

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

March 12, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Fred Bueter, Chair
Sharon Conklin
Dave Goller
Walter Heinritzi
Charles Moser
Mike Prince
Robert Ramels

Commissioners Absent

Dr. Dan Blower
Tom O'Brien, Vice Chair
Capt. Mike Krumm
Tim Yungfer

Guests

Paul Saline
Nick Fowler
Larry Flint
Jan Charles
Pat Muinch
Lt. Susan Fries - MSP
Al Newell, Center for Truck Safety
Jill Skutar, Center for Truck Safety

OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum
Janet Hengesbach
Charlotte Kilvington
Julie Roth
Heidi Ruis
Spencer Simmons

ROLL CALL

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 November 6, 2013 minutes was made by Mr. Ramels and supported by Mr. Moser. The **MOTION** carries.

STANDING REPORTS

A. Chair's Report – Mr. Fred Bueter

Chair Bueter reported that another round of reminder letters is being sent out to the CMV drivers that have not yet certified to educate them regarding the medical certification requirements. At the end of January 2014, the Secretary of State (SOS) was to begin downgrading the drivers unless they report which type of CMV operation they perform (Interstate vs Intrastate) and to present their DOT card as needed. Backlogs have delayed these license downgrades (now scheduled to begin June 1, 2014). Approximately 90,000 CMV drivers out of 300,000 have not reported the information thus far. Also, a second letter was sent to all Commercial Driver's License (CDL) drivers just informing them of recent and upcoming changes impacting CDL drivers.

Next, the FMCSA is mandating that come May 21, 2014, only qualified doctors on the FMCSA National Registry ~~to~~ can perform CDL medical evaluations. FMCSA has sent out letters (by zip code) to doctors in unrepresentative areas of Michigan indicating the new rules. If a doctor wants to be on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners, they have to train and be tested by a FMCSA vendor. Currently only 150 Michigan doctors are approved and 800+ are in training. The guidelines include 8 hours of training and then pass a certification test. Members discussed different examples of drivers trying to get their medical cards and the many frustrating experiences they have going through this process.

Chair Bueter noted there has been no further conversation regarding the two legislative bills which were introduced last year regarding the truck commission.

Commercial Skills Test Information Management System (CSTIMS) is an Internet-based tool that provides a consistent way to track the scheduling and entry of road test results by third-party examiners. Come July 2015 there is a new federal requirement for electronically scheduling and reporting road tests for CDLs. Driver would go to a private company and the company would notify the SOS electronically who they are testing, send in the results and then it would be placed on the individual's driving record. This is a scheduling tool which FMCSA has bought and paid for. Chair Bueter would like to make use of this tool for motorcycle and automobile road tests down the road as well.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducts a traffic records assessment every five years to measure the strides in traffic safety. Michigan is in line for another one in November 2014. This NHTSA assessment looks at the many record partners in the process including MDOT, SOS, courts, EMS, Crash and more. Completing the assessment every five years is a prerequisite for obtaining NHTSA grant funding. In a similar vein, there is also a NHTSA-sponsored Driver's Education assessment scheduled for late April in Lansing. The SOS and OHSP are participating in the assessment along with other traffic safety partners.

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons presented and reviewed the most recent financial report as of February 28, 2014. He made a request to move un-spent UCR fees of \$568,832 to MSP's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED). In past years, the UCR fees are housed in OHSP's truck safety appropriation line then are transferred to CVED's grant.

Mr. Simmons also reported that the MSP Budget office inquired to the large amount of money in the Truck Safety Fund balance. In the past, if the legislature notices a large amount of money in a fund balance with little or no activity, this could be questioned. Chair Bueter challenged the members to bring ideas to the next meeting to fund CMV traffic safety projects with this funding. Mr. Prince briefly explained the Drug Recognition Expert Program and the possibility of bringing in a couple of officers to explain the program to the Commissioners. Members then discussed the types of equipment/data used to determine whether a driver is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. OHSP will be working with UMTRI to get some more specific data regarding CMV drivers under the influence. Other members suggested having the MCTS resurrect the prior Road Team concept where a truck goes to a high school to educate users on blind spots and other truck safety issues.

Mr. Prince made a **MOTION** to move the excess UCR fees in the amount of \$568,232 to the CVED grant. Mr. Ramels supported.

Name	Yes	No	Absent
Bueter	X		
O'Brien			X
Blower			X
Conklin	X		
Goller	X		
Heinritzi	X		
Krum			X
Moser	X		
Prince	X		
Ramels	X		
Yungfer			X

The **MOTION** carries.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Lt. Susan Fries

Lt. Fries did not have an update report for today’s meeting. An update will be provided during the May meeting.

Lt. Fries presented a proposal for a supplement to the existing grant for additional overtime patrol. This would allow districts with large patrols to address the problem areas without compromising the regular patrols. It would also allow the districts with large patrol areas to spend more time in problem areas. It will also allow more patrols on roads on the weekends and holidays. She requested \$249,473 for overtime patrols which equals 3,544 overtime hours.

The 2nd part of the proposal is a media campaign to address commercial vehicle safety. CVED is working on a media campaign to address CMV driver behavior. To best target our audience, CMV drivers, the safety messages will be delivered as public safety announcements by radio, and also billboard messages. They are requesting approximately \$100,000 for this effort.

Following discussions, Mr. Moser made a **MOTION** to approve the supplement in the amount of \$349,473 for CVED additional overtime patrol and media campaign. Mr. Ramels supported.

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

The **MOTION** carries.

D. Education Grant Activity Report – Jill Skutar

Ms. Skutar reported that the Center for Truck Safety received final approval on January 24 to continue to operations with limited services including staff back out on the road, conducting site visits, and getting the hotline up and running.

Mr. Al Newell was recently hired a the new project manager and will work on the goals and objectives as required of the grant.

Chair Bueter thanked Jill for her years of service as project manager for the Center for Truck Safety.

UPDATE ITEMS

- a. Update on MCTS Grant
There are currently no updates for this grant.

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

- a. TACT Grant Update
Ms. Charlotte Kilvington reported on the recent Ticketing Aggressive Cars & Trucks (TACT) grant enforcement effort and the results. This effort was funded by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the MTSC. It was a very successful campaign with three waves of enforcement in Kent and Ottawa counties. During the enforcement periods, there were approximately 3,000 vehicles stopped, which included both CMV and passenger vehicles, and 157 arrests. Over 2,700 citations were issued including citations for passenger cars following too close to CMVs. It was noted that only one alcohol citation from a passenger car was issued.

An evaluation report will be developed in August with a final report due in September.

b. MDOT Truck Parking Pilot Project

Dr. Blower was unable to attend today's meeting. A presentation on this item will be scheduled in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Al Newell, the new Project Manager with the Center for Truck Safety, gave a brief history of his past experience. In addition to his duties in Lansing, he will also be visiting the UP office in the near future.

Lt. Fries noted that Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division is recruiting for a Motor Carrier School to begin in June 2014.

There was brief mention of tow trucks and when they are called to accidents. Smaller tow companies are called to assist with accident clean-up, then it ends up being a large expense to those smaller companies who are not prepared for this effort. Mr. Newell recommended drivers mention they are already in contact with tow trucks who are willing to clean-up accidents involving CMVs.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.