



Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Wisconsin County Highway Association

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, September 11, 2023

Time: 10am

Location: Eau Claire County Highway
5061 US Hwy 53, Eau Claire

[Virtual Meeting Link:](#)

[Join meeting](#)

Attendees:

Agenda:

1. Approve meeting minutes from 7.10.23 and 8.14.23 Executive Committee meetings
2. WisDOT – HMM Policies status/update (general update)
3. WCHA Website Update
 - a. Progress review meeting
4. Associate Member Recruitment Ideas (Impact)
5. Discuss/Consider Forming Employee Review Committee
6. IRS Designation – update
7. Update on centralized bidding platform
8. Training and Events Update
 - a. LDG Road School
 - b. Fall Commissioner Training - October 9-10, 2023, Lismore Hotel, Eau Claire
 - c. Winter Tech Talk – Winter Maintenance Training Experts
9. Executive Director report
 - a. Deputy Director – Recruitment Update
 - b. WCA Conference
 - c. Policy Items: LRIP Program, green lights for utility vehicles, weight limit exception bill for certain milk products, other
10. Legislative Update
11. WCHA actions on condolences/memorials for employees in county highway departments
12. Further agenda items
13. Next Meeting Date – October 9, 2023 at 10 am



Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Wisconsin County Highway Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 10, 2023

Time: 10am

Location: Wood County Hwy Dept, Wisconsin Rapids

Attendees:

- Roland Hawk
- Robbie Krejci
- Marv Thompson
- Jon Johnson
- Matthew Budde
- Gary Kennedy
- David Stertz, WisDOT
- Rebecca Szymkowski, WisDOT
- Whitney Wilgus, Impact

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am CT.

1. Approve meeting minutes from 6.12.23 Executive Committee meeting
 - a. A motion was made by Hawk and seconded by Thompson to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed.
2. WisDOT – HMM Policies status/update (general update)
 - a. Stertz and Szymkowski provided an update on HMM policies in process; with key staffing changes, progress is slow.
 - b. Krejci noted that the BOD had expressed frustration that WCHA had not had the opportunity to review policy changes yet. Stertz noted none had occurred and that WCHA only provides a review but does not approve.
 - c. There is a revised memo signed with DOT regarding inspections; DOT may need to do inspections on salt sheds.
 - d. Regarding the industrial permitting process, DOT will investigate if DNR is asking for the information twice.
3. WCHA Website Update
 - a. Wilgus provided an update on current state of website. The online forum permissions are set correctly so that commissioners can access this.

4. Discuss the process for obtaining legal opinions on current issues and costs associated
 - a. Krejci moved to authorize Vander Sander to seek functional and legal opinions within the annual budget established by WCHA and use the recommended legal counsel from the Wisconsin Counties Association. Budde seconded. The motion passed.
5. LRIP Pilot Program – update
 - a. Ashland Co. and Douglas Co. may not sign agreements. They will go with District 2 of the Wisconsin Towns Association and will be notified that they will not be included in the pilot program. Vander Sanden will notify those who will not be participating later this week.
 - b. With the state budget passed, LRIP will likely move forward quickly.
6. IRS Designation – update
 - a. Vander Sanden and Griesbach met with Wipfli. Wipfli is working to file taxes and complete the annual reporting as discussed.
7. Update on centralized bidding platform
 - a. Krejci, Hawk, and Griesbach received a demo of InfoTech. After reviewing, WCHA may want to have spot on website where contractors and suppliers can look for municipal bids.
 - b. May need to get legislature involved to get this moving.
8. HMM revision process
 - a. The NW district has mentioned that they have not been able to approve changes to HMM revisions.
 - b. Hawk clarifies that there previously was an opportunity to review any change in scope or applicability, but there was no approval process.
 - c. Krejci suggests discussing the process at the upcoming Commissioners' Training to clarify and manage expectations.
9. Membership survey interest
 - a. Wilgus will work with Vander Sanden on additional survey questions.
10. Review of WCHA Organization (following recent staff/contractor changes)
 - a. Commissioners have asked if WCHA can get someone present at meetings to take minutes and be an aid to Vander Sanden rather than a virtual presence. A motion was already made and approved at a special Executive Committee meeting to find a Deputy Director utilizing a previous position description. Kennedy will review position description and offer feedback.
11. Follow up on Road School Associate Member Donation
 - a. SEH gave approximately \$3,5000 to the Summer Road School right after the materials were printed; they would like their name and logo on a few meals. In the future, SHE wanted to ensure their recognition was carried to the next Road School.
 - b. A motion was made by Krejci and seconded by Budde to allow the donor to roll over their recognition to the next Road School. The motion was approved.
12. Training and Events Update
 - a. Fall Commissioner Training
 - i. Krejci moved to approve the October 17-18, 2023 dates and secure the hotel contract in the Eau Claire area. Hawk seconded. The motion passed.
13. Executive Director report

- a. WCHA had originally opposed green lights being used on utility vehicles; given the bill sponsors, WCHA may need to avoid taking a position.
14. Future agenda items
 15. Next Meeting Date – August 14, 2023 at 10 am (Virtual)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am CT.



Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Wisconsin County Highway Association

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2023

Time: 10am

Location: Virtually

Attendees:

- Patrick Vander Sanden, WCHA
- Gary Kennedy, WCHA
- Roland Hawk
- Jim Griesbach
- Tim Kessler
- Jon Johnson
- Marv Thompson
- Matthew Budde

Guests

- Whitney Wilgus, Impact
- Rebecca Szymkowski, WisDOT
- Dave Stertz, WisDOT
- John Marchewka
- Dan Bahr

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

Agenda:

1. Approve meeting minutes from 7.10.23 Executive Committee meeting
 - a. *A quorum was not established.*
2. WisDOT – HMM Policies status/update (general update)
 - a. *Stertz provided an update on HMM policies noting that hiring has delayed updates. Stertz noted that they are still looking into testing the purity of salt from vendors. Hawk will set up a conference call with Stertz to discuss options. WisDOT is looking at adding staff to assist departments with office manager training.*
 - b. AVL GPS Cameras
 - i. *WisDOT is open to making GPS cameras optional on a case-by-case basis.*
 - c. Snowfighter Training
 - i. *WisDOT paid for half of the training last year and will consider providing funding for next year. WisDOT will support the training and pay for half the cost, as they did last year. WCHA will move forward with planning.*
3. WCHA Website/Data Update

- a. Vander Sanden continues to work with Impact on the website updates as discussed.
4. LRIP Pilot Program – update
 - a. *The contract between WCHA, the League, and The Wisconsin Towns Association will continue to be shored up. Currently working on the LRIP Pilot webinar, scheduled for August 24th. The LRIP program cycle will be opening soon for the counties outside of the pilot.*
5. IRS Designation – update
 - a. *Vander Sanden has been working with Wipfli; they are working with Impact to get tax return information. Wipfli anticipates having this issue wrapped up in fall.*
6. Update on centralized bidding platform
 - a. *Infotech was going to provide information from the Ohio bidding process, but this has not yet been received. Vander Sanden will call Matt to discuss the potential for WCHA to host a centralized bidding process.*
7. Training and Events Update
 - a. LDG Road School
 - i. *WCHA extended the registration deadline. LDG Road School has approximately 200 registrants, and vendor spots are almost filled. The agenda has also been finalized.*
 - ii. *SEH donation – this issue has been taken care of with the sponsor*
 - b. Fall Commissioner Training - October 9-10, 2023, Lismore Hotel, Eau Claire
 - i. Topics
 1. *Vander Sanden has been working to finalize topics; two more topics are needed. When Kennedy has the contract signed for the Lismore, WCHA will push registration. Hawk suggested ensuring CDL drivers are fit for work as a possible topic.*
8. Executive Director report
 - a. Activities
 - i. *Vander Sanden is holding one to two LRIP pilot meetings each week. He is also prepping for LDG Road School with Kennedy and participating in the planning meetings.*
 - b. NACE/NACo Involvement
 - i. *The Executive Committee will further explore Vander Sanden’s involvement with NACE/NACo.*
 - c. New Commissioner Mentoring
 - i. *Vander Sanden proposed virtual meetings with veteran commissioners and newer commissioners for mentoring opportunities. This will be further discussed in light of the search for the new Deputy Director and potential feedback from Commissioners at the Fall Commissioner training.*
 - d. Invitation from WisDOT to participate in Nighttime Visibility for Safety, Work Group
 - i. *It was recommended that Vander Sanden and Craig connect to see if someone from the committee is interested in participating.*
9. Legislative Update
 - a. *Bahr provided a legislative update. With the legislature in summer recess, the transportation coalition meetings are on pause but will start again in October. While a large amount of funding was received this biennium, it will likely be hard to keep the fund sustainable long term. The goal is to dedicate a larger portion of the Auto Parts and Repair tax for the transportation fund. The change in the Wisconsin Supreme Court could impact state legislative maps. Despite redistricting, Republicans still have a large advantage in mapping. The executive Committee recently met with Senator Tomczyk, who is interested in the handless cell phone use bill. Sen. Tomczyk and Rep. Callahan will move forward with green light bill; WCHA offered to make a recommendation on a color for lights.*
10. Future agenda items
11. Executive Session - Update on WCHA Organization
 - a. *The Executive Committee went into executive session at 11:34 am. The Committee adjourned at 11:38 am.*
12. Next Meeting Date – **September 11, 2023 at 10 am**



TO: WCHA Executive Committee
FR: Patrick Vander Sanden
DATE: September 11, 2023
RE: Committee Meeting Notes – September Meeting

WCHA Executive Committee,

Here are some notes/summaries of issues on the September Executive Committee agenda:

- WisDOT HMM Policies: Dave, Rebecca and John from the Bureau of Highway Maintenance will be in attendance for any review/discussion of HMM policy updates. I have recently emailed Dave to see if we can schedule an update meeting between him and his team to go over any specific issues that I have heard around the state. I hope to hear back soon.
- WCHA Website: A standing item to talk about the process of the WCHA Website transformation. This month, there will be a meeting with Impact for us to review the new loaded items on the site as well as the requested changes, before they go live. Whitney and I will give an update.
- Associate Member Recruitment Ideas: Whitney and I have been discussing at our biweekly meeting about membership. While I think the lag in Associate Membership for us is a technical issue, Impact has some suggestion as to how to increase membership among the associates. I told Whitney it would be a good item to review at Executive Committee.
- IRS Designation Update: WIPFLI, Heather from Impact and WCHA have been working back and forth on information needed on the IRS filing.
- Centralized Bidding Platform: This item is on the agenda more for my benefit than anything to discuss and determine if there are any next steps needed on this issue, including the potential partnership with WTBA on this item.
- Training and Events Update/Executive Director Report: Gary Kennedy will provide his report on WCHA training and events and I will provide information on the items listed below on the agenda. LDG Road School begins in a week and Fall Commissioner Training topics are coming together. I was asked by a Commissioner whether WCHA will be involved in “Winter Tech Talks”, which was something that occurred last year (see flyer from last year).
 - Also, in the spirit of the training agenda item, I will provide an update on the progress of the Snow Fighter Training, which is set for September 20-29 in both Eau Claire and Waukesha.
- WCHA Organization, Deputy Director position: We have received a great response from our advertising for the position. In total we have 43 applications. At the meeting, I hope the committee can discuss further logistics on interviews, assessment and other items as we see the application deadline approach (September 22).
- Policy Items:
 - Green Lights on Utility Vehicles: I’m working towards a meeting with the WECA and MEUW to further discuss the legislation to allow green lights on utility vehicles.
 - Sen. Ballweg proposal: would expand the exemption to the weight limit requirements that are afforded to milk haulers – to liquid milk byproducts, including whey. WCA has checking on this, and the lobbyist from Outagamie County has said they will oppose this when it is introduced formally as a bill.
 - Work Zone Safety bills
 - LRIP/LRIP Pilot
- WCHA actions – related to County Hwy Employees who pass away (memorials/condolences): requested by Roland to discuss whether we have or need a uniform policy on this, in light of the accident in Winnebago County.

SAVE THE DATE: WINTER TECH TALK 2022

Location: Business Education Center, Eau Claire Campus
620 West Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire 54701

Date: October 13, 2022

Time: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Agenda and details to follow

Operators helping Operators with new and innovative techniques.

The NW Region in partnership with WisDOT will be hosting a winter Tech Talk. Local and national speakers will provide expertise on topics involving brine use and other best management practices for winter maintenance.





State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4167/1
EVM:cdc&skw

2023 BILL

1 AN ACT *to amend* 348.25 (4) (intro.); and *to create* 348.27 (20) of the statutes;
2 relating to: permits for the overweight transport of certain fluid milk
3 products.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to issue annual or consecutive month permits for the transportation of fluid milk product in vehicle combinations that exceed general highway weight limitations. In general, a permit may authorize the operation of a vehicle that exceeds the general highway weight limitations by up to 18,000 pounds, subject to a maximum weight of 98,000 pounds. The bill also prohibits DOT from imposing different conditions for these permits for different fluid milk products. "Fluid milk product" is defined under the bill to include raw milk and liquid milk products and byproducts, including liquid whey and whey byproducts.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

4 SECTION 1. 348.25 (4) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

