

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – April 10th, 2019

Members Present:

Laura Vendola-Messer – Winnebago Sheriff's Office
Wayne Bigelow – UW C.O.D.E.S.
Chris Bordeaux – NM Transfer
Scott Nelson-WIS DOT-NE Region
Chris Gorte-Oshkosh Police Department
Scott Morrison – Oshkosh Area School District
Pete DeBoer – Fox Crossing Police Department
Mike McGinley – Community Representative
Kim Bierdermann – ECWRPG
Megan Schever – WI DOT
Rick Olig – Wis DOT BOTS
Corey Sagehorn – Winnebago County Health Department
Erica Ballweg-Larsen – WI State Patrol
Lori Seiler – Winnebago Sheriff's Office

Attendance and introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chris Gorte. Members were recorded and collected. MM/S to approve the minutes from the January 9th meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment for this quarter.

Review of county-wide fatal/serious traffic crashes

#1 WCSO: I-41 and Hwy G, Date: 2/24/19

Captain Vendola-Messer gave a presentation on the Mega Crash that included 119 vehicles and 232 occupants. 141 occupants reported some type of injury including one fatality. Sustained wind gusts were the main cause of the incident. Wind warnings were issued but these warning did not trigger the same alerts as a snow storm warning. There was a huge coordinated effort

to remove all occupants and vehicles in an efficient manner. The WCSO will be giving a presentation on the Mega Crash at the upcoming Governor's Conference on Highway Safety.

#2 Oshkosh PD: S. Washburn and Ripple, Date: 2/5/19

Driver of an older minivan was traveling north on S. Washburn Street just south of Ripple Ave. when it failed to see a large front end loader (heavy machinery) also traveling north. It had just started to snow and it was dark outside. The front end loader was wider than traffic laws allow and it did not have the proper lighting to operate on the roadway. The driver of the minivan was transported to a local hospital but later died. This case is currently being evaluated for prosecution.

#3 WCSO Hwy H and Conlon Ct, Date: 1/15/19

Vehicle was traveling on Hwy H when it failed to negotiate a curve and left the roadway. Road conditions were good and alcohol did not appear to be a factor. Driver sustained a non-life threatening injury.

#4 WCSO I-41 and Hwy 441, Date: 1/18/19

Two driver were on I-41 at Hwy 441 when one of the drivers rear ended another vehicle. There were three reported injuries but none appeared to be life-threatening. It is suspected that one of the drivers were following too closely.

#5 Neenah PD I-41 at Main St, Date: 2/18/19

Two Drivers were on I-41 at the Main Street exit in the City of Neenah. One of the drivers was following too closely and caused a crash. No one sustained life threatening injuries and alcohol appeared to be a factor.

#6 WCSO I-41 and Lake Buttes Des Morts Dr, Date: 2/27/19

Snow covered roads contributed to this crash. No one sustained any life threatening injuries.

#7 Oshkosh PD Boyd Street and Merritt Ave, Date: 3/31/19

Pedestrian tried to get into a vehicle as the driver was trying to drive away. The vehicle's tires rolled over the pedestrian causing life threatening injuries. Alcohol was a factor in both the pedestrian and the vehicle's operator.

Presentation Wrong Way Drivers

Scott Nelson gave a presentation on wrong way drivers in the Northeast Region of Wisconsin. He reported that there were 81 reported cases of wrong drivers on interstates/highways, 31 reports were confirmed by law enforcement officers. Fortunately there were no major injuries reported. There were four reported locations in Winnebago County with the majority of

incidents occurring at the 9th Ave roundabout and I-41. Extra signs have been put into place to combat future cases.

Round Table Discussion

Mike McGinley shared an article from Consumer Reports highlighting automotive safety technology and new advancements in road construction that has increased driver safety. The article is titled, "Road Report: How to Stay Safe in a Crash" and can be found in the May 2019 Consumer Reports magazine or online at <https://www.consumerreports.org/car-safety/can-we-save-more-lives-on-americas-roads/>.

Kim Biedermann informed the group that the ECWRPC will be hosting an information event at the Hotel Retlaw in Fond Du Lac regarding the integration of autonomous vehicles. For more information please visit the following link: <https://www.ecwrpc.org/2019/03/25/register-now-autonomous-vehicle-mini-conference/>.

Rick Olig stated that there has been 99 fatal crashes in Wisconsin in 2019 resulting in 105 people killed. This is slightly below the number of fatal crashes from last year. Speed was the largest contributing factor in most fatal crashes. May 13-June 2 marks the Click it or Ticket grant time frame for spring of 2019. Rick also commented on a conference he attended out of state where he learned that other states are finding success in training new drivers how to drive in everyday situations versus how to pass a driver's test.

Chris Gorte informed the group of the Arya Cares Bike Ride event that will be taking place in Menominee Park (Oshkosh) on May 18. This event is to honor the memory of Arya Vaughn that was killed in a tragic car crash last year while riding her bike. Proceeds of this event will assist area schools in purchasing playground equipment.

Next meeting scheduled for 7-10-19 at 09:00 a.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.