

Minutes of the Motor Carrier Advisory Board Meeting

July 21, 2011

Members Present

George Thompson
Frank Malette
Brian Hitchcock
Don Messing
Mike Haller
Carl Brune
Doug Ostrowski
Greg Gorno
Vince Held Sr.
Glen Merkel
Don Lahring
Don Beerens

MPSC Staff Present

Dan Blair
Herb Fields
Louise Clark
Kirk Forbes
Ron Howe
Lacie Latimore
Brad Banks
Mike Byrne

ExOfficio Members Present

John Wallace
Aarne Frobom
Fred Bueter
Randy Coplin
Jill Skutar

Others in Attendance

Karen Putnam
Peggy Johnson
Elise Kappahn

Members Absent

Mickey Blashfield
Al DeMeester
William Kotynski

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Dan Blair introduced himself and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. After introductions, Mr. Blair expressed appreciation to the Board members and others in the audience for attending the meeting.

May 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes and Today's Agenda

The agenda for today's meeting was approved. The minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

Agency Reports

State Police/Traffic Safety Division

Randy Coplin reported that the MSP operating budget for 2012 has been significantly reduced and will result in the closing of some posts. This will not affect any commercial vehicle enforcement. Mr. Coplin stated that weigh scales are being re-opened as the renovations are completed. Randy Coplin reported that United Carrier Registration (UCR) is being heavily enforced in order for Michigan to be in compliance. Brian Hitchcock gave a brief report on the process for the medical waiver program. Randy Coplin reported on the outcome of the UCR Board meeting that was held in Utah. Vince Held voiced concerns about the foreign trucking industry not being held to the same standards as the US industry. Mr. Coplin also reported that Lt. Ron Crampton left the Michigan State Police and accepted employment with the FMCSA's training center in Arlington, Virginia.

Transportation

Aarne Frobom reported that MDOT did not have any updates to report.

State

Fred Bueter reported on new legislation that pertains to Michigan graduated driver license restrictions on new drivers. Mr. Bueter reported on the testing of the new system and it is working well. Fred Bueter stated that due to many Secretary of State offices being closed, volume is heavy for those offices that remain open.

Treasury

None

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

John Wallace reported that a cross border agreement has been signed that addresses the safety standard requirements for the trucking industry. Mr. Wallace also stated that there have been some aggressive marketing attempts by companies alerting the trucking industry by fax that they are in non-compliance with the drug and alcohol testing program and if they don't sign up for this program they will be fined. Mr. Wallace stated that this has nothing to do with the FMCSA and should be ignored. John Wallace also stated that the FMCSA is trying to set up a system so that CSA scores will not be impacted by accidents that were not your fault. A temporary system should be in place by January 2012.

Public Service Commission

Herb Fields reported that the UCR compliance percentage has increased from 68% to 70%. Mr. Fields also reported that the State of Alabama will be doing an email blast the first week of August to every carrier in the US who is not in compliance. Kirk Forbes reported that the Motor Carrier Division is working on process changes that will be more user-friendly. Mr. Forbes

stated that after September 30, 2011, the Motor Carrier Information Bulletin will be sent electronically only. Mr. Forbes also reported that SB 287 was signed into law which will abolish the exemptions for all tow trucks under the Motor Carrier Act. This law will now require all towing vehicles operating in the State of Michigan to have MPSC certificates effective January 2012. Rates will not be regulated under this bill. Chairman Dan Blair expressed a desire to have representatives from the Michigan Towing Association and the Michigan Movers Association attend the meetings.

Michigan Center for Truck Safety

Jill Skutar reported that the Michigan Center for Truck Safety's operating grant was approved so they will be able to continue to serve the State of Michigan. Ms. Skutar discussed the simulator training process for those who are located in upper Michigan or the Upper Peninsula. Ms. Skutar also stated that they have Professional Driver Coaching available at no cost. During this enrichment course, drivers receive one-on-one attention on the road with a professional driving coach to enhance and encourage their skillful driving performances.

New Business

None

Legislation Update

Aarne Frobom briefly reported on SB 495, 6, C.D.L. Amendments, introduced to the Legislature that has the possibility to affect the trucking industry.

Future Meeting Topics

None

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room B of the General Office Building in Dimondale. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Blair, Chairman
Motor Carrier Advisory Board