

Meeting Notes

Wednesday Feb 1st 2017

Wed. Feb 1st 2017 9:00 AM

Lead: Glen Button

Note taker: Evelyn McFarlane



Present: Sheriff William Bohnyak, Lt. John Flannigan, Emily Boedecker, Roger Thompson, Scott Davidson, Chief Frank Koss, Doug Masson, Capt. Jake Elovirta, Dan Batsie, Bill Mitchell, Chrissy Keating, Mandy White, Patrick McManamon, Nancy Andrus, Mitchell Jay, Tom Fields, Erik Filkorn, Mario Dupigny-Giroux, Ken Millman, Lt. Kevin Geno,

Phone: Ted Minall, Barbara Brody, Mary Eversole

Welcome/ Introductions/News – Glen Button

- Recognition of Lt. John Flannigan for publication of article in the IACP *Police Chief Magazine*, on Oral Fluid Testing. Article is posted on VHSA Web site.
- Bruce, Glen and John, recently testified at the State House. There was interest and a good dialogue from the committees on the presentation including discussion of the four causal factors of seat belts, impaired driving, speed and aggressive driving, and distracted driving.
- It was stressed to legislature that drugs are more of an issue these past year(s).

Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) - Bruce Nyquist

- The SHSP is 99.9 percent complete. Once finished it will be distributed to everyone on the Board, legislative and judiciary committees. The latest draft is posted on the Website.

Over view of SHSP

- List of Agencies involved in Alliance.
- Our vision and our promise.
- Overarching goals for Vermont.
- SHSP – feeds into other plans. GHSP, HSIP, Motor Carrier Safety Plan, DMV plan and TRCC Strategic Plan.
- Data List showing that Vermont met all goals but one in 2012 to 2016. Run off the road crashes just under goal.
- Distracted driving crashes hard to track – under reported.
- Past two years we are trending up with increased crashes and injuries.
- New plan adds vulnerable users and changes definition of younger drivers. Increased to age 25.
- Seven CEA's goals set for next 5 years.
- NHTSA emphasizing drowsy driving and have added it as an emphasis.
- Occupant protection – seatbelt usage rate down to 80 percent. Discussion as to why it has gone down. Scott - Correspondence between lower rate and fatalities. Not a coincidence.

- Helmet enforcement data tracked. It is part of OP numbers, but not used in percentage calculation.
- Vulnerable users and motorcycle safety. - We need to pay attention to these crashes.
- Question raised about motorcycle helmet checkpoints. Vermont does not have them.
- Teens have a significant tick up in crashes from 21 to 25 years old. (20 percent of major crashes).

Significant EA's – no goals set in the plan, but working towards solutions

- Reduce Medium And Heavy Vehicle Crashes - DMV – at one time had five high crash counties. No longer have county hotspots. Now looking at day of week and time of day. Many crashes are light vehicles with heavy commercial vehicles. Difficulty in addressing the behavioral side.
- Work Zone safety – Noted that it has least amount of education materials. Suggestion to design some work zone safety materials in Vermont – just for Vermont. Bruce - Will contact TISMO group. They are contact for work zones.

Special Emphasis Areas- no goals set in the plan, but working towards solutions.

Improve Vermont's Data In The Interest Of Safety

- Working towards completeness timely and accuracy.

Enhance Vermont's Emergency Medical Services Capabilities

- EMS – Alliance pleased to have Dan Batsie on board. Positive impact.

Organizational Structure of the VHSA - Evelyn

- Discussion of reorganization LEAN process. A more direct system with the Board and Advisory Council. Chart of Advisory Council included in the plan.
- Working towards systematic sharing of information – to bridge gap of activities between activities and the board.
- Advisory council – to review projects and present to Board.
- Task force sheet – developed to document and track task force activities.
- Website to be the place to share this information. Task Force projects posted on the Website.
- Strategy to implement projects quickly to tackle the trend of the recent upswing in crashes.
- Mobilize using the projects and resources already in place. (low hanging fruit)
- Combine the strategies outlined in new plan, and look at un-met goals outlined in the annual report to identify possible new projects.
- Advisory Council reviewed four of the seven CEA's in the last meeting.
- Hand out - current projects, projects just beginning, and projects forming.
- In Council meeting, identified those projects that can dovetail with enforcement and NHTSA calendar.

Website

- CBS – Article on increased fatalities is posted on the Website. Question as to whether Vermont should prepare a report as to why we are one of the worst state for increased injuries. Does CBS report give us the why as to what is going on in Vermont? (Look more closely at article.)

- Alliance can use the Website for data, reports, articles and news. Topical issues can (and have) been posted. Share Web-site information and articles with constituencies. Encourage people to use Web site.

Introduction - Secretary Joe Flynn. Welcomed everyone and pledged support to the Alliance. Stressed how safety is a seamless connection to all of us. His door is always open.

Treasurer Report – Sheriff Bohnyak

- Thank you to Dave Peters, Dan Goodman, Mary Eversole and Glen Button for their donations.
Receipts \$800, Disbursements \$195.50, Balance 195.50
- Committee question as to starting a Go-funding page. Chair response, no. Immediate funding issue is to raise enough money to leverage the GHSP grant. Other funding sources to be considered later.

Legislation- Glen Button.

- Jake and Emily both spent time with legislation. Role of VHSA not to lobby, but to present facts. Board members can and are encouraged to lobby from parent agencies. To confirm, the VHSA cannot lobby, but can present data and facts in the role of best practices.
- Glen encourages people in room to email and reach out to public with information. The more voices the better.
- Barbara – Vermont Education Association. Sets up tables (in front of cafeteria) at the Statehouse. VHSA does not have a safety organization day, where we display our information at the Statehouse. If interested, Barbara can help. Schools have a similar day to promote their causes and interests.
- Glen, during testimony discussed license points for distracted driving, work zone, CPS, primary seatbelt laws, and secondary without primary offense, GDL's, and seat belts in busses. Speeding a hot topic. Legislative committee would like to see data and results on laws that have been passed. There is a need to look at graduated licenses and nighttime restrictions for younger drivers.
- Speeding issues important to Senator Mazza.
- Oral Fluid Testing – good discussion at State House. Discussion with committees about EMT's doing blood draws.
- Lt. John Flannigan. House has been supportive of Safety issues. Every State that has a primary law has improved safety numbers.
- Chief Koss. Public misunderstanding of the law. Primary law would help public to eliminate bigger ticket.
- Capt. William (Jake) Elovirta – Program of abstinence program difficult because testing includes

prescription drugs. Request from legislature to raise the weight above 99,000 to 111,000 allowed on interstate. Difficulties arise with infrastructure and other issues. Automotive Vehicle inspection hot topic.

- Emily Boedecker - No new bills for vulnerable users. Testified regarding *four-foot rule* now passed. Questions as to how can this law can be communicated to public. Doubling of funds for Bike Smart program, with goal to reach to more students. Recommends a discussion defining what impeding means with regards to traffic backing up.

Possible Topics for next Board Meeting

- Drowsy driving
- Dan Goodman – Graduated Drivers Licenses

Guest Speaker - Introduction of Sgt. Tim Gould.

- Presented – Project for improving health and youth through improving law enforcement knowledge of child passenger safety issues.

Meeting adjourned 10:50