



**Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Wisconsin County Highway Association  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Monday, June 12, 2023

Time: 10am

Location: Wood County Hwy Dept, Wisconsin Rapids/Virtual

Virtual Meeting Link:

[Join meeting](#)

Attendees:

Jim Griesbach, Jon Johnson, Patrick Vander Sanden, Roland Hawk, Marv Thompson, Matthew Budde, Whitney Wilgus

WisDOT: Rebecca Szymkowski, Dave Stertz

UW-Madison Transportation Information Center: Andi Bill

Meeting called to order at 10:07 am CT.

Agenda:

1. Approve meeting minutes from 4.10.23 meeting; approve minutes of the 5.8.23 meeting
  - a. Motion to approve 5.8.23 minutes made by Wood County. Seconded by Marathon County. Motion carried.
  - b. Motion to approve 4.10.23 minutes made by Wood County. Seconded by Marathon County. Motion carried.
2. WisDOT – HMM Policies status/update
  - a. Dave Stertz mentioned the proposed legislation to add utility contractors; Patrick confirmed that WCHA was aware.

- b. An email was sent out about changing accounting process. WisDOT will be taking suggestions, but Dave Stertz will look further into this process.
  - c. Dave Stertz noted that he had forwarded on the spreadsheet with comments from WCHA, but he is waiting on an update. A suggestion was made to establish grants for one or two counties. WCHA needs to see how it impacts those already invested and if there is a negative impact for those getting on board if a grant system is implemented.
  - d. Brine Makers – rock salt/solar salt
    - i. Dave would like to explore this a bit more, as the differences in quality of salt and salt suppliers has him concerned. Has also asked BTS to come up with better testing procedures. Chris was compiling info on it, and over 50% had responded.
    - ii. Patrick asked if there was a good contact at WisDOT who can join meeting on LOS and how it works. Dave will arrange this.
3. Andi Bill – UW-Madison Transportation Information Center (TIC)
- a. Andi reviewed the technical assistance and training opportunities with Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center. They provide training on how to provide maintenance for highways and services.
  - b. Jim Griesbach agrees there's an opportunity to make that connection again with the commissioners. Jim would like Andi to attend future conferences.
  - c. Jon Johnson notes that we should be collaborative on work plans and would be happy to provide input.
  - d. Need to help counties identify scope for projects so commissioners can identify projects that aren't going to put them in a higher risk category as STP administration is moved over to WCHA.
4. WCHA Website Update
- ACTION: Impact will make the online forum public so commissioners can access it.**
- a. We have mined most of the information from the old website, and it will be added to the new website. Committee reports and agendas were first priority. Once photos from Summer Road Show are received, those edits will be made to the homepage.
  - b. Impact will provide Patrick training on Wild Apricot.
  - c. Staff and Impact will continue to review the forum options and see if it has the email notifications preferred.
5. Discuss the process for obtaining legal opinions on current issues and costs associated
- a. The intent was to try and set a policy that would allow for greater turnaround when we need to move to legal.
  - b. Need to work with Robbie to make a motion to approve legal counsel up to a certain amount. Will table until next meeting.
- ACTION: Patrick will talk with Robbie and bring a motion back to the committee for next the meeting.**
6. Newsletter Question – selection of Member Spotlight subject
- a. A motion was made by Jim Griesbach and seconded by Roland Hawk to highlight Cedar as an associate member for the newsletter. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn to instead focus on retiring commissioners.

**ACTION: Patrick will highlight the two retiring commissioners in the newsletter and will develop a selection process for associate members for future newsletters.**

7. LRIP Pilot Program – update

- a. Patrick sent out copies of the Board approved WCHA contract to pilot members. The wrong version initially went out, and Patrick contacted those members and sent the correct version. Two contracts have been received thus far.
- b. After the Board met, the towns association and the league sent changes to their contracts. They are inconsequential.

**ACTION: Patrick will circulate an email to the Board with the details of these updates so the Board can approve.**

- c. Patrick will be out Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – July 13<sup>th</sup>, and to keep contracts moving he will send them the execution page with his signature in anticipation of receiving a fully executed contract.

8. IRS Designation – update

- a. After Road School, Jake set up a meeting to discuss the Board’s decision further. Patrick will connect with Jake to set up a way to track his time spent on lobbying.

**ACTION: Staff will schedule a meeting with participating parties and Heather at Impact to discuss next steps.**

9. Discussion potential action strategy for federal overweight standards bill

- a. This is information shared from the Committee Against Overweight Trucking. They shared that the House had passed a bill that would increase allowable weights by 91,000 on federal highways. Matthew will be sending a template letter to Patrick.
- b. A reporter from Appleton Post Crescent is doing an article on the Safe Roads Act; WCHA has been invited to participate in the discussion.

10. Update on centralized bidding platform

- a. There is an upcoming meeting with WTVA regarding centralized and localized bidding. Roland plans to attend, and Jim will see if he can attend on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION: Roland will forward the calendar invite to Jon and Jim.**

11. Membership survey interest

- a. We recommend sending a membership survey as follow up to Summer School Road Show.

**ACTION: Impact will work on a draft, then send to Patrick for review with the goal of sending out by the end of July.**

12. Fall Commissioner Training Dates

- a. Wood County moves to approve the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> dates, Calumet County seconded. Motion carried.

**ACTION: Patrick will let Gary know to secure the venue for the fall commissioner training dates.**

13. Executive Director report

- a. Patrick provided an overview of his report. He noted his upcoming vacation and discussed processes.
- b. In his absence, emails will go to Impact. Impact will then forward on to WCHA leadership as needed.

14. Further agenda items

15. Next Meeting Date – July 10, 2023 at 10 am

Adjourned at 11:54 am.