

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

March 14, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Fred Bueter, Chair
Walter Heinritzi, Vice Chair
Dan Blower
Keith Ferris
Dave Goller
Capt. Harold Love
Charles Moser
Robert Ramels

Commissioners Excused

Ken Houck
Tom O'Brien
Mike Prince

Guests

Dan Blair, MPSC
Sgt. Brody Boucher, MSP
Kirk Forbes, MPSC
Lt. Sue Fries, MSP
Jill Skutar, MCTS
Pat Muinch, FMCSA
John Wallace, FMCSA

OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum
Janet Hengesbach
Kim Kelly
Charlotte Kilvington
Julie Roth
Spencer Simmons

CALL TO ORDER

The MTSC meeting was called to order by Mr. Fred Bueter, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self introductions were made of those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2011 MTSC meeting was made by Dr. Blower and supported by Captain Love. The **MOTION** carries.

STANDING REPORTS

Chair's Report – Mr. Bueter

Mr. Bueter reminded those present of the new licensing provision for interstate Commercial Driver License (CDL) drivers which became effective January 30, 2012. The CDL drivers are to present a copy of their medical cards to the Secretary of State either in person, by e-mail or by regular mail. This document will be part of their permanent driving record and will be available to law enforcement, etc. The Secretary of State has received 37,000 responses to this new provision thus far.

The Secretary of State last year, requested the CDL fees be increased by \$10.00 to fund the CDL Self Medical Certification effort, it was removed from last year's budget at the last minute, but was added to the Governor's recommendation for next year.

Financial Report – Ms. Kim Kelly

Ms. Kelly presented an overview of the financial statement as of January 31, 2012. She noted that \$164,973 of the carryover monies has been spent. The excess UCR fees will remain with Motor Carrier for them to spend in the next year on truck-related items or activities. She also reported that revenue collections as of the end of February were up 3% from the prior year.

Lt Susan Fries proposed a package of items that will be purchased using the UCR fees including: additional regular hours (1,030 hours), OT hours (1,043 hours), 24 portable scales, six laptop computers, 12 LED flashlights, and 12 driver license readers. Members discussed the necessity and purpose of the items that Lt. Fries is requesting.

Mr. Heinritzi made a **MOTION** to move \$301,237 of UCR fees into the carry forward account for use by Motor Carrier Section for the items listed above. Supported by Mr. Moser. The **MOTION** carries by voice vote.

Education Grant Activity Report – Ms. Jill Skutar

Ms. Skutar highlighted the recent activities and accomplishments of the Center during the time frame of October 2011 - December 2011. She reported high attendance at the recent Truck Exposition and Safety Symposium. She also noted a slight increase in their goals during this quarter. This is typical as many of the programs offered are seasonal.

Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Lt. Sue Fries

Lt. Fries reported that Motor Carrier section continues to publish their newsletter by e-mail and listserv. The scheduling for the CMV awareness courses is going well. She noted that mailing of the FMCSA regulation books have been placed on hold until regulations regarding in the hand-held phone ban can be included. They will present Distracted Driving awareness training during their next in service session in June/July.

ACTION ITEMS

a. HB 5300

This is a proposed bill which will eliminate approximately \$1 million from the Truck Safety Fund. If this bill passes, the Truck Safety Fund will still receive \$770,000, but it will not be enough for the two grants that are currently funded through this account. Sergeant Boucher indicated that this bill has been before the legislature in the past with no conclusion.

Sergeant Boucher suggested that Commissioners educate their legislators about the MTSC. If they can educate them and develop relationships, they will be more prepared when these types of issues come up, it won't be such a knee-jerk reaction in the future.

Ms. Farnum suggested developing an RFP to evaluate the Center for Truck Safety education program. This would evaluate the effectiveness of the program; it would be a response to the possible loss of fees and would also outline the programs that the MTSC supports.

Following discussions, the Research, Evaluation and Planning subcommittee will develop an RFP as soon as possible. They will send this document out to the Commissioners for comments and make any adjustments for review in advance of the May MTSC meeting.

b. HB 5228

This bill would amend the original Motor Carrier Safety Act by possibly eliminating DOT numbers for trucks under 26,000 lbs. which haul hazardous materials and also trucks which haul 15 or more occupants including the driver. Also, trucks under 26,000 lbs. currently do not have to register with DOT. Sergeant Boucher is pretty sure there will be action on this bill, but the legislature may have to come up with a compromise for this class of vehicles. People affected by this bill are not properly educated so incorrect information is being shared and also the regulations for this type of truck are uniform out in the field. There may inquire to the MTSC for some further information

Lieutenant Fries suggested that a study be done on the incidences and crash data of trucks less than 26,000 lbs. The Research, Evaluation and Planning Subcommittee will develop a report for review at the May MTSC meeting.

c. Upward revision to MSP Grant (FY 11 UCR Fees)

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

d. Update on MTSC Strategic Plan

Ms. Farnum reported that the Research, Evaluation, and Planning committee met recently. In the next few days, they will be sending out the draft MTSC Strategic plan to commissioners for their review. Responses will be due back to Ms. Farnum by April 9. Once they have received comments, they will make any adjustments to the report and add the 2011 crash data. The plan will be complete for final approval during the July MTSC meeting.

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Captain Love discussed the new FMCSA restriction on hand-held phones. This restriction was implemented on January 3, 2012. Currently, enforcement in Michigan is suspended indefinitely. Captain Love explained that MSP would like the Commissioners to take the lead on launching a campaign to educate those who would be affected by this restriction. He also suggested that an adhoc committee be formed to explore and develop legislation to be in place by October 2012. MSP would like to get this on the books in Michigan so they can begin enforcing the restriction. States have until 2015 to be in full compliance, but MSP does not want to wait that long before beginning enforcement.

Mr. Ramels made a **MOTION** to approve \$35,000 for OHSP to develop and launch an educational campaign regarding the FMCSA restriction on hand held phones. Mr. Moser supported. The **MOTION** carries by roll call vote.

Name	Yes	No
Bueter	Yes	
Heinritzi	Yes	
Ramels	Yes	
Goller	Yes	
Blower	Yes	
Moser	Yes	
Love	Yes	
Ferris	Yes	

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.