



Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Wisconsin County Highway Association

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2023

Time: 10am

Location: Virtually

Attendees:

- Patrick Vander Sanden, WCHA
- Gary Kennedy, WCHA
- Roland Hawk
- Jim Griesbach
- Tim Kessler
- Jon Johnson
- Marv Thompson
- Matthew Budde

Guests

- Whitney Wilgus, Impact
- Rebecca Szymkowski, WisDOT
- Dave Stertz, WisDOT
- John Marchewka
- Dan Bahr

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

Agenda:

1. Approve meeting minutes from 7.10.23 Executive Committee meeting
 - a. *A quorum was not established.*
2. WisDOT – HMM Policies status/update (general update)
 - a. *Stertz provided an update on HMM policies noting that hiring has delayed updates. Stertz noted that they are still looking into testing the purity of salt from vendors. Hawk will set up a conference call with Stertz to discuss options. WisDOT is looking at adding staff to assist departments with office manager training.*
 - b. AVL GPS Cameras
 - i. *WisDOT is open to making GPS cameras optional on a case-by-case basis.*
 - c. Snowfighter Training
 - i. *WisDOT paid for half of the training last year and will consider providing funding for next year. WisDOT will support the training and pay for half the cost, as they did last year. WCHA will move forward with planning.*
3. WCHA Website/Data Update

- a. Vander Sanden continues to work with Impact on the website updates as discussed.
4. LRIP Pilot Program – update
 - a. *The contract between WCHA, the League, and The Wisconsin Towns Association will continue to be shored up. Currently working on the LRIP Pilot webinar, scheduled for August 24th. The LRIP program cycle will be opening soon for the counties outside of the pilot.*
5. IRS Designation – update
 - a. *Vander Sanden has been working with Wipfli; they are working with Impact to get tax return information. Wipfli anticipates having this issue wrapped up in fall.*
6. Update on centralized bidding platform
 - a. *Infotech was going to provide information from the Ohio bidding process, but this has not yet been received. Vander Sanden will call Matt to discuss the potential for WCHA to host a centralized bidding process.*
7. Training and Events Update
 - a. LDG Road School
 - i. *WCHA extended the registration deadline. LDG Road School has approximately 200 registrants, and vendor spots are almost filled. The agenda has also been finalized.*
 - ii. *SEH donation – this issue has been taken care of with the sponsor*
 - b. Fall Commissioner Training - October 9-10, 2023, Lismore Hotel, Eau Claire
 - i. Topics
 1. *Vander Sanden has been working to finalize topics; two more topics are needed. When Kennedy has the contract signed for the Lismore, WCHA will push registration. Hawk suggested ensuring CDL drivers are fit for work as a possible topic.*
8. Executive Director report
 - a. Activities
 - i. *Vander Sanden is holding one to two LRIP pilot meetings each week. He is also prepping for LDG Road School with Kennedy and participating in the planning meetings.*
 - b. NACE/NACo Involvement
 - i. *The Executive Committee will further explore Vander Sanden’s involvement with NACE/NACo.*
 - c. New Commissioner Mentoring
 - i. *Vander Sanden proposed virtual meetings with veteran commissioners and newer commissioners for mentoring opportunities. This will be further discussed in light of the search for the new Deputy Director and potential feedback from Commissioners at the Fall Commissioner training.*
 - d. Invitation from WisDOT to participate in Nighttime Visibility for Safety, Work Group
 - i. *It was recommended that Vander Sanden and Craig connect to see if someone from the committee is interested in participating.*
9. Legislative Update
 - a. *Bahr provided a legislative update. With the legislature in summer recess, the transportation coalition meetings are on pause but will start again in October. While a large amount of funding was received this biennium, it will likely be hard to keep the fund sustainable long term. The goal is to dedicate a larger portion of the Auto Parts and Repair tax for the transportation fund. The change in the Wisconsin Supreme Court could impact state legislative maps. Despite redistricting, Republicans still have a large advantage in mapping. The executive Committee recently met with Senator Tomczyk, who is interested in the handless cell phone use bill. Sen. Tomczyk and Rep. Callahan will move forward with green light bill; WCHA offered to make a recommendation on a color for lights.*
10. Future agenda items
11. Executive Session - Update on WCHA Organization
 - a. *The Executive Committee went into executive session at 11:34 am. The Committee adjourned at 11:38 am.*
12. Next Meeting Date – September 11, 2023 at 10 am