# MINUTES

## WOOD COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

The Wood County Traffic Safety Commission met at the Wood County Highway Department, 555 17th Avenue North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI on **May 24 2017** at 10:30 a.m.

PRESENT REPRESENTING

Dennis Polach Wood County Board

Doug Passineau Wood County Highway Department

Bob Bott Wisconsin DOT/BOTS Specialist

Melvin Pedersen Grand Rapids Police Department

Roland Hawk Wood County Highway Department

Sarah Roach Wood County Emergency Management

Bill Winch Wood County Board

Bill Clendenning Wood County Board

Tony Kemnitz Wisconsin DOT

Dara Hamm Wood County Coroner

Shawn Becker Wood County Sheriff Dept

Roland Hawk called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

1. Introductions were made.

2. **Minutes of the February 22 2017 Traffic Safety Commission Meeting.**

Motion to accept and place on file minutes from the February 22, 2017 Traffic Safety Commission meeting made by Doug Passineau. Seconded by Bill Winch. Motion approved unanimously.

3. **Review two (2) fatal crashes**

Shawn Becker spoke in regard to the single vehicle crash in the Town of Richfield, waiting on toxicology results on that crash. The Wisconsin Rapids crash driver went through a stop sign, State Patrol is reconstructing that crash.

4. **Report from the Department of Transportation Engineer**

Tony Kemnitz, WI DOT, discussed Wood County P and State Hwy 54 projects and completion dates. Discussed working on guide routes for morning traffic for Farm Tech Days and come up with a sign plan. Tony stated that Wood County HWY A is listed for County safety funding. Doug Passineau mentioned that Wood County Highway Dept will still like to get jurisdictional transfer. Tony Kemnitz will do a crash study. Currently, the DOT has cameras at STH 80/73 intersection.

5. **Local Program Specialist Report and Highway Safety Plan Solicitation**

Bob Botts, WI DOT/BOTS, discussed with the committee the traffic statistics. Wisconsin fatal crashes are down 5%, number of deaths down 7% from last year. However, the 5 year average is still up, due to the high number of deaths in 2014. Wood County is ahead of the trend, 31% of the fatal crashes is due to inattentive driving. Bob discussed with law enforcement that they can write tickets for cell phone use in construction zones. He stated that some counties are having a spotter and a chaser in construction zones. Shawn Becker stated he will work with Wood County Highway Department to let them know

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about projects so they can have staff works the construction zones. Roland Hawk expressed having no cell phone use signs in work zones. Bob reminded the group that the Governor’s conference on Highway safety will be Aug 22-24 in Appleton and the DOT will know by June 1st if any grants are available.

6. **Other Business brought properly before the Commission:**

Bill Clendening asked the committee if residents can put out barrels if they are putting in a new driveway. Doug and Roland of the Highway Department said they can as long as they are official barrels and off the shoulder of the road.

Dara Hamm, Wood County Coroner, discussed with the committee the about the availability of Narcan and that everyone should be aware at a crash of what they may come in contact with because you just don’t know what you may inhale. Bob Bott explained that some counties are setting up public meetings about this issue. The group discussed reaching out to the bus company to send a representative to the meetings.

Doug Passineau stated the Village of Hewitt is interested in putting quiet zones in due to safety issues and wanted to get the thoughts from the committee on the matter. Tony Kemnitz said he will talk to the Railroad coordinator and get back to Doug.

Shawn Becker gave the committee an update on the Amish as they had a meeting with the Bishop. They discussed putting lights on signs. The signs on CTH D have a lot more reflectivity on sighs. Bill Winch stressed the issue about Amish knowing the rules of the road. Shawn Becker stated they will meet with the Amish in their schools and he talked about getting farm grants to build a buggy to show at fairs and events.

DOT brought up a follow up response to the committee, they have nothing in the program for CTH HH.

7. **Public Comments.**

No public comments

9. **Adjournment.**

*Doug Passineau made a motion to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Seconded by Bill Winch. Motion approved unanimously.*

The next Traffic Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14th at 10:30 a.m.

at the Wood County Highway Department.