

Multi-County Truck Enforcement Committee
Minutes
9-13-10

Present were representatives from Barnes County, Dickey County, LaMoure County and Stutsman County. A representative from Ransom County was not present.

Members discussed the State Transportation Committee that took place in August 2010. Some state legislators have expressed interest in giving back to the counties some fines that are collected from overweight trucks in those counties. The legislators have also expressed interest in using the fines to budget for more highway patrol officers to help enforce overweight regulations. The legislators acknowledged overweight truck enforcement is a state-wide problem.

Discussion was held on whether the committee should wait until 2011 or move forward. The legislature has discussed the problem with overweight truck enforcement for many years but nothing seems to get done. Spring 2011 is the target date to start a multi-county truck enforcement officer in our area. The committee agreed that the primary concern for this committee is to save county roads on the front end through regulation and enforcement, which saves money over time.

Committee members discussed various ways to implement a permit system and to change the laws for allocation of fines back to the counties. It was decided that the committee would focus on implementing a permit system for now because the problem is immediate in our area. Committee members were unsure of how easily the laws could be changed by the state legislature in order for the counties to receive some money back from fines.

It was stressed that uniformity is the key for the permitting system. This includes weights, loads, fees, fines and other regulations and enforcement. Some counties have a weight limit of 80,000 pounds while others have a weight limit of 105,500 pounds.

The committee agreed that the enforcement officer would be headquartered in Valley City because of its central location for the five counties. Barnes County would receive an administrative fee for having the enforcement officer.

Advertising for the enforcement officer position should be done by January. The officer could be hired by February and on the road by March, in time for spring weight restrictions.

Each county is proposed to contribute \$20,000.00 from its 2010 budget for start up costs, including portable scales (\$26,000.00), a vehicle (\$25,000.00), vehicle

equipment (\$15,000.00) and other administrative costs. Each county is proposed to contribute \$20,000.00 from its 2011 budget for salary, insurance, benefits, maintenance, administration, and other collateral costs.

Lee Grossman agreed to draft a joint powers agreement for the committee's review at its next meeting. The committee must consider specs for weight, loads, permits, fees, enforcement, maintenance, budget, salary and other financial commitments for the enforcement officer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Barnes County Highway Department in Valley City, North Dakota.