

Veterans Memorial Highway Association  
Minutes  
Central Zone Meeting  
Friday, December 2, 2011  
Castor Royal Canadian Legion  
4810 – 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Castor, Alberta

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. By Chairman Barry Morishita.

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

Chairman's

Report: Chairman Morishita reported on the work which the Board of Directors has been doing over the past months. These zone meetings are being held in an effort to improve the communications between the Board and the members. It was identified in the strategic plan which was done earlier this year. The Governance of the Association has been formatted and completed. The Board is in the middle of planning strategies for the lobby efforts needed for Highway 36. The VMHA was in the process of applying for funding under the Rural Areas Development Fund grant. That application has been put on hold until such time that our portion of funding can be addressed. Board Members met earlier in the year with Ms. Donna Davis from Texas Tech who is doing an economic study on cross border trade for the Ports to Plains Alliance. The Board will be reviewing a draft of her report later today at the Board Meeting. The Board has been in contact with the Royal Canadian Legion about working in a partnership to recognize veterans at highway rest stops or scales. The Board will continue to work on the strategic plan and the information gathered at the Zone Meetings is invaluable in order to meet the goal of taking forward the concerns and issues of the highway to the appropriate Minister.

Issues and

Concerns. Chairman Morishita opened the meeting up to the members for discussion on any issues or concerns which they have to discuss and want the Board to work on.

George Jamiesen stated that he had talked with Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths who told him that the Association should maybe look at Highway 36 as an Energy Corridor for north/south to further the development of the Highway.

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Gerald Kuefler wanted to bring an issue to the Board's attention. At Highway 36 intersections namely Highway 13, Highway 14 and Highway 16 the distance between the railway tracks and the stop sign on 36 is too small for large trucks. Their trailers are located on the railway track while waiting at the stop sign. More space between the tracks and the stop is required.

George Jamiesen stated that Highway 36 north of Viking is serviced from Two Hills instead of Viking. This creates a wait time for regular maintenance or snow removal. This portion of the Highway should be serviced by a closer point than Two Hills.

Elroy Yakemchuk stated that changes should be made so that some Provincial work can be done differently without the use of contractors. In some areas the municipalities can do the work cheaper and quicker. Owen Francis stated that Special Areas has had a good working relationship with Alberta Transportation and have done some joint projects which worked to benefit of both parties.

Muriel Fankhanel stated that passing lanes are needed at the river crossings. Shaun Slavik said he couldn't understand why they took out the turnout at Iron Creek. Willie Babiuk said that there is a need for turning lanes instead of the 90 degree turns in many areas.

Peter McArthur said that east of Viking on Highway 14 there is a turning lane of poor design which needs to be addressed because trucks turning are sitting on the highway instead of off the highway.

Owen Francis stated that at the Highway 36 intersection where you turn west to connect to Highway 36 north there are turning lanes but they are confusing. That portion of Highway 9 should have been twinned up to the intersection going turning north on 36. It is only 300 metres which would complete the twinning.

A discussion took place on pilot cars. Suggestions included information should be provided to oncoming traffic as to the actual width of the load. Having pilot trucks be consistent in the way they do their job. Should be set standard. There does not appear to be a standardized way for pilot trucks to operate. Charlotte Curtis suggested we talk to the Minister about this matter.

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Walter Weber would like to see the Board take forward to the Minister the issue of Passing Lanes for the Highway. These are a required safety issue especially with the increase in oversized loads using the highway.

Alberta

Transportation Unfortunately no one was able to attend the meeting from the Regional Alberta Transportation office. They provided a report which showed no new construction for Highway 36 for the long range future. Other than asphalt overlays there is no capital plans.

Charles Girard commented that the Association requires allies to work with to lobby the Province to do more on the highway. We need active users to help us. Charlotte Curtis stated that long haulers and municipalities would be support any improvements being suggested.

Peter McArthur stated that the Board should continue dialogue with Fort McMurray to help VMHA to deal with Highway 36 issues as in most cases these oversized loads are for Fort McMurray.

Barry Morishita stated that the Board will continue to work on economic development issues where possible as it ultimately enhances the overall goals of the Association.

Adjournment: Barry Morishita thanked everyone for their attendance and their comments. Their input helps the Board to further the goals and mission of the organization.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

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Secretary - Treasurer