

INTRODUCTION

The Wisconsin County Highway Association (WCHA) President's Task Force was established by the WCHA Board of Directors at their August 15th, 2011 meeting. The WCHA President, Bruce Stelzner, laid out the following charge for the Task Force:

"The issues that lay ahead for our Association are many including understanding the impacts of both financial and transportation language changes that were included in the recently adopted state budget; the perceived loss of credibility with the State Legislature, WISDOT, WCA and others in the transportation industry; the internal divide within our Association between those counties that perform primarily system preservation activities from those that do both system preservation and perform significant system improvements; and our collective inability to define a single common goal relating to the diverse operations of Highway Departments throughout the State.

County Highway Commissioners and Committee members throughout the State are very concerned about the above listed issues and are looking for answers to better understand the impacts that recent legislative changes will have on their respective department budgets and operations. Highway Commissioners are looking to restore working relationships with their respective legislators and others and to find the common goal and objective that must be developed to move the WCHA forward in a positive manner."

Each WCHA District was represented within the Task Force as follows:

- Emmer Shields, Ashland County NW District, Chairman
- John Rogers, Forest County, NC District
- John Kolodziej, Door County, NE District
- Ben Warrington, Menominee County, C District
- Randy Anderson, Clark & Jackson County, WC District
- Ron Chamberlain, LaCrosse County, SW District
- Brian Field, Dodge County, SC District
- Allison Bussler, Waukesha County, SE District

These Task Force members have worked diligently to answer the charge given to them. This report is the culmination of 5 lengthy meetings and countless hours of preparation. The Task force met for full day meetings as follows:

- August 30, 2011 - Wausau
- September 9, 2011 - Stevens Point
- September 14, 2011 - Wausau
- September 22, 2011 - Stevens Point
- October 4, 2011 - Wausau

The Task Force membership reflected the diverse membership of the WCHA. There was an often lively and spirited discussion on issues and positions. Through it all, the Task Force members have been committed through a desire to make the WCHA a stronger, more effective organization and a desire to unite its membership. We hope that this document will be a focal point for the success of that endeavor.

The recommendations and statements in this report reflect the opinions and thoughts of the Task Force and should be considered as such. They are not meant to serve as a finding of fact or an official WCHA position.