

Minutes
Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
Held Friday, June 10th, 2016
Viking Royal Canadian Legion Branch #81
5427 – 50th Street
Viking, Alberta

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chairman Arnold Hanson.

In

Attendance: The list of people attending the meeting is attached and forms part of these minutes.

Introductions: All attendants introduced themselves and stated which jurisdiction they represented.

Minutes: Moved By: Sonny Rajoo that the minutes of the May 8th, 2015 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Chairman's Report: Chairman Hanson reported on his discussions with Alberta Transportation studying the high/load corridors in Alberta. He stated that the group does not know that Highway 36 is designated a high/load corridor. The only way that he was able to contact the study group was through Rick Siddle who had done the Highway 36/881 project for the Association. Most of their discussions were centred on power lines and not the highways themselves. Chairman Hanson was concerned about their lack of understanding of rural transportation. They also spent a lot of time discussing how money received through permits be spent. Chairman Hanson instructed the study group to place VMHA on their email and contact lists so we can be at the table. He stated we have to bring awareness of the Association to a higher level in we want to be recognized as a vital partner regarding transportation issues.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-2-

Sonny Rajoo suggested the Association meet with all MLA's to educate them on the work we are doing. Rick Olsen suggested we talk with the major heavy haul companies and their associations. There are about a half dozen companies doing the majority of the heavy hauls. Ben Elfring agreed that the trucking industry has to be part of our overall approach. Robert Richard stated that he met with one of the people responsible for logistics moving freight from North Dakota to Fort McMurray at the Ports to Plains Conference. We could contact him about what type of issues he experiences moving heavy loads. Marjorie Plumtree reiterated that the Association have safety issues at the forefront of discussions and that economics will follow. Michael Simpson stated that in the evacuation of Wood Buffalo only one accident occurred and it happened on 881 which shows that an alternate route is merited and that the highway has to be upgraded. From the discussions about the Association's visibility it was agreed that the Board of Directors set up Advocacy Committee to make necessary contacts with MLAs, MPs, and Trucking Associations to elevate their knowledge of the Association and our objectives. Robert Richard would also like more contact with the beauracracy at transportation so we can have the relevant contacts to discuss and issues about the two highways. The Association has to work more closely with the regional Economic Development groups to partner and cooperate for possible opportunities and share information.

Pilot Car
Training:

Robert Preston asked whether the Pilot Car Training Certificate Program has started. From the last information received the Alberta Motor Transport Association was trying to coordinate with Saskatchewan and British Columbia to have a universal training program. It was trying to get the program started by April of this year. No further information has been received.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-3-

Border Crossings: Bill Prentice asked if a second 24 hour Border Crossing was in the works. The Palliser Economic Partnership and Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor has been working on getting the second 24 hour crossing, however because of the two federal governments there has not been any success to date.

Chin Coulee Ben Elfring advised the Association that the Chin Coulee Highway 36 repair is scheduled for construction to begin in July. The engineers were surprised to find that the re-alignment is a much bigger project than expected.

Two Hills: Sonny Rajoo stated that the Highway 36 improvements within the Town of Two Hills is also scheduled to be done this year.

881 Feasibility Study: Robert Richard stated that the Highway 881 Lac La Biche Corridor Feasibility Study and Management Site is subject to budget approval at this time.

Financial Reports: The Financial Statements for the year ended August 31st, 2015 of the Association were presented by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Motion: Dan Rattray that the Financial Statements for the year ended August 31st, 2015 of the Veterans Memorial Highway Association be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously:

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-4-

Open Discussions: Chairman Hanson opened up the meeting for general discussions about the highways and the Association.

Wayne Hammergren asked if contact information could be available to people with real time data on wide loads travelling the highways?

Bud James wants the Association to advocate to the trucking companies that our goals and objectives are consistent with their goal of moving freight in a timely and safe manner.

Ben Elfring suggested maybe we could approach the Deputy Minister to promote the Association and form a better partnership with Alberta Transportation.

Robert Richard suggests we push the information we have which is a good message and we have to spread it.

Sonny Rajoo suggested we make contact with the municipal associations to promote the Association and could maybe get better access to Alberta Transportation.

Robert Richard suggested we also use the Highway 63/881 Coalition for information so all of us are using the same message.

Margaret Plumtree suggested that in addition to the website, we should use facebook and twitter for major haul movement information, getting accident updates and condition of the highways.

Ben Elfring stated our website be made part of each municipalities links for better promotion.

Rick Preston said that in Eastern Alberta we are disadvantaged because so much effort and time seems to be talking about the Highway 2 corridor.

Chairman Hanson stated that the Board will move forward in setting up the Advocacy Committee which seems to be the solution to get the Associations' message.

Robert Richard stated we need good information material for the Committee.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-5-

Motion: Margaret Plumtree that the Board of Directors develops policies and objectives for the formation of an Advocacy Committee who's responsibility will be to promote the Association to all governments, municipal associations, trucking associations and industry.

Carried Unanimously:

At 12:00 the meeting was recessed for lunch and reconvened at 12:30
By Chairman Hanson.

Alberta

Transportation:

Mr. Russell Watts, Regional Director of the Central Region of Alberta Transportation was present at the meeting to discuss the Associations Highway 36/881 Report which had been sent to Minister Brian Mason. All attendants introduced themselves to Mr. Watt. Mr. Watt reviewed the report and provided the following department responses.

South Zone:

Chin Coulee

The tenders have been let and contracted awarded. Construction should be starting shortly.

Vauxhall Rest

Stop:

The department has a hard time slotting a project like this into their budgets. It is best to try to do a project like this in conjunction with an overlay project which is being done in close proximity. The priority of this type of project gets very little support. Bill Preston felt that this should be considered a safety issue and receive higher priority.

Highway 1

Interchange:

This would be a major undertaking both in resources and finances and can only be considered in the very long term.

Matzchiwin Creek:

There is no plan being considered to a climbing lane at this time.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-6-

Emerson Bridge: A roadside turnout at Emerson Bridge will be opening later this year.

Central Zone:

Pull Outs/Rest Areas: A rest area is available at Cactus Corner and now at Castor which was done in cooperation with Federated Coop and the County of Paintearth.

Battle River Passing

Lane: There is no plan in place for the construction of a passing lane on the Battle River Bridge area.

Viking Rest Area: Some discussions have been held with the Town of Viking on a possible rest area. Due to the proximity of the railway line to the highway the area is challenging to develop. The discussions will be continuing.

Railway Crossings: All these crossings are challenging. There is a plan for the future for the Highway 36/Highway 16 intersection in the long term. There are no plans for the other crossings at the other intersections.

North Zone #1

Two Hills Rest Stop: Commercialization is not in the plans for this. The area is also used by Mobile Inspection teams and the dual use would be a safety issue.

Highway 881

Lac La Biche Functional Road Study will be proceeding. The study done from Lac La Biche to Anzac has been completed.

Robert Richard asked if a copy of the study could be made available to the Association. Mr. Watt stated he could have a copy sent to the Association. No further work is planned for the Lac La Biche Staging Area at this time.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-7-

North Zone #2

Passing Lanes

Mr. Watt said that there are no plans in the immediate future for the construction of passing lanes or staging areas along Highway 881 as asked for in the Association's Report.

Further to addressing the Association's Report, Mr. Watt addressed High Load Corridor Study underway. The goal of the study is to review the existing corridors, establishing new corridors, setting standards for construction of the corridors and set design criteria. The corridors have to address both north south and east west traffic and be integrated. The department will also look at upgrading corridors and will consult with stakeholders.

Mr. Watt was asked how best our Association can discuss issues about Highway 36 and Highway 881. Mr. Watt suggested that a group of the Board of Directors talk to Regional Directors such as himself. Then any issues or concerns can be addressed in the local area and make their way up within the department.

Michael Simpson asked should elected officials make those contacts.

Mr. Watt stated that discussions be kept with local regions.

Richard Preston asked Mr. Watt about the Pilot Car Training Program.

Mr. Watt said they are still working on it and that the goal is to make it consistent across Western Canada.

Chairman Hanson asked Mr. Watt about communities tracking oversized loads. The best way presently is to track loads by checking the 511 site.

Robert Richard suggested that maybe a line app would be a way to have real time information.

Rick Olsen sees opportunities with coordination of zone to zone discussions on specific issues and concerns.

Bud James stated the Advocacy Committee could carry the Association Message to Mr. Watt's counterparts in all the regions and then we cover both the highways and in all areas.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-8-

Chairman Hanson thanked Mr. Watt for coming to our meeting and sharing important information on the departments programs and thoughts. Mr. Watt left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Election of Directors

South Zone: Nominations were called for three (3) Directors to represent the South Zone being that area south of the Red Deer River to the US Border.

Motion: Ben Elfring that Wayne Hammergren be nominated as a Director for the South Zone.

Motion: Wayne Hammergren that Ben Elfring be nominated as a Director for the South Zone.

Motion: Wayne Hammergren that Bill Prentice be nominated as a Director for the South Zone

No further nominations were put forward and Wayne Hammergren, Ben Elfring and Bill Prentice were declared elected as Directors to represent the South Zone on the Board of Directors.

Central Zone: Nominations were called for three (3) Directors to represent the Central Zone being that area north of the Red Deer River to the north boundary of the County of Minburn.

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

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

Motion: Elroy Yakemchuk that Dave Rattray be nominated as a Director for the Central Zone.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-9-

No further nominations were put forward and Arnold Hanson, Michael Simpson and Dave Rattray were declared elected as Directors for the Central Zone on the Board of Directors.

North Zone
District 1

Nominations were called for three (3) Directors to represent the North Zone District 1 being that area from the north boundary of the County of Minburn to the north boundary of Lac La Biche County.

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

Motion: Elroy Yakemchuk that Robert Richard be nominated as a Director for the North Zone District 1.

Motion: Dan Rattray that Elroy Yakemchuk be nominated as a Director for the North Zone District 1.

No further nominations were put forward and Sonny Rajoo, Robert Richard and Elroy Yakemchuk were declared elected as Directors for North Zone District 1 to the Board of Directors.

North Zone
District 2

Nominations were called for two (2) Directors to represent North Zone District 2 being all that area north of the north boundary of Lac La Biche County.

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

Motion: Elroy Yakemchuk that Tyran Ault be nominated as a Director for North Zone District 2.

Veterans Memorial Highway Association
Annual General Meeting
June 10th, 2016

-10

There being no further nominations put forward Jane Stroud and Tyran Ault were declared elected as Directors for North Zone District 2 to the Board of Directors.

Membership

Fees:

Motion: Robert Richard that membership fees remain at \$0.10 per capita.

Carried Unanimously:

Associate

Membership:

Motion: Bud James that the Board of Directors form a Committee to develop a policy for Associate Membership to the Veterans Memorial Highway Association.

Carried Unanimously:

Adjournment:

Motion: Elroy Yakemchuk that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously:

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary-Treasurer