

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

November 4, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Dr. Dan Blower, Chair
Tim Yungfer, Vice Chair
Fred Bueter
Sharon Conklin
Walter Heinritzi
Capt. Mike Krumm
Charles Moser
Tom O'Brien
Michael Prince
Robert Ramels

Commissioners Absent

Dave Goller

Guests

Al Newell
Chuck Simmons
Don Willcutt
Dr. Lidia Kostyniuk
Dr. Tim Gates
Erv Dykstra
Even Stouten
Glen Merkel
Janet Hughes
Jennifer Zakrajsek
Jim Dyer
Joe Holzmer
John Dresden III
John Frederick
Jon Moyle
Kristi O'Boyle
Larry Fennell
Lee Butler
Marie Barrett
Mary Ann Fattal
Michelle Zemla
Ron Edwards
Vince Held, Jr.
Willie Roth
Wyatt Sweeney

OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum
Janet Hengesbach
Heidi Ruis
Spencer Simmons

ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. Dan Blower, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the September 24, 2015 minutes was made by Captain Krumm and supported by Mr. Ramels. The **MOTION** carries.

STANDING REPORTS

A.Chair's Report – Dr. Dan Blower

Dr. Blower recognized the Michigan Truck Safety Commissioners who were recently reappointed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Walt Heinritzi, Michigan Trucking Association – No report

Capt. Mike Krumm, Michigan State Police – Captain Krumm reported that enforcement has begun today on I-75 regarding distracted driving around trucks. Between December 7 and December 11, they will focus on the I-94 area. He also reported that 18 recruits are starting their 4th week of Motor Carrier Recruit School.

Fred Bueter, Michigan Department of State – Mr. Bueter reported on the new initiatives regarding CMV licenses and medical requirements to present documentation at branch offices. The new commercial learner permit initiative was recently rolled out. There are new restrictions, but it is going well.

Bob Ramels, General Public – No report

Mike Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning – Mr. Prince reported on the annual *Drive Slow on Ice and Snow* campaign is being expanded to include the Lower Michigan, specifically, the I-94 corridor. The area selected is near the I-94 pile up from earlier this year. From November – February, billboards will be up in that area and a weather-triggered message will appear on the Weather Channel cell phone app.

Tim Yungfer, General Public – No report

Mr. Tom O'Brien, Michigan Community Colleges – No report

Ms. Sharon Conklin, Private Motor Carriers – Ms. Conklin reported that the carriers are interested in replacing the skid pad as soon as possible.

Charles Moser, Transportation Commission – The road repair bills have passed through each side of the legislature and are going to the Governor for his signature.

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons reviewed the most recent financial report through September, 2015. He noted that these are preliminary numbers as they are waiting for the final UCR fee amount for this time period. When he receives that information, he will forward it to the commissioners.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Lt. Sue Fries, Michigan State Police (MSP), Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED)

MSP CVED used 16,617 hours for Special Transportation Enforcement Team (STET) activity. MDOT identified the top 100 crash locations in Michigan involving CMVs. Since this involved 12 counties, CVED focused enforcement on these areas. They participated in the National Drive to Save Lives/ Toward Zero Death campaign and have placed banners in weigh stations around the state and will deploy at rest area operations and other events. They also partnered with the Center for Truck Safety to use the simulator at different public events and rest areas. CVED continues to work on securing a vendor for the C-VIEW-Plus and inSPECT technologies.

For FY 16, 10,500 hours of STET activity was approved. This is 80 hours per quarter per district for patrols based on district safety plans. They added Drive to Zero overtime to the grant in addition to the purchase of 30 new radars and partial funding for the recruit school going on currently.

D. Education Grant Activity Report – Mr. Al Newell, Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS)

Mr. Newell reported that they trained 131 drivers and visited 12 companies. They attended over 30 events and conducted demonstrations for approximately 2,021 individuals. Events they attended included the UP State Fair, various truck shows in Dundee and St. Ignace, and Welcome Centers around the state to name a few. They provided education and 2 outreach seminars per month. Their social media activity has increased as they have 96 “likes” on Facebook. Also noteworthy was the 16th Edition of the Truck Drivers Handbook has been released for distribution with 12,560 books sent to companies/drivers.

The **MOTION** carries by roll call vote.

D. MCDD Proposal – Dr. Blower (*Mr. Heinritzi recused himself from this discussion and left the meeting at this time as he is the Executive Director of the MTA and the applicant for this project proposal.*)

Recently an RFP was developed for entities to submit a proposal for a new Michigan Center for Decision Driving/skid pad for truck/CMVs driver training. The Michigan Trucking Association (MTA) submitted the only proposal received at \$1.8 million.

Dr. Blower opened the discussion between the Commissioners. He reported that investigation into locations in Ingham County and other alternative sites have been going for a few months. The Ingham County fairgrounds officials seemed anxious to see a plan. The next step would be to work with Ingham County Commissioners to seek approval. Electrical and water requirements would also have to be reviewed. If approved however, Ingham County would have to submit a proposal through an RFP like any other interested entity would and they did not do that for this proposal, although it was noted that they were not aware of the RFP process until just a few days before it was due.

Captain Krumm feels it's important to go forward with the project, but the vagueness of the financial situation and location is of concern. Mr. Bueter inquired what the financial situation for the Truck Fund looks like for a project such as this.

Mr. Simmons explained the current monetary situation with the MTSC. When the project is completed, there would be a zero balance in the MTSC account. Mr. Bueter agrees that the proposal is somewhat vague.

Mr. Prince reminded the Commission that if this proposal were to be approved, there would be no extra money in the fund for additional projects. The Michigan Center for Truck Safety grant has employees and other expenses to fund which could be impacted and MSP CVED would be unable to facilitate their STET enforcement program at the current levels.

Mr. Yungfer stressed there is a need for this kind of training but this project is a huge cost and he has questions of can this legally be done when we are taking public money and awarding it to a private entity. The Attorney General's Office would need to look at this project as well.

Dr. Blower has mixed feelings about the proposal. There is much support for the MCDD/skid pad but there are also many financial and legal considerations and many questions parts of the proposal did not address.

Mr. Yungfer inquired if this could be tabled until the MTSC can get more answers regarding the proposal submitted. Mr. Prince believes that it can be tabled. He cautioned that any proposal could take up-to one year because of many preliminary approvals and advance work that needs to be done including legal reviews, contracts, agreements, etc. The quickest avenue to solve the current problem is to find a facility that is already constructed or go back to Eaton Corporation and inquire about partnering with the commission to see if their facility could continue to be used for this type of training.

Mr. Prince offered a couple of options 1) reopen the RFP process. This would allow the current applicant to refine their proposal, and 2) Reopening the RFP would allow any other entities the ability to apply for the project. Down the road, this would protect the commission against any criticism of how the process was administered. Awarding a grant of this size to an agency that is a member of the Commission could also be viewed as a concern.

Dr. Blower made a **MOTION** to table the conversation, take the original RFP, make some modifications based on conversation today and send it back out. The RFP would have a 30 day deadline once OHSP receives the information. Mr. Yungfer supported.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Blower		Heinritzi	Goller
Yungfer			
Bueter			
Conklin			
Krumm			
Moser			
O'Brien			
Prince			
Ramels			

The **MOTION** carries by roll call vote

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Willcutt from Brenner Oil reminded the group that originally the Eaton Corporation offered the Center for Truck Safety the property only. Most of the vehicles used for the training were donated. Other members of the public discussed the Eaton Corporation and how the property was used for the skid pad training.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.