

Minutes of the Motor Carrier Advisory Board Meeting

January 21, 2016

Members Present

Don Beerens
Joshua Rhodes
Glen Merkel
William Kotynski
Randy Whitaker
Paul Behmlander
Al DeMeestor
Carol Heinowski
Sarah Stewart
Brian Hitchcock
Karol Pawlos

Members Absent

Joe Ballor
James Burg
Nichole Gavriloski

MSP-CVED Staff Present

Inspector Coplin
Nicholas Nwabueze
Herb Fields
Beth Schafer

Ex Officio Members Present

Seth Martin
Diane Guige
Aarne Frobom
John Wallace
Alfred Newell, Jr.

Others in Attendance

Elisha DeFraine
Pat Munich

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Nwabueze introduced the newest member to the Board, Ms. Karol Pawlos.

November 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from November 19, 2015, were approved. Motioned by Mr. Paul Behmlander and seconded by Mr. William Kotynski

Agency Reports

Michigan State Police, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (MSP/CVED)

Inspector Coplin reported the most recent copy of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations has been filed with the Office of the Great Seal. CVSA has recommended that Unified Carrier Registration violations be placed on hold until February 1, 2016. However CVED is instructing its officers to use good discretion regarding tickets being issued for failing to pay 2016 registration fees.

Dr. Nwabueze reported that the Acella program will be up and running by the end of March 2016.

Herb Fields reported UCR renewals went really good.

Michigan Department of Transportation

Aarne Frobom reported the department hired a new engineer for Utilities and Permits, his name is Scott Greene. The Canadian officials report that they have three qualified bidders to compete for building the new Gordie Howe Bridge. It is expected that the contractor will be selected this year and construction to start as scheduled in 2017 and completion in 2020.

Secretary of State

Diane Guige reported the March renewals will be sent out the last week of January 2016.

Michigan Department of Treasury

Seth Martin reported the IFTA renewal is in the middle of the 4th quarter tax return. Treasury licensed approximately 4,700 carriers while issuing just under 70,000 decals.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

Mr. John Wallace reported there is a notice of proposed rulemaking to change the safety fitness methodology. FMCSA wants to integrate inspection with basic scores or they are going to combine the inspection performance with investigation results. The old three tiered system is gone and the new one tiered system will take its place.

Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS)

Mr. Alfred Newell reported that the simulator went up to Northern Michigan and the UP this week. It's recommended if a carrier doesn't have more than four drivers, they attend training at the Center's business location. All MCTS employees are trained in the driver performance measurement

Legislation Update

- Amend county-road law to prohibit local road agencies from requiring a permit for " activity that is otherwise permissible" under state law
- Towing Disabled Trucks. Eliminate 25 and 50-mile restrictions on towing disabled truck-tractor semitrailer combinations
- Toll Roads. Authorize any governmental agency to build any project that "serves a public purpose," including toll roads. Federal law prohibits tolls except for additional lanes on Interstate freeways, reconstruction of non-Interstates freeways, and reconstruction of non-Interstates such as US-23."
- Reducing truck weight. In the House of Representatives, limit gross vehicle weight to 80,000 lbs.

Public Comment

None

New Business

None

Presentations

John Wallace gave a presentation regarding Electronic Recording Devices (ELD's). A copy of the presentation was e-mailed to everyone in attendance.

Future Meeting Topics

A recommendation was made to invite John Woodruff (UMTRI). Topic - national economy to increase truck size & weight.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Glen Merkle and seconded by Mr. Al DeMeestor.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 am on March 17, 2016. The location will be conference room C-6 located at the MSP Training Academy, 7426 N. Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48913. If you are using GPS it is listed as Dimondale, MI 48813

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas I. Nwabueze Ph.D., Chairman
Motor Carrier Advisory Board