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**Minutes  
Vernon County Transportation Coordinating Committee  
June 5, 2019**

The Vernon County Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting was called to order on June 5, 2019 at 12:00 pm by Tricia Clements. Proper public notice was given. A motion was made by Jon Howe to approve the minutes from March 6, 2019; second by Justin Running. Motion carried.

Updates on Program Information

Peter Fletcher gave an update on the SMRT bus. They have added a midday route to the Tomah to LaCrosse route. They are adding swipe cards for the riders. This will allow them to have improved ridership tracking. They are still in the process of evaluating if an electric bus would be an option for this area. They are looking to get smaller passenger size buses. This will allow more flexibility in who they can hire as drivers and will be more efficient.

Justin Running from Running Inc. reported that they have the new tracking systems for the SMRT bus. Their taxi ridership was up about a 1000 in 2018 to 58,000. Their biggest struggle is finding drivers, especially when a CDL is needed.

Jon Howe from Vernon Manor reported that they have been using their bus more often, mainly to LaCrosse for appointments. They took a couple of trips this spring and drove the residents around to see different signs of spring.

Krista Heinz from Couleecap reported that they have funds for the Work and Wheels program. The client pays 50% up front and finances the rest. They can have any form of employment, including in kind and volunteer driving.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center received their new minibus in May. The Senior Shopping Day is going very well and may be expanded to two days each month. The number of individuals needing a volunteer driver has gone down and we have had an increase in those scheduling a ride and then cancelling.

Crystal Knoll from Veteran Service Office could not be in attendance but shared via email prior to the meeting that they are working on getting a benefits fair and chicken Q for July to be held at the Viroqua Legion. They will have veteran benefit information available as well as transportation

information. They are looking to add drivers but their appointment numbers are down. They tend to see an increase in appointments at the start and the end of the year and slower in the middle of the year.

Chelsey Myhre Foster reported that ILR is celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September and will be having an event at Myrick Park. All will be welcome to attend.

Discussion on next meeting date, time and host location

Dates were discussed and the group agreed to have the meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at noon. The months the meetings are held are March, June, September and December.

Next meeting will be September 24, 2019 at noon at VARC, Inc. in Viroqua.

A motion was made by Peter Fletcher to adjourn, second by Jon Howe. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Clements, Unit Director  
Aging and Disability Resource Center of Vernon County

In Attendance

Tricia Clements  
Peter Fletcher  
Justin Running  
Jon Howe  
Chelsey Myhre Foster  
Krista Heinz