Therefore, they are still searching for options to implement. Also, regarding the passing zone at the CFC School, there is a "no passing" by the pass area for the southbound lane already-maybe there could be an exception for higher traffic area such as this.

Mr. Sedlmayr will be retiring as of July 1st, the committee will need to look into filling his education position.

Trooper Brunner stated that the state patrol promotes Laws of the Month: **January-SPEED**-the number one excuse for a driver's speed is the layout of the roads. He takes the time to educate drivers that they cannot always blame the highways. Drivers need to understand that following an unsafe distance between another vehicle could become a crash factor; **February-SAFE TRAVEL**-he explained that not using headlights should be used, and drivers should be moving over for emergency vehicles; **March-SECURING TRAILERS/LOADS**-the state patrol receives many complaints regarding vehicles getting windshield damage due to non-tarped loads. It is important to have the right coupler hitch and safety chains to help prevent trailer mishaps.

Ms. Willadsen had a concern regarding passing in a no passing zone on Highway 88, near Yaeger Valley.

The committee discussed Act 228 (AB-475), in regards to animal-drawn vehicles being equipped and using the proper lighting while operating in hours of darkness or inclement weather.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42pm.

Next meeting currently set for July 19th at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Brunner

Coordinator, Buffalo County Highway Safety Commission