

Department of Licensing Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board



Advisory Board Meeting Minutes June 12, 2009 Sand Point Magnuson Park 7:00 pm

1. Call to order:

7:03 pm

2. Introduction of Board members:

Phil Tribuzio and Ron Wagner were present while Larry Walker, Mike Gilbert, and Sgt. Chet Pennington were absent. Trooper Guy Gill was representing the Washington State Patrol (WSP) for Sgt. Chet Pennington.

3. Review and approval of the minutes from the last meeting:

No previous minutes available

4. Old Business:

The idea of what the Advisory Board should be was discussed. Bret Tkacs previously asked what the "board" does and would like to see to be shown what they do. Two board positions along with the position held by a WSP. The current terms end June 30, 2009 and applications will now be accepted for the two positions and the WSP will assign a new representative. New board members will be announced at the September 11, 2009 Advisory Board Meeting.

5. New Business:

Program Update: Steve Stewart – Washington Motorcycle Safety Program (WMSP)
Program Manager

- New contracts are complete and are a four year contract beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2013 with a review at the end of two years. Contractors have 45 days from date of Department of Licensing for services to begin. To date, there are only three contracts that have been submitted and signed. These contracts are same level contracts meaning that there is a carryover of the funding and no new funds have been allotted. The contracts are funded for every two years and will be reviewed for any needed adjustments after June 30, 2011.
- With the new contracts the number of training sites stayed the same with losing three but adding three new.
- If all contractors meet their goals it is projected that a little more than 20,000 students

Department of Licensing Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board



will be trained. The totals for 2008 are about 20,792 trained students.

- Each site will be given a contract number with the new contract; this should make it easier to more accurately evaluate the training site versus just the contractor.
- In October 2008 there were 302,000 endorsed riders and last week the total of endorsed riders was 334,000 we increased by 32,000 in just a little over six months.
- Senate House Bill 5482 was passed and the laws reflecting this change will go into effect July 26, 2009. Three wheel enclosed vehicles with a seatbelt and steering wheel will no longer require a three wheel motorcycle endorsement to operate on the roads in Washington State. Also, all helmets worn in the State of Washington must meet the manufacturers and federal standards and have the appropriate sticker and label on the inside of the helmet. The moped language was changed and the reference to "human powered" was removed, a moped is an electric or gas motored vehicle with 10 inch or smaller wheels, is 49cc or less, and travels less than 30 mph.
- There is no new funding allotted for more staff within the Department of Licensing.
- A request has been put in with upper management to allow two or three WMSP staff members to attend the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA) in Wisconsin in August. SMSA will be reviewing programs and new National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) regulations. NHTSA will be asked to come and audit WMSP's program.
- Dawn Michele spoke to the group about the media push and the recent media contest where callers to local radio stations had an opportunity to win a Basic Rider Course. There were a large demographic using AM radio stations, rock, and country stations.
- Kyle McCarty spoke regarding instructor development. He explained that it is slower than expected and classes are only at half the capacity he would like to see. Two classes were cancelled due to lack of interest but there is a possibility that they may be adding a new class in place of one of the two that were cancelled. There have been 75 certified instructors to date and the goal of 100 certified instructors by the end of this year is not looking like it will be met and in part it looks as though the criteria is partly to blame with some potential instructors being dropped from the program because expectations cannot be met.
- Bret Tkacs from Puget Sound Safety (PSS) asked if more instructors were willing to teach Experienced Rider Course (ERC) classes since he has instructors who are interested. Steve Stewart said that he did not know. PSS has interested instructors to teach the ERC while others feel they have no choice other than to teach an ERC class.
- Next year's Instructor Preparation (IP) Classes will be four weekends unlike the current three weekend classes that are now held. The first three weekend classes will teach learning and the fourth weekend will be teaching. The focus will be on coaching perspective on the range and skills evaluation. Bret Tkacs asked if there will be a break in the four weekends and was assured that there would be by Kyle McCarty. Also asked was if it was feasible to hold a weekday IP and Kyle replied that it was a definite possibility with at least 10 confirmed candidates.
- Structure of the Advisory Board is something that was addressed since effective June 30, 2009 there would be two vacancies that would need to be filled. Since both board

Department of Licensing Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board



members whose terms on the board expire on June 30, 2009 were not in attendance there was no way to confirm that either would or would not be reapplying for another term.

- Board member Phil Tribuzio stated that he would like to see the budget in writing not too detailed but informative, Ron Wagner agreed that they didn't seem to get a lot of information. Steve stated that in 10 years this meeting has gone from a social meeting before the meeting to business information meeting.
- Ron Wagner would like to spend time with an instructor and Steve told him that board members are welcome to visit any QAV, TAV, mentoring, and to see any and all reports that are on file either in person or on paper. Ron said he would like both.
- Phil would like a couple of week notification on the topics that will be on the upcoming agenda to have time to prepare for meeting. He would like to review and have knowledge of items such as fatalities, issuances, age of riders, and substance of the program. He would also like to see the curriculum for instructor training. Kyle explained that shadowing the first weekend of an Instructor Prep class would most likely be the best.
- Gil Guy stated that he could get data on crashes including what a rider is stopped for, fault, etc. Pat Barnes said that statistics do not include county and city crashes. Gil explained that the WSP handles all rural crashes and not all agencies record incidents.

6. Board Member Forum:

Ron asked Gil if it was true if a rider removes his/her helmet after webbing stopped are they then open for a search? Gil replied that if they are under lawful arrest then they can be searched, doesn't make a difference if they take the helmet off or not.

He also asked if there was going to be a new range in Snohomish County and Steve told him yes at the Everett Community College.

Gil explained that effective immediately no one will ride off on a motorcycle without an endorsement, per Chief Batiste. The rider will be given one attempt to contact an endorsed rider to come and get the bike otherwise it will be towed.

7. Public Forum:

Brian Thiessen handed out a letter outlining his concerns (Attachment 1 to minutes). He felt left out (see 1A) and wanted to know why they weren't used (see 1B)?

Steve said to comment on the evaluation of contracts when it is in the process of the bid process would jeopardize the bid. Susan Roberts replied that just not responding is not responding at all. Why not answer at all? People deserved to have an answer, any answer was better than none at all. Steve stated that he did when ask, did respond that he cannot jeopardize, cannot take a chance on screwing up things. Susan replied saying that when someone directs an email directly to me I at least answer it, even if it has be something like "I can't answer!" Brian said he was left hanging for a month and a half with nothing! Steve replied "Point taken!"

Brian referred to (2A) not in Request for Proposal (RFP), (2B) not in RFP – did not know he could go out and get a new range and felt some bidders were crippled because of this.

Department of Licensing Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board



He said he was told that new ranges were discussed with DOL and then DOL contacted MSF to get quick approval and having DOL on your side to get approval definitely helps and gave an advantage. Steve stated they are no guarantees from MSF and he couldn't help him since it would not be fair to others. Brian wants that added to the RFP. Steve explained that it is 45 days from signature of contract is 45 days from DOL signatures, does not say MSF will certify within 45 days.

Brian refers to 4A where it states about reasonable reasons why goals aren't being made (weather, etc) then the bid will be re-evaluated. He would like to know if John Q Public can ask about the contractors meeting their goals for each site/location. Are they meeting expectations? Steve stated that that information can be added to the minutes on a quarterly reporting basis.

Concerns 6 and 7 from Brian's sheet were brought up and Steve answered yes with more funding on #6, and the discussion has been brought out regarding Riders Edge's (RE) pilot program ending in September. If RE is allowed to continue then it should be opened to others. The fear of some non-sub only courses will cause the price to go up not down and non sub ranges will have to be included in our program, and the determination of where they will be opened in to be determined. There are no definite answers on them; most likely there will be another bid.

Dave Wendell stated he was surprised when Larry said "we would consider" as a board. Steve thinks it's coming.

Pat Barnes wants to know if the three wheel training is going to be expanded. Steve assured him that in this biennium the S/TEP program has been giant approximately \$37,000 for training and moving to \$40,000, WMSP is leaning to extend current contracts and to see if that will be possible. Bret Tkacs said he has seen a definite want to extend this program.

8. Announcements:

Next Meeting- September 11, 2009 – Ellensburg Licensing Office

Anticipated agenda items: New Board Members, Riders Edge

9. Adjourn: 9:37 pm