

MINUTES OF THE BAYFIELD COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, February 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Bayfield County Traffic Safety Committee was called to order by Sheriff Paul Susienka at 8:59 am on Thursday, February 18, 2021 remotely over the phone and/or video access for members and the public.

Attendees: Sheriff Paul Susienka, Ross Baker-WI DOT Representative, Dan Kontos- WI DOT/DSP BOTS, Jan Victorson-Emergency Management, Paul Johanik- Highway Commissioner, Sgt. Pat Kraetke-WSP (9:06am), Jeff Benton- Red Cliff Transportation Planner, Sheree Collins-Education Representative, Deb Milanowski-Bayfield County Sheriff's Office

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Paul Johanik, 2nd by Paul Susienka to approve the minutes from November 19, 2020. *Motion carried (7-0)*

Public Input: None

Report from Bayfield County Traffic Safety Coordinator: Discussion of current traffic issues. Speed still an issue in some cases. Updated committee with one more fatal accident for 2020 (accident was 9/23/20). The individual died after the crash report was submitted and this didn't get updated until yesterday.

Report from BOTS LE Liaison: Reviewed year to date numbers for Bayfield County and the State. Crashes for Bayfield County are down from last year. 277 total crash with 4 fatal. Our 5-year average for fatal accidents is 1. Alcohol involved crashes are up a little from 2019.

Clarification regarding when alcohol/drugs are picked up with the crash report. This only occurs when the Suspected Alcohol field or Suspected Drugs field is checked yes. It does not pick up from a PBT result or a citation.

Statewide work zone crashes are down. Much of the constructions was done earlier in 2020 when there was not much travelling due to stay at home orders. Concentrated enforcement in 'hot spots' throughout the state are still occurring. The goal is to get funds for resources to help combat these trouble areas such as a speed board.

Review of seatbelt statistics. Bayfield is at 93.1% vs the State overall coverage of 89.2%. Also provided information of the upcoming campaigns in 2021.

Legislative update-back in session. These updates can be found on the community maps website under the TSC Resources tab. Looking at reducing the age to get an instructional permit to 15 (from 15 ½), 'cocktails to go' bill which would allow licensed establishments to send tamper proof cocktails to go. Flagger's bill of rights also being considered.

Reminder again that Badger tracs is migrating from Access to SQL by 12/2021. Need 64-bit version of windows. There is a hosting option offered for agencies individually or as part of the State. Hosting with the State would have a cost, but there is a grant for 4 years that would cover the expense.

Governor's Conference will be held this year as a virtual conference only. Dates: August 8/17-19, 2021

Report from Wisconsin State Patrol: Kraetke reports that they are involved in the predictive analytics in Douglas County (in Superior) and they are still working on it. Unsure how long this will go on.

Report from Bayfield County Highway Dept. :

Project for this year is in Cable from Co. M to Co. D. Will occur in the summer.

Not a lot of issues right now due to a light winter.

Report from WI DOT Traffic Safety Coordinator:

Discussion of the intersection of Hwy 13 and Engoe Rd. Have received complaints regarding this intersection. An accident occurred in 2020 involving a bus. Not sure what the factors were for the accident. If there would be a fix, it would involve a passthrough lane, but this would be difficult with the location of the area.

Committee Member Report: Sheree Collins discussed the possibility that it may be more difficult for kids to get instructional permits with the age reduction. Jan Victorson had nothing to report. Jeff Benton is currently working on the Transportation and Safety Plan and it should be out by summer. Discussion of a hot spot in Red Cliff and proposing a speed reduction. Construction for a garage at the end of Co. Hwy K will begin in the fall and last approx. 1 ½ years.

Next meeting is scheduled for 5/20/21 at 9:00am at the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office in the EOC and remotely.

Motion by Dan Kontos, 2nd by Sheree Collins to adjourn. Motion carried (8-0)

Meeting ended at 9:44 am

Submitted by: Deb Milanowski

Minutes Approved on: 5/20/21