

MANITOWOC COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

January 16, 2008

Location: Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department

Present: Todd Hermann, John Kropp, Bryan Ashenbrenner, Scott Nelson, Mike Panosh, Barbara Herrmann, Rick Wolfe and Kathy Leist

Excused: Nancy Crowley, Robert Hermann, and Al Hibbard

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Todd Hermann at 2:02 p.m.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of the October 15, 2007 meeting by John Kropp, second by Barbara Herrmann; motion carried.

Public Input: None.

Amish buggy warning signs: Todd Hermann presented a letter identifying the locations where the signs would be most beneficial. Deb Grimm, Reedsville Police Chief met with four families who reside in areas identified as high risk: CTH W for northbound traffic and Pleasantview Rd. also for northbound traffic. More families plan to move into the area but there are no specific details available at this time.

Scott Nelson offered to refer the letter to the State for their review and evaluation and report back at our next meeting with their recommendations.

South Union Rd. between CTH XX and Cleveland Rd.: There are four or five hidden driveways in this section of roadway. John Kropp reported this is part of old Highway 141. The road is narrow with a large overhead canopy of trees. Residents want no changes, and landowners will not sell any right-of way. With the urbanization of this area, travel is difficult for the added traffic. Trees and fences are close to the highway, and residents in the area want it to remain as is. One of the residents, Eric Klessig stated that the driveways are a hazard because of poor visibility. He is concerned about motorists not being able to see farm machinery entering and exiting the driveway. He would like to see *hidden driveway* signs at each of the driveways. A video was shown.

Some driveways are hidden because of the trees and a few hills and valleys. Signs are not the solution. It would be treating the symptom, not the problem. Hidden driveways are actually caused by obstructions.

Motion by Rick Wolfe, second by Kropp to recommend that residents work with the township to clear the encroachments in the right-of-way; motion carried. The Highway Department will contact the residents with this information.

Legislative update report from WIDOT-BOTS: Mike Panosh reported on year-end fatalities in Wisconsin. In 2007 there were 741 fatalities compared to 712 in 2006. Motorcycle fatalities represented a 20% increase from 2006. There are several initiatives aimed at reducing motorcycle fatalities such as a skills course and wearing helmets to make it safer.

Manitowoc County had 12 fatalities in 2007 compared to 6 in 2006, while Sheboygan County had 13 in 2007 compared to 9 in 2006. The five-year average for Manitowoc County is 11. Manitowoc

Police Department received two enforcement grants: OWI enforcement and a pedestrian grant scheduled for summer.

AB113, the primary seat belt law, is basically dead. Contact your legislators if you are in favor of it.

AB464 has passed the Assembly and has moved on to the Senate. It places restrictions on use of cell phones, email, text messaging or any other form of electronic communication for any person holding a probationary license or instruction permit.

Fatalities:

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On 10/18/07, time unknown, a one-vehicle accident occurred on Quarry Rd., .7 mile north of US 151. The driver, who lived on Quarry Rd., was northbound when he crossed the centerline, proceeded onto the west shoulder, and collided with the bridge parapet. The weather was wet and rainy, and the accident was not alcohol related. Failure to have the vehicle under control and too fast for conditions were listed as contributing circumstances.

On 10/23/07 at 2:31 p.m. a two-vehicle accident occurred on CTH F at CTH A. A driver and passenger in one of the vehicles died. The vehicle was westbound on CTH F and failed to stop for the stop sign, colliding with a northbound tractor-tanker. Disregard for traffic control and exceeding the speed limit were contributing circumstances. Wisconsin State Patrol did a reconstruction. Weather was clear and dry, and alcohol was not a factor. Seat belts were not worn by the victims.

On 10/26/07 a vehicle vs. pedestrian occurred at 2:46 a.m. on US 10, .2 mile west of Maple Rock Rd. The pedestrian was walking on the highway and may have sat down on the highway when he was struck by a mini van. The weather was foggy, and alcohol was not a factor for the operator of the mini van. The pedestrian was intoxicated. There was no damage to the mini van which indicates the pedestrian was seated or lying down on the highway.

On 12/28/07 at 12:22 p.m. a two-vehicle accident occurred during a snow storm on STH 147, .1 mile east of Cherney Rd. A westbound auto collided with a cement mixer truck that was traveling eastbound. The auto crossed the centerline on a snow and slush-covered highway. This area is clear and free of obstructions. Wisconsin State Patrol did a reconstruction. Too fast for conditions and failure to have control were contributing circumstances.

Election of Officers: Motion by Todd Hermann, second by John Kropp to cast a unanimous ballot for the following officers: Todd Hermann – Chairperson, Mike Bushman – Vice Chairperson, and Kathy Leist – Secretary; motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting: *April 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.* at Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 3:02 p.m. by John Kropp, second by Rick Wolfe; motion carried unanimously.

Kathy Leist, Secretary