

MINUTES OF THE BAYFIELD COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, May 23, 2019

The regular meeting of the Bayfield County Traffic Safety Committee was called to order by Sheriff Paul Susienka at 9:01 am on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at the Bayfield County Emergency Operations Center, Washburn, WI.

Attendees: Paul Susienka- Sheriff, Ross Baker-WI DOT Representative, Randy Wiessenger- WI DOT/DSP BOTS, Don Swedberg-Community Representative, Sgt. Pat Kraetke-State Patrol, Lt. Andy Runice-Bayfield County Sheriff's Office, Jan Victorson-Emergency Management, Deb Milanowski-Bayfield County Sheriff's Office

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Jan Victorson, 2nd by Don Swedberg to approve the minutes from February 14, 2019. *Motion carried (5-0)*

Public Input: None

Report from Bayfield County Traffic Safety Coordinator: Discussion on the closure of County Hwy N due to 4-6" of water on the road. Not end date to the closure since it will take awhile for the water to go down. Have posted detour routes on Facebook and the county website. Reviewed the community maps and looked at a comparison of deer crashes from 2018 to 2019. 2018 there were 54 in the first few months and in the same time frame for 2019 there were 25.

Report from BOTS LE Liaison: Reviewed fatalities for Bayfield County. We had one in March 2019. Statewide fatalities in 2019 170 and 180 in 2018. Under the 5-year average but the trend indicates it will end up higher than 2018. Randy's office is working with the State Lab of Hygiene to get their alcohol/drug results imported into the crash data, so we have accurate numbers regarding BAC and drug results. Pilot program currently going on in Manitowoc using the oral fluid testing kits. Would replace the PBT.

Legal updates- SB-188 Hemp Regulations: removes THC from the "restricted controlled substance" for the operation of a motor vehicle, UTV, boat, etc.; AB-61-SB-58: IID for all OWI Convictions; AB-172/SB161: mandatory 12 hour hold for those arrested for OWI; several OWI penalties going through such as OWI 1st becoming criminal and requiring a mandatory court appearance. 5th/6th OWI increase of the minimum confinement time.

Report from Emergency Management: The Be Somebody event is coming up on June 8th in Brule. This even brings awareness to the community of the volunteers and need for more. 30-35 different departments will be attending, and both helicopters will be there. Emergency services will be challenged in getting to some residence with the closure of County Hwy N.

Report from WI DOT Traffic Safety Coordinator: Ross provided an update on the upcoming construction projects for Bayfield County in 2019. There will be a chip seal on Hwy 13 from the Douglas County line to Lake Avenue with flaggers. The 2nd project is from Larson Rd to County Hwy M on Hwy 63. The intersection on Co Rd. M will also be restriped. The 3rd project is culvert replacement on Hwy 13 at Terwilliger Creek. Two lane bypass and will start in late July.

Report from State Patrol- the area troopers have been working on background investigations for new hires and haven't been patrolling much. Will try to get them out this weekend.

Lt. Runice updated the committee on patrolling work zone areas and looking for cell phone usage. Education last year, looking to cite this year for it. We are currently working on the Click It/Ticket campaign which ends on June 2nd. Should see an increase in traffic starting this weekend. Still working on the "headlights in low light". Warning people right now as a way of educating.

Rainbow gathering may be heading this way this summer. They are looking at the Namakagon area but haven't made a commitment yet. We should know by June if they intend on having their gathering in the Namakagon area. This is held during the first week of July.

Next meeting is scheduled for 8/29/19 at 9:00am at the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office in the EOC.

Meeting ended at 9:400 am

Submitted by: Deb Milanowski

Minutes Approved on: 8/29/19 @ 9:03 am