

**DCTA Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Cottage Grove Town Hall
4058 County Road N Cottage Grove, WI 53527**

Meeting called to order by President Derr at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Cottage Grove Chair Hampton.

19 Towns Present:

Albion	Christiana	Medina	Sun Prairie
Blooming Grove	Cottage Grove	Oregon	Verona
Blue Mounds	Cross Plains	Perry	Vienna
Bristol	Dunkirk	Rutland	Westport
Burke	Dunn	Springfield	

Educational Forum on Road Weights: proper procedures, signage and enforcement.

Inspector Troy Larsen, State Patrol

Inspector Larsen spoke about what weight limit laws he could enforce. "I am a State Patrol Officer, I can enforce State Law." He emphasized that he cannot enforce signs stating, "by ordinance of town board."

Once you put "ordinance" on a sign you take the state inspector out of the picture. "It nullifies my job." He was asked about "by order of town board" language. Ans: that is okay, just don't say by town ordinance.

Inspector Larsen stated that townships need justification to post roads, not their own ordinance. "You have the ability to post a road through state statute as long as you have justification." Thin asphalt is justification. If you have video of potholes, that is justification. Insufficient base is another reason. Statements from your town engineer are justification. A PACER rating can be used. What weights the road was constructed for is justification. Once you have justification, the road needs to be marked with a legal sign.

Dane County Sheriff's Deputy John VandeBurgt noted that in the town where he is a contract officer, he is a sworn officer for that town. In that instance he can enforce township ordinances and that town's road weight ordinance.

Inspector Larsen recommended posting starting at 10 tons. He stated that he was going to try to talk towns out of 8 ton signs and that 5 ton signs were pretty unrealistic. A UPS truck or Fed Ex truck can be 8 tons or more. He suggested posting starting at 10 tons or 20 tons. It gives pickup trucks, people hauling a snow mobile trailer, landscapers etc. some leeway. Eight tons just gets hard to enforce. If it goes too low no one pays attention to it.

Court enforcement was discussed. Usually the DA's cut the tickets in half. Most people take the deal and go. Most cases do not go to court. Fines can be expensive. There are 72 weight inspectors in the state.

Inspector Larsen gave his number 608-846-8500 "my dispatch you can call."

Towns shared examples of what they were doing:

Springfield is looking to create permits and tell operators they have to carry the permit at all times.

Sun Prairie signs says permit required. They seem to be making things better. Permits are for limited times.

Columbia County posts every road in the Spring at 10 tons. They give permission to use the roads but they restrict times hours etc. They are the only county around here that does that. They video the road before and after.

When you bill someone for road damage by state statute you can charge up to 3 times the value of repairs. If companies are bonded, that will help you get paid.

Inspector Larsen will share frozen road designation information and a study that was done on road weights in 2015. Note the graph on the back page of the study that shows the damage that is done by amount overweight. He will send information to Renee to distribute to towns.

No through truck traffic signs were discussed. Inspector Larsen noted that those types of tickets go to the driver and are only \$250 ticket. They are completely different from a road weight violation ticket – the fine is significantly less, but Dane County officers can enforce the no through truck traffic violation.

The use of virtual scales was discussed and local examples were given. This is the new technology now being used. Inspector Larsen does have to weigh them on a static scale to enforce.

Where do the fines from the tickets go? Dane County, State and township. The forfeitures go to the county circuit court. Towns only get money if it goes through their municipal court.

Dane County Sheriff Mahoney commented that much of this comes down to communication. Sometimes a phone call to a trucking company changes these things quickly.

Roll Call for Membership Meeting

Albion	Christiana	Dunkirk	Springfield
Blue Mounds	Cottage Grove	Perry	Verona
Bristol	Cross Plains	Rutland	Westport

Approve 9/12/18 Membership Meeting Minutes

Motion: Wilson/Anders. Approve as written. Carried unanimously.

Updates

- WTA meetings coming up and making visits to the legislators,
- CARPC – Kris Hampton reported that all three town members are now on the Executive Committee (Renée was very impressed), they are working on storm water looking at doing something like Yahara wins (intergovernmental agreements), working on moving CARPC to join with the MPO in one office.
- MMSD -Tom Wilson was re-appointed, they have a meeting coming up, Yahara wins is still working with communities to reduce phosphorus.
- Lakes and Watershed – (given by Tom Wilson) they are also working on stormwater issues, this is a different project from CARPC, they have a technical advisory committee that has formed that will eventually make a recommendation to the County Board.
- Dane Com – Steve Anders reported that things seem to be going well. The next meeting scheduled for 1/30 at 4:00 PM at the Water Utility, things are quiet, haven't heard any large scale complaints. Dennis Jelle, Blue Mounds reported things are a lot better, improved greatly from 2 years ago.
- Sheriff Mahoney reported that he is spending a good amount of time on the jail project. Looking into prices and programs. Patrol folks are dealing with stolen cars, heroin epidemic, if you want a crime analyst at a town meeting let us know, we can come and report on crime trends or traffic trends – “what ever you need we are there to provide for you.”
- Tom Wilson, spoke to the successful partnership between the village of Dane and town of Westport sharing a Deputy and gave a Northeast Community Court update.
- Jim Pulvermacher gave a transportation update. DCTA and DCCVA are talking about doing a joint meeting to look in to efficiencies. Some areas could be bid sharing – specifically separate contracts with coordinated timelines would be more attractive for contractors. It could cut the contractors mobilization costs.

Adjourn – 9: 25 pm. Motion: Hampton/Wilson.