

MINUTES  
January 29, 2008  
WCHA Training/Safety Committee Meeting  
Kalahari Resort – WCHA Winter Conference

The meeting of the Training/Safety Committee was called to order on January 29, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Randy Scholz.

Committee members present: Jandrain, Klosterman, Morehouse, Pelock, Podgorski, Schofield, Scholz. Dreblow was absent. Many attendees of the Winter Conference were also present.

Minutes of November 6, 2007 were approved.  
(Motion-Pelock/Second-Klosterman/Approved-Voice vote)

Motion to approve Agenda  
(Motion-Schofield/Second-Klosterman /Approved-Voice vote)

#### Discussion of Commissioners Training

Chairman Scholz reminded those in attendance that Commissioners Training is April 2 & 3, 2008, and will be held at the Best Western Midway Hotel in Wausau and the deadline for registration is March 3, 2008. Some topics to be included in this year's Commissioners Training will be NIMS Training, Electric Car Safety, the Bidding Process, Work Zone Safety, LFA, and the Governor or a representative from his office and possibly a roundtable discussion or dissemination of literature on Reflectivity of Signage.

There was limited discussion by meeting participants on each of the topics to be included in Commissioners Training. The WCHA website also has the date and location listed.

#### Update of Work Zone Safety AD Campaign

Chairman Scholz updated us on the joint effort of WCHA, WISDOT and AFSCME. The Work Zone Safety AD committee completed the AD and it ran last year during road construction season and will be repeated during this spring. In addition, a video was also completed for young drivers (driver's ED). There was some heated feedback from the Ad's, as the Ad's were thought by some to be too graphic. However, the committee thought that due to the serious nature of the topic a direct or blunt and sometimes even poignant approach was needed to get the point across because workers/people are being killed on our highways. All in all, this joint effort has taken almost one and a half years and produced the AD campaign and a very moving, even poignant, video. Commissioner Pelock pointed out that if any of these get people talking, (even those complaining about content) the message is getting out.

#### ATSSA Training

The first ATSSA Work Zone Safety Training is completed. The committee would like to see more involvement in this type of training. However, Wisconsin was removed as one of the 16 focus states because our State's frequency and

severity rate for accidents has declined while this is a good thing, Chairman Scholz was told ATSSA would provide training to us at the "focus state" rate. There is one problem; ATSSA will provide training only in Madison, which complicates attendance by our Northern county Commissioners. There will be more information on this on WCHA website.

#### Discussion - Mission Statement – background/reasoning

Chairman Scholz felt our committee needed a clear direction. He and Bob Podgorski worked to construct our Mission Statement and in the future, our committee will work on our goals and objectives. Everyone in attendance was provided a copy of our committee's Mission Statement and was asked for comments or suggestions, (these may be conveyed to Chairman Scholz after the meeting by phone or email). Chairman Scholz feels our committee should be a resource and not endeavor to provide regional training as Commissioners have local resources for most training. Chairman Scholz believes we could provide resources for topics that Commissioners may run into periodically using the WCHA website where the topic would be listed and links provided to assist Commissioners in attaining the needed information such as state statutes. Podgorski agreed that our committee should focus on large issues and new/timely topics or state statutes that Commissioners need updates and information on and not the minor training issues that each county has local resources that easily fill those needs. Klosterman liked the Mission Statement, because it is open to whatever new training or information is needed. A good example of why a resource is needed: Jerry Pinch, shop foreman, Barron County, asked if he could use plastic gas cans to fuel chainsaws while tree cutting – a number of Commissioners spoke up that the rule was that only OSHA approved metal gas cans. Oneida County Commissioner Nick Scholtes thought we should include Frequently Asked Questions as part of the resources we provide on the WCHA website.

Chairman Scholz also advised us of changes that must be made to WCHA bylaws, as safety and training were separate and are now in one (this) committee.

#### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at Portage County Highway Department on February 12, 2008 and teleconferencing will be available for anyone who cannot attend in person. Chairman Scholz will contact the DOT for help to get a better teleconference telephone number so there won't be as many problems as we've encountered in the past. The telephone number will be sent out with the agenda prior to the meeting date.

Motion to Adjourn Morehouse / Second Pelock / Approved Voice vote  
Chairman Scholz adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Podgorski  
Secretary, Safety and Training Committee