



Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Wisconsin County Highway Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 10, 2023

Time: 10am

Location: Wood County Hwy Dept, Wisconsin Rapids

Attendees:

- Roland Hawk
- Robbie Krejci
- Marv Thompson
- Jon Johnson
- Matthew Budde
- Gary Kennedy
- David Stertz, WisDOT
- Rebecca Szymkowski, WisDOT
- Whitney Wilgus, Impact

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am CT.

1. Approve meeting minutes from 6.12.23 Executive Committee meeting
 - a. A motion was made by Hawk and seconded by Thompson to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed.
2. WisDOT – HMM Policies status/update (general update)
 - a. Stertz and Szymkowski provided an update on HMM policies in process; with key staffing changes, progress is slow.
 - b. Krejci noted that the BOD had expressed frustration that WCHA had not had the opportunity to review policy changes yet. Stertz noted none had occurred and that WCHA only provides a review but does not approve.
 - c. There is a revised memo signed with DOT regarding inspections; DOT may need to do inspections on salt sheds.
 - d. Regarding the industrial permitting process, DOT will investigate if DNR is asking for the information twice.
3. WCHA Website Update
 - a. Wilgus provided an update on current state of website. The online forum permissions are set correctly so that commissioners can access this.

4. Discuss the process for obtaining legal opinions on current issues and costs associated
 - a. Krejci moved to authorize Vander Sander to seek functional and legal opinions within the annual budget established by WCHA and use the recommended legal counsel from the Wisconsin Counties Association. Budde seconded. The motion passed.
5. LRIP Pilot Program – update
 - a. Ashland Co. and Douglas Co. may not sign agreements. They will go with District 2 of the Wisconsin Towns Association and will be notified that they will not be included in the pilot program. Vander Sanden will notify those who will not be participating later this week.
 - b. With the state budget passed, LRIP will likely move forward quickly.
6. IRS Designation – update
 - a. Vander Sanden and Griesbach met with Wipfli. Wipfli is working to file taxes and complete the annual reporting as discussed.
7. Update on centralized bidding platform
 - a. Krejci, Hawk, and Griesbach received a demo of InfoTech. After reviewing, WCHA may want to have spot on website where contractors and suppliers can look for municipal bids.
 - b. May need to get legislature involved to get this moving.
8. HMM revision process
 - a. The NW district has mentioned that they have not been able to approve changes to HMM revisions.
 - b. Hawk clarifies that there previously was an opportunity to review any change in scope or applicability, but there was no approval process.
 - c. Krejci suggests discussing the process at the upcoming Commissioners' Training to clarify and manage expectations.
9. Membership survey interest
 - a. Wilgus will work with Vander Sanden on additional survey questions.
10. Review of WCHA Organization (following recent staff/contractor changes)
 - a. Commissioners have asked if WCHA can get someone present at meetings to take minutes and be an aid to Vander Sanden rather than a virtual presence. A motion was already made and approved at a special Executive Committee meeting to find a Deputy Director utilizing a previous position description. Kennedy will review position description and offer feedback.
11. Follow up on Road School Associate Member Donation
 - a. SEH gave approximately \$3,5000 to the Summer Road School right after the materials were printed; they would like their name and logo on a few meals. In the future, SHE wanted to ensure their recognition was carried to the next Road School.
 - b. A motion was made by Krejci and seconded by Budde to allow the donor to roll over their recognition to the next Road School. The motion was approved.
12. Training and Events Update
 - a. Fall Commissioner Training
 - i. Krejci moved to approve the October 17-18, 2023 dates and secure the hotel contract in the Eau Claire area. Hawk seconded. The motion passed.
13. Executive Director report

- a. WCHA had originally opposed green lights being used on utility vehicles; given the bill sponsors, WCHA may need to avoid taking a position.
- 14. Future agenda items
- 15. Next Meeting Date – August 14, 2023 at 10 am (Virtual)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am CT.