



Chapter Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2010
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ramada Plaza Suites
Fargo, ND

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to Order at 9:30 a.m. by Chapter President Tim Marthe.
- II. A list of the members present is attached. A quorum of 1/10 of the member companies was determined by Chapter President Tim Marthe.
- III. There were self introductions by everyone attending the meeting.
- IV. The minutes for the July 28, 2009 meeting were not available for approval of the minutes
- V. Gary Clark, Chapter Treasurer handed out a Treasurer's Report dated March 1, 2010. Rick Shomion moved to accept the report. Jon Jackels seconded the motion. After brief discussion the motion passed unanimously.
Note: copies of the Chapter Treasurer's reports are available in the member's section of the chapter website at: www.northlandatssa.com/
- VI. There was no Secretary's Report
- VII. National Report by Laura Perrotta
 - a. Attendees and Government Officials attending the National Convention was up from 2009.
 - b. Federal Highway Funding-looking to extend through 2010 with pending vote on March 17, 2010.
 - c. ARRA Stimulus (100% obligated). To view where money is going: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>
 - d. There were (205 MN Project) (162 ND Project) (51 SD Project)
 - e. Laura and ATSSA staff attended 102 meetings, 51 congressional hearing and briefings in 2009
 - f. HR 3355 has 30 bipartisan sponsors
 - g. Laura showed a video clip of Representative Altmire's speech from the House floor supporting HR 3355.
 - h. There is work being done to extend the work zone safety grant by Duncan & McMahon and Voinovich & Warner. Guthrie and Boswell are supporting extension of the Roadway Safety Training Institute.
 - i. ATSSA has a Rainmaker Task Force. Laura thanked Judd Robe for his work in this effort on the national level. This task force has helped congress members visit ATSSA member companies giving them a firsthand look at what ATSSA members do and accomplish.
- VIII. Reports
 - a. **Poster Contest** by Rick Shimon – Rick and Marc Rue were the only members who made poster contest presentations in 2009. Marc's daughter won the national contest! Rick strongly encouraged everyone

to get involved in this effort; we need more active participation by all chapter members. Details and information are available on the Northland Chapter Website at:

<http://www.northlandatssa.com/Poster.html>

Gary Clark questioned the future cost of expanding this program. There is an annual cost of \$1200.00 regardless of the number of visits or poster contest submittals.

- b. **TERRA** by Emily Fischer – This past year the chapter joined TERRA (Transportation Engineering and Road Research Alliance) www.terraroadalliance.org This was a three year commitment at a cost of \$2,000.00 per year. The chapter is allowed two members to attend the TERRA board meetings. Contact Emily if you are interested in joining her at these meetings. Traditionally TERRA has focused on highway structure but they are interested in expanding to other areas such as traffic safety hardware and devices. They are particularly interested in grooving of pavement markings and researching improved traffic sign fonts. The next meeting is in Madison Wisconsin in conjunction with the Midcontinent Research Conference.
- c. **Transportation Reauthorization Meeting** by Emily Fischer – Emily accepted ATSSA’s invitation to attend a USDOT Town Hall discussion on US transportation policy. Details of this meeting can be found at: <http://www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/CTSReport/2010/03/usdot.html>
One of the topics of interest was the complete streets initiative that includes redesign of intersections, reduced lane widths, etc. This would impact local cities and counties and transportation funding.
- d. **MCEA Safety Committee** by Jon Jackels and Rick West – Minnesota LRRB (Local Road Research Board) – developed the training course “Rural Road Safety Solutions” in 2008. Dave Levi, ND LTAP, lead an effort to deliver this course via interactive video to local agencies in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. This course was delivered by Mike Marti and Renae Kuehl, SRF Consulting, along with Rick West, Ottertail County Engineer, and Dave Engstrom, Mn/DOT Traffic Safety Engineer. This video conference was attended by 125 individuals in the 5 state area and was made possible by funding from Northland Chapter.
Current LRRB Project: “Maintaining a Safety Roadway” focuses on what maintenance workers can do to improve safety in work zones (Rick West – chaired).
Rick West –comment on Terra thinks it is very good that NLATSSA is onboard as a resource for ideas or methods by being part of Terra.
Minnesota received an international award for its Toward Zero Death program during the National Transportation Research Board meeting in January 2010. The award was accepted by Rick West and Sue Groth Accepted. This was one of 6 international awards.
- e. **National Convention and Traffic Expo** – The number of delegates and public officials was up from 2009. There was a positive attitude by delegates and committee members and there were many positive discussions on how to solve the highway safety problem.
New this year was the “Circle of Innovation” where public officials were invited to participate in a forum to voice their concerns and identify opportunities for ATSSA members to solve traffic safety problems. Everyone who attended this invitation only event was optimistic about this forum being instrumental in finding and deploying these improvements. There will be a full transcript of this event available from national ATSSA in the near future.
Jon Jackels and Tim Marthe moderated a power talk titled, “Success through Collusion” that explored new as well as proven methods to partner to have a successful How To or other chapter event.

- f. **Sign Maintenance and Management Workshop** by Judd Robe – Greg Schertz, FHWA, is the keynote speaker at this event. The FHWA contributed \$5,000.00 for this workshop making the break even of 15 vendors and 100 attendees. There are 130 delegates pre-registered for the workshop.
- g. **How To Conference** by Emily Fischer and Ryan Otte – there was a 3 week delay in mailing registration materials that needs to be remembered for next year to insure early enough mailing. There are 397 pre-registered delegates and the exhibit hall is sold out. Ryan Otte is chairing the How To Committee for the 2011 How To and he is looking for a vice chair to learn the ropes that is able to chair the 2012 event. Everyone is encouraged to attend the planning meeting on July 26 and get involved.

IX. New Business

- a. **Nomination Committee for President Elect and Director** by Tim Marthe – a nominating committee was appointed to compile a list of nominations for the President Elect and for One Director. The committee is being chaired by Judd Robe, Sign Cad. Other members are Marco Vojcanin, Flint Trading, Jon Jackels, Mn/DOT (board liaison), Ken Nelson, Mn/DOT, and Scott Jahnke, Ramsey County.
- b. **Mn/DOT ADA in Work Zones Demonstration and Work Shop** by Jon Jackels – Ken Johnson, Mn/DOT, is leading the work zone ADA effort in Minnesota for developing standards, policy, and procedures to meet the ADA requirements. The first step to accomplish this is a workshop and demonstration of temporary traffic control devices and appurtenances intended to meet ADA requirements. Mn/DOT is hoping for a May or June 2010 date in the Twin Cities Metro Area, possibly the Minnesota State Fair Grounds. The purpose of this demo is to give members of the disabled community an opportunity to give us feedback on the criteria for these devices and on proposed procedures and practices in deploying these devices especially for shorter term work zones. The goal of the demonstration workshop is to develop criteria that can be used to establish specifications, special provisions, approved product lists, and procedures to meet ADA requirements in work zones.
Jay Blanchard volunteered to take the lead on this effort for the Northland Chapter. Dave McKee and Blake Balzart, ATSSA, have committed to help in this effort by coordinating ATSSA member manufacturers, suppliers and vendors participation. Dave McKee has asked Donna Clark, ATSSA, to investigate funding of this event with the FHWA work zone grant.
There was a motion by Marco Vojcanin to allow the Board to contribute up to \$3000 to support this effort. The motion was seconded by Ken Nelson. The motion passed unanimously
- c. **Circle of Innovation** by Jon Jackels – as discussed above in the National Convention section the inaugural event for the Circle of Innovation was a success. This allows public agency officials to bring concerns and problems forward to the industry with the hope that everyone could work together to find innovative solutions and improvements. The How To Committee is encouraged to hold a similar event during the 2011 How To Training Workshop.
- d. **ATSSA/NLATSSA Scholarship to National Convention and Expo** by Tim Marthe – many other chapters and National ATSSA have been sponsoring public officials by offering travel cost scholarships to the National ATSSA Convention and Traffic Expo. The Northland Chapter has been doing this, however, we may want to consider expanding this program to increase the number of public officials from the Chapter's area to attend national. Rick West stated that the national convention is a great opportunity for local officials to learn about traffic safety efforts and that they have very limited opportunity to do so without financial help to defer travel related expenses. Mn/DOT's State Aid to Local Transportation has been funding two Minnesota County Engineers to attend the convention for several years. This directly

lead to the MOU between the MCEA Safety Committee and the Northland Chapter. Tim will bring this issue before the Board and at the next Chapter meeting.

X. Round Robin

- a. Jay Blanchard asked that anyone interested to contact him regarding the ADA effort in Minnesota. The MUTCD, chapter 6 contains some information, however, it is not helpful in getting details included in project documents so everyone understands what is needed.

XI. Next Meetings will be held at the Comfort Inn in Ottertail, Minnesota.

- a. How To Committee Meeting – July 26, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Chapter Meeting – July 27, 2010, ending after lunch.
- c. RESERVATIONS please call 1-877-294-7981 and refer to the Northland Chapter of ATSSA.

XII. Adjourn

- a. . Rick Shomion made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded and passed.
- b. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectively submitted by Jeff Wilkens and Jon Jackels.