

# HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

**Committee/Board:** HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, July 21, 2016

**Location:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Buffalo County Courthouse - Alma, Wisconsin

Chairman Mr. Sedlmayr called the meeting of the Buffalo County Highway Safety Commission to order at 1:05pm on Thursday, July 21, 2016 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Buffalo County Courthouse, Alma Wisconsin.

Buffalo County Highway Safety Commission members present were:

NAME:	REPRESENTING
Steve Sedlmayr	School Districts
Mike Schmidtknecht	Sheriff's Office
Bob Bott	WI DOT
Rick Tumaniec	WI DOT
Bob Platteter	Highway Department
Steve Schiffli	Emergency Management
Jeri Baures-EXCUSED	Population
Jeremy Brunner	WI State Patrol
Norita Willadsen	Health
Melissa Brunner	Coordinator

Other Attendees: Jim Miller-ABATE Representative

Motion to approve April Minutes as presented was made by Mr. Platteter, second by Mr. Schiffli. Motion carried.

Mr. Jim Miller presented posters and DVDs with regard to the respect and rules of sharing the road between motorcycles and automobiles.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht presented his quarterly report. He discussed that Buffalo County had their first fatality on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The vehicle had lost control on a shoulder on Highway 121 and over-corrected. There have been numerous motorcycle accidents, primarily due to outsiders of the county missing curves of the road. August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> is the annual RAGNAR Relay race. The Highway Department have proactively put out signage. The State Patrol is not assigned to this detail at this time. Trooper Brunner stated that he will contact his agency as it is Ashley for the Arts the same weekend. Sheriff Schmidtknecht announced that Jason Mork resigned back in April as the chief for Fountain City Police Department. In the interim, the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office has contracted with Fountain City to provide coverage for a total of 16 hours a week.

Mr. Schiffli discussed several items. Clean Sweep is coming up on July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am-12pm at the Alma Highway Shop. The 2016 Emergency Manuals have arrived and are being distributed. He alerted the committee that the Arcadia 1<sup>st</sup> Responders have disbanded due to lack of personnel, which is a common issue with all municipalities. He informed the committee that the county entered into an Auto Launch agreement with MedLink AIR out of La Crosse. In addition, he is looking at entering into a mutual aid agreement with Wabasha.

There was discussion held regarding the support for EMS Services and employers allowing/encouraging the employee, who is an EMS provider, answer EMS calls. Mr. Schiffli will look into writing an article for the local papers.

Mr. Platteter discussed how mowing has been an issue but it is now getting under control. He has had trouble getting help for the 2016-2017 year but Buffalo County was accepted to be a pilot for two mows instead of one. He discussed that the Highway 88 project is scheduled to start in late August.

Mr. Bott informed the committee that Speed Grants (no equipment) have gotten cancelled county-wide; 2017 isn't looking any better. Only Mobilization Grants can be giving out equipment. He stated that on August 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, it is the Governor's Conference. At this time, Wisconsin is up 10% on crashes and up on fatalities. There was discussion of speed, and texting while driving being contributing factors. He advised that Dane County currently is a pilot for a device capable of taking DNA swab at the time of a traffic contact to test for alcohol and/or other controlled substance, the program is called "Drugged Driving". Currently, there have been 57% of drivers who have tested for Marijuana in addition to alcohol use.

Mr. Tumaniec discussed the start of the (Mississippi) Highway 25 overlay on August 8<sup>th</sup>. He also discussed that the Highway 35/25 project is complete for the most part and Highway 88 (E to 37 and 35 to E) project has all culverts installed but one.

Ms. Baures-EXCUSED

Trooper Brunner reported nothing additional at this time. However, there was a brief committee discussion of the recent riot events in Cleveland, Louisiana, and Minnesota.

Ms. Willadsen had nothing to present at this time.

Sheriff Schmidt knecht made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Tumaniec.

Adjournment 2:20pm

Next meeting date: October 20, 2016 at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Brunner

Coordinator, Buffalo County Highway Safety Commission