

DODGE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

April 9, 2018

Members present: Joel Kiesow, Dodge County Traffic Safety Coordinator; Pete Thompson, Dodge County Highway Department, Chief Deputy Scott Mittelstadt and Sergeant Dennis Walston, DSO, Ryan Mayer, WISDOT, E. Phillip Witkiewicz, Wisconsin State Patrol, Trace Frost, WISDOT BOTS, , Dave Beal, Chief Juneau P.D., Jeremy Rusch, Waupun P.D., Dennis Kaczor, HNR Schools, and Rob Kocinski.

Also present were Eugene Goodearle, Dan Banes, Chairman-Town of Westford, Dale Holloway, Medical College of WI-Ciren program, Mitch Peters, Advanced Towing, and Robert Ballweg, brother of Gary Ballweg.

Members absent: Brandon Stommel, Beaver Dam P.D., Matthew Christian, Beaver Dam F. D., Mary Wendel, and Tony Trunkel, Mayville P.D.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kiesow at 9:30 am.
- II. The minutes from the January 8, 2018 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Beal and second by Walston.
- III. There were three fatal crashes and three fatalities in the first quarter.
 - A. On 1/12/18, a crash occurred about 10:03 p.m. on CTH MM west of CTH EM. The committee reviewed the video and pictures. An eastbound driver, Patrick Clark, 56 failed to negotiate a curve, spun, entered the ditch, struck a culvert, vaulted and was partially ejected. The car caught fire. Excessive speed and driver impairment were listed as causes. Clark was not belted and died.
 - B. On 3/17/18, a crash occurred about 5:47 p.m. on CTH E north of Hustisford. The committee reviewed the video and pictures. A southbound driver, Charles Seizinger, 52 was travelling at very excessive speeds and passing vehicles. The vehicle entered the left shoulder and spun out of control, crossed the road, vaulted and overturned in the right ditch. Excessive speed and driver impairment were listed as causes. Seizinger was not belted, was ejected and died.
 - C. On 3/19/18, a crash that had occurred earlier was discovered about 6:40 a.m. at the north end of Hickory Point Road at the boat launch to Beaver Dam Lake. The committee reviewed the video and pictures. A northbound driver, Gary Ballweg, 52 travelled down the boat ramp and vaulted 40' into the frozen lake and broke through the ice into about 4' of water. He did not make it back to shore and died. He was impaired at the time of the crash. There is speculation that he was unfamiliar with this road. The committee recommended signage improvements to Chairman Banes: red diamonds at or near the water's edge, various sign replacements that are reflective, installed at the correct height and location. Bob Ballweg thanked the DSO for their handling of his brother's death and hoped signage would help stop any future crashes.

The committee had significant discussion about these fatalities. All three were males over 50, impaired and not belted. Two included multiple prior OWIs and excessive speed. Mittelstadt spoke of the DSO's crash reduction emphasis strategy now happening. A similar effort is needed to stem the mindset for drunken drivers and provide safety to innocent drivers. He spoke of the "Place of last drink" program in Sheboygan that was used to educate tavern owners on over service based on driver interviews when law enforcement contact was made. Dane County is using a similar program. Frost had the Dane County contact. The complexities of the judicial system and drivers not caring about consequences were discussed. A broader-based strategy is needed. Possibly involving the Health Department in the effort may open possibilities for grants. A health official will be invited to a future meeting.

IV. Old Business

- A. Sign relocations to improve visibility at STH 26 and STH 33 are still on the list to be done by the WISDOT sign crew.
- B. Mayer stated the internal DOT review meeting for possible funding of the STH 28/67/175 and CTH TW intersection improvements which may include a roundabout will happen soon. If favorable, Mayer would meet with town officials. Kiesow has submitted a letter of project support to Mayer on behalf of the Commission.
The committee will stay informed about pending legislation that would require the local municipality approve any new roundabouts in their jurisdiction even though the roads are not theirs.

V. New Business

Kiesow presented the 2017 Fatal Crash Data Annual Report. Frost stated the pedestrian fatality in the Beaver Dam Community Hospital parking lot was reclassified as not on a public highway, thus reducing our 2017 fatalities by one to 20.

Reports

- A. BOTS.
Frost stated there were 596 fatalities statewide in 2017 vs. 588 in 2016.
He also stated there were 129 fatalities as of 4/6/2018 compared to 123 last year.
He urged attendance at the Governor's Highway Safety Conference, August 22 and 23.
He showed Community Maps for our county. It is available on the TSC page on the Dodge County website. As of January 2nd, all crash info is seamlessly transferred from TraCS DT 4000 reports to Community Maps. If authorized, the actual report is available through hyperlinks from Maps.
- B. WISDOT. Mayer stated the DOT regional bike/pedestrian coordinator will be working on opportunities to enhance these modes since Dodge County is designated a Blue Zone.
- C. County. Thompson stated CTH C—Buckhorn Road to USH 151 and CTH AW from STH 73 to Waupun will be repaved this year. CTH AW is a cooperative effort of the four adjoining counties.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2018 at 9:30 am in the Training Room of the Dodge County Sheriff's Department.

Meeting adjourned 11:17 a.m.
Pete Thompson,
Secretary.

*Approved at TSC meeting
7/9/18
Pete Thompson*