



MINUTES

Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway

Thursday, December 8, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting | Eau Claire County Highway Department - Room 101 and WebEx Virtual
Teleconference

Committee Members Present: Chair Steve Chilson, ~~Vice Chair Nathan Otto~~, Larry Hoekstra, Judy Gatlin, Mark Beckfield, Nick Smiar

Staff/Others Present: Assistant Commissioner Brian Spilde, Engineer Travis Pickering, Administrative Associate III Natalie Szews, Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts, Fiscal Supervisor Kyle Welbes, Corporation Counsel Sharon McIlquham, Surveyor Ben Klitzke, InQuik Bridging Systems President Logan Mullaney

1. **Meeting called to order by Chairman Chilson at 7:30 a.m.**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Review/Approval of Past Committee Meeting Minutes (11/10/22) – Discussion/Action**
 - Supervisor Beckfield motioned to approve. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Public Comment –None**
5. **InQuik Bridging Systems Presentation – Discussion**
 - InQuik Bridging Systems President Logan Mullaney presented overview of InQuik Bridging Systems and CTH V bridge project over Bearsgrass Creek.
 - Planning CTH V bridge construction in 2023. This will be the first InQuik bridge in Wisconsin and possibly in the U.S.
 - InQuik bridge would be about half the cost of traditional bridge and take two to three weeks to complete.
6. **Spring Road Tour – Discussion/Action**
 - Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve scheduling the Spring Road Tour at the Highway Committee Meeting in May 2023. Motion carried 4-0.
7. **Highway Report**
 - **Highway Commissioner Update – Jon Johnson**
 - Leadership Development
 - i. Developed a leadership training program for 2023 for consultative and supportive leadership.
 - ii. Build trust and positive team climate by bringing forward changes. Need follow-up with staff on what can be done to make changes.
 - 2023 Strategic Goals
 - i. Mailing out letters to internal and external customers in January to schedule work for the year.
 - ii. Meeting with contractors in March to ensure our work can be completed.
 - iii. Reviewed prioritization of work throughout the year to determine what gets scheduled.

iv. During first quarter of 2023 will be reviewing department structure and position responsibilities throughout the department.

v. There is an immediate impact to service due to six vacancies. Put together a three-tiered outlook to the County Administrator on what will happen depending on the severity of the storm.

vi. Working on recruiting and retention. Will be working with HR Team on internal engagement with employees to improve retention and offer incentives to get employees to come in during storms.

– WCHA Update & Board Member Vacancy

i. Looking for a board member for the West Central region of WCHA. West Central region is the only region without a board representative.

– CDL Promissory Note

i. Working on CDL Promissory Note for employees to reimburse costs of CDL training when they resign.

• **Operations Update – Brian Spilde**

– Currently doing winter maintenance work. Prioritizing work and working around staffing vacancies.

– Foreman Max Goettl was hired as Operations Supervisor.

– Six applicants for Foreman position.

– Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts and HR Team are working on expediting onboarding process for new hires as physical exams are taking longer to get scheduled.

• **Engineering Update – Travis Pickering**

– Continuing to work on 2023 designs.

– Submitted selection forms for three bridges on CTH D, CTH F, and Gravel Pit Road. Received eight proposals for CTH D and CTH F, and seven proposals for Gravel Pit Road.

– Will be submitting purchase order for Geotech today for the drilling for 2024 planned roadway projects.

– Will be meeting with Bureau of Structure for InQuik bridge on CTH V.

– 2022 Bridge inspection reports have been completed. Will be working on updating bridge spreadsheet and will be putting together bridge applications due in March for additional bridge funding.

– Updating Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) system with roadway treatments and improvements that were completed in 2022.

8. Review of Payment Vouchers (11/11/22 to 12/02/22) – Discussion /Action

• Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Future Meeting Dates/Times/Agenda Items

• Future agenda items:

– Address levy issue and present financial plan to the Finance Committee.

• Next meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.

10. Adjourn at 8:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Szews

Natalie Szews, Administrative Associate III
Eau Claire County Highway Department

APPROVED 01/12/23