

Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation

Meeting Minutes

Black Bear Casino Resort – Carlton, MN

January 30, 2009

9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M

Jason Hollinday, Co-Chair, ACTT, called the meeting to order. Introductions were conducted.

Members Present:

Jason Hollinday, Co-Chair, Fond du Lac
Marc Mogan, Co-Chair, Prairie Island
Linda Aitken, Mn/DOT
Tom Fronk, BIA, (Alt)
Cheryl Cloud Westlund, TTAP, Michigan Tech
Frank Polich, USFS, Engineering, Cass Lake
Brian Freeberg, City Engineers Association

Mike Moilanen, Mille Lacs
Evelyn Howard, Leech Lake
Mike Robinson, Mn/DOT
Marty Conner, Bois Forte
Cheryl Martin, FHWA-MN Division
Patty Northrup Lower Sioux

Members Absent:

Burny Tibbetts, White Earth
Dave Emblom, County Engineer
Donald May, Red Lake
Lester Morris, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
Dave Danz, Grand Portage

Dave Trooien, Mn/DOT
Sam Strong, Red Lake
Travis Leenerts, Upper Sioux Community
Annamarie Hill, MN Indian Affairs

Guests Present:

Mindy Carlson, MN LTAP
Rick Gitar, FDL
Thomas Martin, MnDOT TDA

Mark Nelson, MnDOT OIM
Art Johnston, USDA Forest Service

Review and Approve Agenda:

Agenda was reviewed. Motion: Mike Moilanen; Second: Cheryl Martin. Carried

Review and approval of October 29, 2008 minutes

Correction: Date from 3009 to 2009. Motion: Cheryl Martin; Second: Mike Moilanen. Carried.

Old Business:

Issue: Roadside Vegetation Management

Mike Moilanen update for Mille Lacs:

Mille Lacs have a spring meeting planned with District 3. This meeting is a continuation of work started last year on communications plan and management process of RVM.

Linda provided a brief update:

MnDOT (Tina Markeson, Natural Resource Specialist) is drafting a MOU for FDL and Mn/DOT for Roadside Vegetation Management. She will have this ready for review in March. Leech Lake is very interested in working with Mn/DOT on RVM – Linda will contact them to set up a meeting to begin the discussions.

ACTION: Linda will bring information to ACTT next meeting.

Issue: NEPA Training

Cheryl Cloud (Michigan TTAP) provided an update.

- Cheryl is concerned about the cost and the date (the date is an issue because we want to coordinate it with the 2009 Tribes & Transportation Conference)
- The NEPA Training is delayed (there is a cost for the delay).
- Limited to 30 participants.
- Funding is an issue.

Discussion:

- Art Johnston: Possibility to use Forestry NEPA Training. Would like to attend training because of shared roads/share participation.
- Cheryl Martin: We would like to coordinate this with T&T Conference. What kind of training (NEPA) – holistic view – beyond general NEPA process. How will tribes view this? Can Bruno/Rick pursue funding.
- Frank Polich: will pursue funding

ACTION: Cheryl Martin, Cheryl Cloud, Richard Gitar, Bruno Zagar, and designee from Mn/DOT's Environmental Department.

⇒ Mindy Carlson, MN LTAP provided information on training by LTAP:

- 58 LTAP centers nationwide
- Provide training and TA on issues, such as: Road Maintenance, Work Zone Safety, Gravel/Pavement Rehab.
- The Spring Maintenance Expo is April 14 – 15, 2009
<http://www.mnltap.umn.edu/Events/SpringMaintenanceExpo/>
- For information on Roadside Vegetation Management, as well as the above mentioned services, see the website for all MNL TAP offers: <http://www.mnltap.umn.edu/> and search the website for "Roadside Vegetation Management"

Issue: Toward Zero Deaths – draft MN Tribal Road Safety Summit

Linda Aitken & Cheryl Martin:

The report was distributed to the ACTT members and a brief discussion was held on the outcomes from the Summit – the Issue of Crash Data Collection that will be worked on by the ACTT and the tribes who have either initiated or will be planning the development of Tribal Strategic Highway Safety Plans. These plans may be used as models for those tribes who want to pursue developing plans in the future.

Linda, along with Chairman Leecy, will present this draft report to the MN Indian Affairs Council when they meet on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at St. Paul.

The 2009 TZD Conference will be held in October 28 & 29 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center in Duluth, Minnesota.

White Earth held its organizational meeting for developing the White Earth's Strategic Highway Safety Plan on December. They have since had another planning meeting and will follow up with a reservation wide community meeting to provide information to the community members and to seek input for the plan. A meeting to include those who attended the organizational meeting is planned for April to move forward with the information they have gathered from the community.

Cheryl Cloud Westlund: TTAP will feature White Earth's planning in their next newsletter. Wisconsin has been chosen as the next state who will be hosting a Tribal Road Safety Summit.

Cheryl also mentioned the 3M Sign grant: The 3M Sign Grant Program is available to help U.S. government agencies replace underperforming signs with ones made from higher performance prismatic reflective sheeting at significantly lower costs. www.3MSignGrants.com

Issue: Crash Data Collection

Thomas Martin, Mn/DOT OTSO

Thomas' presentation outlined the type of data Mn/DOT collects, why they collect it, and what value it may have for various reservations if they were to have more accurate information.

Discussion:

- Thomas said the GIS product that is available to tribes is the MN BIS Basemap which includes measures and mileage calibrated from the state database of record for roadway inventory. Thomas can get tribes "good numbers" if they are willing to share their shapefiles with Mn/DOT. Currently, White Earth is the only tribe which has provided a GIS map – in turn; Mn/DOT has provided back information via the Mn/DOT TDA website. This is an internet based spatial data acquisition site that allows users to download compressed shapefiles for use in their Geographic Information System (GIS), image processing system, or traditional database environment. <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/tda/>
- Functional classification correlates and is being updated by Teresa Chapman
- Cad drawings are available via DGNs or paper copies – contact Thomas for these.
- Mn/DOT doesn't use AutoCAD. Microstation is the CADD application within the DOT.
- The discussion regarding the difference in number of miles in the reservations networks and that what Frank Polich was talking about certainly would be affected if Mn/DOT were to get data from the reservations regarding their roadway network.
- Tribes can contact Thomas at (651) 366-3872 or email Thomas.Martin@dot.state.mn.us to find out more about sharing shapefiles and the information Mn/DOT can provide back to them.
- Tom Fronk said the BIA also requests the shapefiles – Carl Hardzinski creates layers in his GIS files.

Information/Discussion

Economic Recovery Program – re IRR

Tom Fronk, BIA: The Economic Recovery Program for the IRR program will be approximately \$300M nationwide/ \$75M to the Midwest Region/ \$25M to Minnesota tribes. The projects must be on the TIP – Federal highway approved plan – currently rushing inventory to Albuquerque. The TIP is approved in Washington. There is a quick turnaround for safety projects.

Statewide Transportation Plan Update

Mark Nelson, Mn/DOT's Statewide Planning Unit Supervisor: Mark provided an update to ACTT on the Minnesota Statewide Transportation Plan for 2009-2028. The plan, titled "Your Destination...Our Priority," sets a long-range vision for transportation in Minnesota and identifies transportation system needs, goals and priorities for the next 20 years. Mark provided a PowerPoint presentation about the plan and also shared the additional opportunities for tribes to review and comment on the plan, including attending one of eight Mn/DOT district stakeholder

outreach meetings Feb. 2-20, 2009. To keep updated on the planning and additional opportunities to comment, see this website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/stateplan/>

2009 Tribes & Transportation Conference

The next Tribes and Transportation Conference will be held in the fall of 2009 (October) and will have an environmental theme. The ACTT approved the conference be held at Black Bear Casino Resort with FDL being the tribal co-host. We are looking for dates that work both the NEPA Training and the T&T Conference.

Election of ACTT Co-Chairs for 2009

Motion by Mike Moilanen to extend the current Co-Chairs terms through 2009; second: Cheryl Martin. Carried.

ACTT Membership Discussion

There is concern about attendance to the ACTT meetings. Important for all tribes to be represented for the discussion and decisions made that concern all tribes. Co-chairs request that Linda contact the tribes regarding representation and if the tribe would assign an alternate to attend the meeting in the absence of the tribal designee.

Next ACTT Meeting/ Date and Location

Friday, April 17, 2009, Lower Sioux Community, 9:00 a.m.-12:00.

Call for Motion to adjourn meeting:

Motion: Marc Mogan; second: Jason Holliday. Meeting adjourned at 1 PM.

Handouts:

- October 30, 2008 meeting minutes
- ACTT Membership Roster – Updated
- MN Tribal Road Safety Summit – draft report
- Issue Paper: Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation - Crash Data Collection and Use
- Announcement – grant application for HSIP, HRRRP and Central Safety Funds
- Registration form – Landscapes Lost Workshop
- Email – from Bob Sparrow re the Economic Recovery Program
- FHWA Website – Q&A on Economic Recovery Issues raised by State DOTs
- Folder of Information from LTAP
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