

**Meeting Minutes**  
**WCHA Bridge Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 23, 2008**  
**Portage County Highway Facility**  
**Plover, Wisconsin**

1. The meeting was called to order by chairman Brenden at 10:05 AM.
2. Committee members in attendance were: Mully Brenden-Dunn County, John Haese-Winnebago County, Thomas Toepfer-Taylor County, Randy Zastrow-Shawano County, Dave Lambert-Grant County, and Tom Jean-Lafayette County. Others in attendance were: Tom Strock-FHWA, and Tom Hardinger, Brock Gehrig, and Bruce Karow from WisDOT.
3. It was moved by Toepfer, seconded by Haese that the minutes of the January 29, 2008 meeting be approved. Motion carried.
4. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.
5. The history of requests from the US Forest Service for inclusion into the local bridge program was discussed. WisDOT is currently looking at options and will present a progress report at the June 9<sup>th</sup> committee meeting.
6. WisDOT will be giving direction shortly on options for complying with recent FHWA directives relating to scour at bridges. Direction will be given to the regional offices who will pass it along to the counties.
7. WisDOT is almost ready to begin load rating local structures. They have conducted interviews with several promising structural engineering students and will make offers as soon as funding is in place.
8. WisDOT has a committee in place to find a way to implement the recommendation of the LAB bridge program audit. That recommendation is to better track inspection recommendations and resulting costs. Work is ongoing.
9. FHWA has issued new rules for bridge rehab when only the deck is deficient. A supplemental selection list will also be issued. WisDOT may need to change its laws and rules to allow local governments to take advantage of the new federal rules. The committee is to review the new federal policy and be ready to discuss and vote on a recommendation to WisDOT at the June meeting.
10. WisDOT talked about an MSNBC article about faked bridge inspections in Georgia, and problems with inspections here in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's new computer data base and software makes it easy to check inspections for completeness, comments, number of inspections by each inspector, number of inspections in a single day, and any other item in the data base. WisDOT will be

making an extra effort to review inspections for professionalism and thoroughness during and after the 2008 round. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken in accordance with section 4.2.1(f) of the WisDOT Structure Inspection Manual.

11. There was no other business brought before the committee.
12. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:30 PM on June 9<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the WCHA Summer Highway Conference.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.