

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
Held Friday, April 4th, 2014
Flagstaff County Administration Building
12435 Township Road 442
Sedgewick, Alberta

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. By Vice-Chairperson Elroy Yakemchuk.

In Attendance: The list of attendees is attached and forms part of these minutes.

Introductions: All attendants were asked to introduce themselves and which jurisdictions they represented.

Minutes: Moved By: Walter Weber that the minutes of the March 1st, 2013 Annual General meeting be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Chairpersons'
Report:

Chairperson Morishita provided a written report which outlined the activities of the Board of Directors during the past year. Highlights included meeting with the Minister of Transportation to further our organizations mission and that we continue to advocate directly to the new Minister. In 2013 the Association became members of the three regional economic development associations. Our emphasis will continue to be the highways, but we also need to make efforts in economic development along the highways. We have had talks with Wood Buffalo and will continue to engage in discussions about our common issues. Membership to the Ports to Plains Alliance has been positive and we will continue participate with them. Chairperson Morishita has been in contact with NorthWest Command of the Legion about developing the concept plan for the Veterans signage project. The Minister of Transportation has provided his support for this project and we hope to have something together this year. The meetings on the 40 year transportation strategy were disappointing and the Board will continue to meet with the Minister to lobby for improvements to the

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
Page – 2 –

north/south corridor. Chairperson Morishita's vision for the upcoming year is to focus on 4 or 5 areas, develop a strategy and deliverables. The sign project, the turn out areas, rest areas, pilot car training and passing lanes. We also need to expand and improve our advocacy in communications with members and provincial departments.

Moved By: Arnold Hanson that the Chairperson Morishita's Report be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Financial Reports: The Secretary – Treasurer reviewed the Financial Statements with the members for the year ended August 31st, 2013. The Association is in a positive financial position will total bank account assets of \$12,341.00 at year end.

Moved By: Gerald Keufler that the Financial Reports submitted for the year ended August 31st, 2013 be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

40 Year

Strategic Plan:

Vice-Chairperson Yakemchuk opened discussions on the recent 40 year Strategic Plan meetings held by Alberta Transportations. Richard Preston stated he attended the meetings and found that the discussions were limited to Alberta Transportations agenda and that no ideas or comments were wanted and felt his attendance will have little effect. Mr. Preston asked for some raw data from Alberta Transportation on their presentation and was told it wasn't available. Robert Richard was also disappointed and that the process was not at all what was expected and basically was told what was going to happen. Ben Elfring said that a lot of time was spent discussing bike trails and very little about highways. Arnold Hanson stated there was no dialogue about future highway plans and also a lot time spent on bike trails and train traffic.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting

Page – 3 -

There was no mention about Eastern Alberta whatsoever. Michael Simpson stated in discussions with their MLA about Highway 36 it will be 10 years before we see any major improvements to Highway 36. Jane Stroud said she has been told that construction of a road from Parsons Creek to Peace River is being proposed in the long range plan. Molly Douglass also re-iterated that the process was not what she had expected.

Moved By: Russ Norris that the Board of Directors meet with the Minister of Alberta Transportation and convey the Members disappointment with the recent Alberta Transportation 40 Year Strategic Planning process and to continue to lobby for improvements and safety concerns for Highway 36 and Highway 881.

Carried Unanimously:

Review of
Strategic Plan:

Vice-Chairperson Yakemchuk opened discussions for the review and changes needed to the Association's 2011 Strategic Plan.

Robert Richard would like the map on the front page changed to include Highways 63, 8881 and 4. The map should also focus on making sure all the communities are represented.

Page 3, Section 1.1

Comments should be made that as the high load corridor Highway 36 with the inclusion of Highways 881 and 4 is the second longest north/south corridor in the Province of Alberta.

Section 1.2

The population numbers should be adjusted to the current numbers.

Page 4, Section 1.3

The Board of Directors should be updated.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
Page – 4 -

Page 5, Section 2.1

Vision Statement and Mission Statement be changed to include the word Corridor and reference Highways 881 and 4.

Page 6, Section 3.4

Need to have more clear direction on a strategy for “communities and marketing”

Page 7, Section 3.2

Focus on the North/South Corridor with connectors for the east/west.
Reference the Regional Economic Development Associations.
Reference the High Load Corridor.

Page 4, Section 1.3

In addition to the Board of Directors all M.L.A.’s should be listed whose Constituencies include the Highways.

General

The Strategic Plan should include comments about collaboration with organizations who share common goals and visions to develop Eastern Alberta corridors and also inclusion of another 24 hours border crossing.

Page 14, Section 4.2

Under “Strengths” we should document the straight length of the highway from the Border to Fort McMurray.
Under “Weaknesses” we need pull offs, rest areas and passing lanes.

Other Comments: Mike Simpson stated that he has been informed that an overpass at the Highway 36 and Highway 16 intersection is in the planning.

With the increased traffic of various sizes and weights there will be a greater need for specialized training for emergency personnel along the highway which is provided by local communities.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
Page – 5 –

Lunch: The meeting broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned to order at 12:47 p.m.

Highway
Maintenance
Contracts:

Mr. Tony Chellick and Mr. Bill Heslop from Alberta Transportation were in attendance to provide information how the highway maintenance contracts operate. They informed the members that the contracts are 10 year contracts and there are 30 maintenance contracts in effect within the Province. The contracts do vary slightly from district to district. The level of service are all established by guidelines and specifications which Alberta Transportation outlined in their request for proposals. Each area will have some uniqueness which has effect on service deliverables by the contractors. These are because of weather conditions, type of highway involved, traffic counts and length of highways. Each contract would have basic services to be provided and schedules to get the work done. Some work dependent on weather like snow removal can have exceptions. Both Tony and Bill told the members that it is important that if there are problems with the contractors or the highways that the local Alberta Transportation District office be called and problems reported. Where hourly payments come into effect is due to weather and not for what is considered regular maintenance such as highway sign cleaning or mowing. Local contractors have to make decisions which highway has priority which is usually based on traffic counts.

Vice-Chairperson Yakemchuk thanked Mr. Chellick and Mr. Heslop for coming to the meeting and providing clarification to the members.

Strategic Plan
Changes:

The Secretary-Treasurer will email the members the changes requested in the strategic plan review and will ask for comments.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
Page – 6 –

Election of Board
Members:

South Zone: The Secretary – Treasurer called for nominations for three (3) Directors to represent the south zone being that area south of the Red Deer River to the Border:

Moved By: Russ Norris that Ben Elfring be nominated as a Director for the South Zone.

Moved By: Ben Elfring that Molly Douglass be nominated as a Director for the South Zone.

Moved By: Molly Douglass that Barry Morishita be nominated as a Director for the South Zone.

The Secretary – Treasurer called for further nominations for the South Zone and there being none declared that Ben Elfring, Molly Douglass and Barry Morishita elected as Directors for the South Zone.

Central Zone: The Secretary – Treasurer called for nominations of three (3) Directors to represent the Central Zone that area being North of the Red Deer River to the North Boundary of the County of Minburn.

Moved By: Walter Weber that Arnold Hanson be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

Moved By: Gerald Keufler that Travis Ryan be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

Moved By: Elroy Yakemchuk that Michael Simpson be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
Page – 7 –

The Secretary – Treasurer called for further nominators for Director for the Central Zone and there being none declared Arnold Hanson, Travis Ryan and Michael Simpson elected as Directors for the Central Zone.

North Zone
District 1

The Secretary – Treasurer call for nominations of three (3) Directors to Represent the North Zone District 1 on the Board of Directors. The area being the from the south boundary of the County of Two Hills to the north boundary of LaLaBiche County.

Moved By: Sonny Rajoo that Elroy Yakemchuk be nominated as a Director for North Zone District 1.

Moved By: Ben Elfring that Sonny Rajoo be nominated as a Director for North Zone District 1.

Moved By: Jane Stroud that Robert Richard be nominated as a Director for North Zone District 1.

The Secretary – Treasurer called for nominations for North Zone District 1 for Director and there being none declared Elroy Yakemchuk, Sonny Rajoo and Robert Richard elected as Directors for the North Zone District 1.

North Zone
District 2

The Secretary – Treasurer called for the nominations for two (2) Directors to represent the North Zone District 2, the area being all that area north of the north boundary of LaLaBiche County.

Moved By: Robert Richard that Jane Stroud be nominated as a Director for North Zone District 2.

Moved By: Robert Richard that Phil Meagher be nominated as a Director for North Zone District 2.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting

Page – 8 -

The Secretary – Treasurer called for further nominations for Director of North Zone District 2 and there being none declared Jane Stroud and Phil Meagher elected as Directors for North Zone District 2.

Membership Fees: Moved By: Ben Elfring that membership fees for the 2014/2015 Operational Year remain at the present rates.

Carried Unanimously

Adjournment: Moved By: Ben Elfring that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously:

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary - Treasurer