

ROCK COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

January 11, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.
at the Rock County Sheriff's Office Conference Room

The quarterly meeting of the Rock County Traffic Safety Commission was held on January 11, 2012, at the Sheriff's Office at 9:00AM. Present were: Capt. Jude Maurer-RCSO, Hank Brill-Co. Board, Barbara Abraham-Retired BTC, Dennis Ryan-City of Janesville Eng'g, Jeff Berens, WI DOT, Andrea Loeffelholz, WI DOT, Mike Flesch-City of Beloit, Ben Coopman-RC-DPW, Shirley Connors-RC-Emergency Mgmt, Jenifer Keach-County Coroner, Tom Boguszewski-RC-DPW and Pat Swartout, RCSO

Capt. Maurer called the meeting to order at 9:10AM.

Ben Coopman made a motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2011. Barbara Abraham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Capt. Maurer welcomed the group and apologized for the delay to the start of the meeting due to a technical difficulty involving the laptop computer set up for the Reconstruction Team's presentation.

Capt. Maurer then introduced Sgt. Jim Berlin, Rock County Sheriff's Office Accident Reconstruction Team.

Sgt. Berlin provided an overview of the Reconstruction Team's duties and responsibilities in a power point slide presentation.

Sgt. Berlin advised the team is comprised of 3 members with 2 additional members to be added in 2012. An example of the comprehensive report that is generated by the Team was distributed for the group to review.

A detail of the steps the Team follows in creating the reconstruction was provided. Sgt. Berlin explained how the equipment allows them to provide more precise and accurate facts with regard to measurements, allowing a better understanding of the series of events. The equipment also lessens the length of time a roadway is closed in order for the Team to get measurements. The generated reports can be used by Deputies to press charges if applicable. Sgt. Berlin reported the Team is becoming very active and aggressive in fatality accidents. Several jurisdictions have requested the Teams assistance in reconstruction. Per Capt. Maurer, reimbursements of costs for these requests are not always charged.

The challenge of the Team is in the age of their present equipment and the cost to maintain it. Equipment presently being used is owned by State Patrol.

Capt. Maurer thanked Sgt. Berlin for the Accident Reconstruction presentation.

Fatal Accidents Reviewed

- 10/03/11 – NB 43 @ Hart Road. 58 yr old female fatality. Victim crossed median into SB 43 striking 2nd vehicle head on. Roadway was straight, level. Victim was stopped earlier in the day by Madison Police. Coroner Keach will look into this earlier event.
- 10/03/11 – NB 43 @ Hart Road. Accident corresponds with accident listed above. 19 yr old female fatality. Victim's vehicle hit head on by vehicle travelling in the wrong direction, disabling it in the middle of the roadway. Vehicle was then struck by Semi travelling northbound. Coroner Keach will follow up on drug reports
- 10/19/11 – SB 51. 1 vehicle - 76 yr old female fatality. Lost control when trying to avoid a stopped vehicle. Speed may have been an issue. Coroner waiting on drug report.
- 10/23/11 – Sharon Rd @ CTH O. 1 vehicle – 36 yr old male fatality. Failed to negotiate a curve hitting a tree. No seatbelt worn
- 10/27/11 – Hwy 39 @ Avalon Rd. 2 vehicles – 78 yr old female fatality. Overcorrected crossing median into oncoming traffic. Seat belt worn.

Old Business

None

New Business

Coroner Jenifer Keach advised the group that there were 24 fatalities in Rock County in 2011, seven of which were alcohol related. Eight of these were in October, three of which involved alcohol intoxication.

Andrea Loeffelholz reported 570 fatalities for the State of WI, higher than 2010. Fatalities year to date for 2012 equal 10; 12 in 2011. Andrea sent out information on proposed CDL law which prohibits cell phone use. NHTSA is pushing for no electronic device use in vehicle. Barb asked Andrea if grant amounts have changed. Andrea stated they have not gone down. Andrea also reported that Rock County received three grants: Speed, alcohol and seatbelt enforcement.

Public Input

None.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the Rock County Sheriff's Office.

Barb Abraham moved to adjourn the meeting; Jenifer Keach seconded. Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Swartout, LES Secretary