



MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2010

Present: Bob Burns, Dave Cote, Rob Pontau, Steve Bradstreet, Mike Bobinsky, Chip Swan, Peter Owen, Dennis Cox, Robert Seelye, Gerry James, Steve Walker, John Giroux, Stewart Sevey, Megan Bates, Shawn Bennett, Craig Worth (IME); Pete Coughlan (Maine Local Roads Center).

Directors absent: Eric Labelle, Mike Claus

Others Present: Jeff Austin and Kate Dufour, MMA. Tony Hayes, MCAPWA Past President. Frank Olsen, Consultant.

1. **Call to Order:** Bob Burns called meeting to order at 9:03AM, at Maine Municipal Association, Augusta, ME.
2. **Minutes:** Dennis Cox made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 4, 2010 meeting, second by Steve Walker. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items 3 and 4 of the agenda were taken out of order as courtesy to MMA representatives.

4. **MMA Culvert Rule (LD1725) and Highway Issues Update:**
 - a. **Jeff Austin: LD 1725, Culvert Rule.** Jeff noted the following:
 - i. MCAPWA Testimony has helped in delaying the rule
 - ii. Implementation is delayed until 2012
 - iii. Towns, Public Works Departments and MCAPWA will be tasked with working with DEP to document cost comparisons for projects taking place this year.
 - iv. Jeff handed out copies of Minority and Majority reports from the Natural Resources Committee.
 - v. Jeff wrote a rebuttal to George Smith's article in the KJ mentioning that cost increases are "pittance."
 - vi. More rules are coming. In particular, all public works garages may soon be subject to MS4 rules and regulations.
 - b. **Kate Dufour:** Kate gave a brief overview of the Highway Simplification Study. The intent is to provide better services and efficiency. There is still a lot of work to be done. Cost survey data is especially important, as well as utilizing the MDOT website to post comments.
 - c. **Meeting with George Smith, Tony Hayes and Frank Olsen.** At this point the group was joined by Frank Olsen and Tony Hayes. Frank and Tony met with George Smith (S.A.M.) and various other representatives from interested parties. The original bill was sponsored by Dave Trahan. He is afraid it will not pass and is pushing to save it. Some points the bill advocates made were:

Executive Committee

Officers:

President

Mike Claus
Public Works Director
Kennebunk, ME
207-468-3020

Vice-President

Bob Burns
Public Works Director
Gorham, ME

Treasurer

David Cote
Public Works Director
Brewer, ME

Secretary

Rob Pontau
Public Works Director
Topsham, ME

Past-President

Stephen J. Bradstreet
Oak Engineers
Portland, ME

Delegate

Mike Bobinsky
Public Works Director
Portland, ME

Directors:

Galen "Chip" Swan
Public Works Director
Hampden, ME

Peter Owen
Public Works Director
Bath, ME

Dennis Cox
Public Works Director
Millinocket, ME

Robert Seelye
Public Works Director
Calais, ME

Gerry James
Public Works Director
Presque Isle, ME

Steve Walker
Pinkham & Greer
Falmouth, ME

John Giroux
Public Works Director
Winslow, ME

Stewart Sevey
H.P. Fairfield, Inc.
Skowhegan, ME

Eric Labelle
Community Services Director
Auburn, ME

Megan Bates
Deputy Public Works Director
Lewiston, ME

Shawn Bennett
Road Commissioner
Pownal, ME

Honorary Director
Guy W. Melcher, Jr.

Other Associations

Maine Local Roads Center
Peter M. Coughlan

Excellence Awards Chairperson

Contact – Craig Worth
Deputy Public Works Director
Brunswick, ME

- i. They are mirroring federal standards with this bill
- ii. Very few streams meet the criteria (really?)
- iii. Costs will be “spread out”
- iv. NOAA grants are available for this type of project. Just ask and we shall receive.
- v. There may be some type of matching funds (50/50 split with feds?)

Tony gave an example of a 54” culvert that was replaced with a 21’ arch culvert in order to meet NOAA standards. The project cost rose from \$6000.00 to \$250,000.00.

Frank gave an overview of project S.H.A.R.E. The project was implemented to help restore the salmon population. This will be accomplished by installing 80 new arch and/or box culverts. Frank also mentioned that no other states have come this close to passing a bill like this. Tony mentioned that we need to focus on the small communities in order to demonstrate the impact the rule will have. Frank offered to share all of his records and cost data from the past 20 years. Tony and Frank agreed to work with the MCAPWA culvert committee toward modifying or eliminating the bill (LD 1725)

3. Reports:

- a. **Treasurer’s Report:** Dave Cote stated the current checking balance is \$5,524.86 and savings balance is \$15,125.38. Steve Bradstreet noted we are still owed \$1,500.00 by the New Jersey Chapter. The Brian C. James Scholarship Fund balance is \$10,686.40. The projected balance for the year end is \$13,667.10.
- b. **Delegate Report:** See report by Mike Bobinsky attached.
- c. **Membership Report:** Steve Bradstreet noted there is 1 new member, 1 reinstated member and 1 delinquent member. The chapter currently has 196 members.
- d. **Maine Local Roads Report:** Pete Coughlan
 - i. There are no new workshops to discuss
 - ii. Supervisory Training will need volunteers on May 13. That training is at Jeff’s Catering in Brewer.
 - iii. The fine for all untrained workers within a road is \$1000. Training can be simple and done at the place of business. Any training by MLR since 2004 would be considered OK.
 - iv. The Maine511 website gets a lot of use, especially during posted road season. Should we start sharing municipal information on that website?
- 5. **Facebook Update:** Rob Pontau gave a brief overview of the chapter Facebook page. He explained the basics of the page and how it can be used as a tool to promote the chapter.
- 6. **Spring Meeting:** Flyers have been sent out. There was a brief discussion of the scheduling and timeframes. Consensus was that it should work out okay in the end. We may try to squeeze in a couple minutes for a Facebook demo.
- 7. **Excellence Awards:** Craig Worth noted there have not been any submissions to date.
- 8. **2009 Public Works Leader of the Year:** Bradstreet noted that there were no new

submissions this year. There were three submissions re-instated from last year. The selection committee has met and chosen a winner.

9. **Supervisory Training 2010:** Steve Bradstreet noted that the flyer is already out. Volunteers will be needed on May 13th. Pete Coughlan added that we need to contact the media to arrange for a reporter and cameraman. Dave Cote agreed to contact news media in the Brewer area.
10. **Highway Congress/Rodeo:** Bob Burns
 - a. 4 more checks have rolled in
 - b. Emails will be sent out and an ad placed in the Maine Townsman
 - c. The vendor database is being updated
 - d. Steve Walker mentioned that they are still considering eliminating the wingman for the snowplow rodeo. There was also talk of hosting the event separate from the congress, but that will not be pursued this year.
11. **Committee Update:**
 - a. 2010 Congress Committee: Mike Bobinsky noted that 400 volunteers are needed. The Maine Chapter is providing a bus from Maine to pick up volunteers (50). A BUS WILL LEAVE Bangor and make stops on the way to Boston. All logistics have not been worked out. Chip Swan has donated his time as a driver. Mike Bobinsky moved that the chapter enter into an agreement with John T. Cyr and Sons, Inc. for bus services in the amount of \$1480.00. Seconded by Bradstreet. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. August 17th was chosen as “Maine Chapter Day.”
 - b. Culvert Committee: Nobody wanted to discuss LD 1775 any further.
12. **Other Business:** No other business.
13. **Meeting Adjourned 11:30 A.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert A. Pontau, JR.

Attachment

March 2010 APWA House of Delegates Report

March 4, 2010

To: Maine Chapter APWA
From: Michael J. Bobinsky, House of Delegate Representative
Subject: **March 2010 Report**

The following summarizes my report for March:

- Nominations for National office and National Committees must be submitted to headquarters no later than the close of business April 1, 2010. Candidate nominations may be self-nominations or may be submitted by any APWA member or by a chapter. APWA website has more information as to which positions are open. A few At Large Board positions are up and several committee positions as well.
- Have been working with our Chapter "Boston Congress Participation" Subcommittee, will report out our plans, which involves chartering a bus to pick up 50 volunteers from Bangor to Kennebunk, and transport to Boston Congress on Tuesday August 17. Chapter will begin a solicitation and recruitment effort to get volunteers to sign up and assist at Congress. I have been coordinating with New England Chapter organizing committee members on details.
- Region I and II House of Delegates Meeting to be held end of April in Boston area. Details to be worked out will be planning to attend, and to be joined by Eric Labelle, Alternate to HOD.
- The Senate March 2 approved legislation extending SAFETEA-LU through March 28, ending a two-day shutdown of transportation programs supported by the federal highway trust fund and the furlough of 2,000 US Department of Transportation employees. The bill was quickly signed into law.

The legislation, HR 4691, first approved in the House of Representatives, stalled in the Senate February 25 when Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning blocked its consideration, insisting that its \$10 billion cost is offset. The legislation included temporary extensions for unemployment and healthcare benefits, Medicare and the federal flood insurance program.

The last extension of SAFETEA-LU expired February 28. The latest 30-day extension was approved to allow the House of Representatives time to address various objections to the Senate-passed jobs bill, the \$15 billion Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act, HR 2847, which includes an extension of SAFETEA-LU through December 31, 2010. The House may consider the HIRE Act as early as March 4.

The North American Snow and Ice Conference will be held on April 18-21, at the Qwest Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

The second annual Sustainability Conference sponsored by APWA will be held on June 8-10, in Minneapolis, Minn.