

Buffalo County Highway Safety Meeting

4/18/2019

- Call to Order: 1:03 pm Jeri Baures
- Roll Call: Jeri Baures, Norita Willadsen, Michael Schmidtknecht, Lee Engfer, Rick Tumaniec, Bruce Fuerbringer, Randy Wiessinger, Dean Haigh, Josh Reed
- Approval of last meeting's minutes
- No citizen concerns
- BUSO report
 - Flood Run this weekend
 - Media Event with MN law enforcement agencies regarding the Flood Run in Wabasha on 4/19/2019
- Emergency Government
 - Flood monitoring the last several months
 - County seemed better prepared this year than usual, but impact was less than expected
 - STH 35 was closed and detoured for a short distance in Fountain City.
 - Buffalo City will be back into flood stage until next Wednesday
 - Fountain City will be near or at flood stage through the weekend, but it won't be as high as it had been earlier this year.
 - County is looking at getting a fair booth this year at the Buffalo County fair. They are hoping that there will be room for a texting and driving and motorcycle simulator to be brought in.
- Highway Department: No report
- BOTS: Wiessinger
 - Discussion on the media event with MN. Started through contact with BOTS and MN's BOTS personnel. Being attended by state patrols from both states along with local sheriffs.
 - Fatality update: 114 so far for the year. Down 16% compared to last year.
 - No fatalities in Buffalo County so far this year, while there were five total last year.
 - One serious injury crash so far this year on STH 35 near CTH P. Crash involved a vehicle that pulled out of a driveway in front of a semi.
- DOT Highways: Tumaniec
 - Hwy 121- South Fork Elk Creek bridge
 - Reduced to one lane controlled by traffic signal
 - Already started. Will be done mid to late June
 - Hwy 88- U to 37
 - Project should start soon – 2 week project

- 1 ½ miles of surface course to complete from Lieberman Rd to the Buffalo River. Flagging during this time.
 - Three bridges on STH 35 south of Fountain City.
 - Work on the southern two bridges will have to wait until April
 - The first bridge by CTH YY will start next week.
 - All three will be handled with one lane and signals lights
 - Winona Crossing issues after lights have been retimed?
 - There have not been issues reported and the ques seem to be less according to BUSO.
 - TIME meeting, April 25, 9am to noon in Osseo
 - Open to any members here who would like to attend
 - 40 car crash near Osseo will be discussed along with several other topics
 - Usually attended by 30-40 people from EMS, Police, Fire, and towing companies
 - CTH EE from STH 88 to CTH U
 - Concern from Sheriff regarding numerous crashes on one corner in this area. Sheriff has discussed the issue with the county highway department which advised the corner is signed correctly. Are there other options?
- School Representative: Josh Reed
 - Blind spots at school driveway in Alma
 - City of Alma is looking at changing the road to a one way so the entrance would be the south end of the driveway and the exit would be at the north.
 - School wondered if speed limit could be decreased.
 - This has been looked at numerous times in the past and the crash history and sight distances have not deemed that to be appropriate.
 - Is it possible to put signage advising of the school, possibly with yellow lights.
 - This has been discussed in the past and it should be possible.
 - Requires school follow up.
 - Alma High School would like to add an informational sign in the future.
 - School just needs to stay out of the right of way.
- WSP: Haigh
 - Further discussion on the upcoming media event in MN including several MC facts such as the following:
 - 1/3 of cycle operators involved in fatal crashes are improperly licensed
 - Age of operators involved in MC crashes continues to rise, 30 years of age in 1992, 46 years of age in 2018.
 - Over ½ of the motorcycles involved in fatal accidents were single vehicle crashes.

- In 2018, more than half of the motorcyclists killed or injured in crashes were not wearing a helmet (of 81 fatalities, 52 were un-helmeted; of the 1,678 injured, 923 were un-helmeted.)
- Motorcycles make up less than 6% of all registered vehicles in WI, yet in 2018, motorcyclists accounted for 14 percent of all traffic fatalities.
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- Adjourn: 2:12 pm, Next meeting will be July 18th at 1:00 pm.

Minutes taken by: Sgt. Dean Haigh/WSP