

Pennsylvania Precast Association

Virtual Meeting
January 13, 2021

Attendance via virtual Teams Meeting

Joe Bracken, PennDOT
Randy Lazouras, PennDOT
Matt McSweeney, PennDOT
Mike Buchan, AC Miller Concrete
Ed Wagman, Monarch Products
Mark Baum, EJ
Phil Lapp, Faddis Concrete Products
Rick Amlin, DELTA Engineers
Nadine Brennan, Faddis Concrete Products
Nelson Martin, Terre Hill Concrete
Todd Monahan, Airmatic
Gary Jones, Press-Seal
Son Vu, PennDOT
Ed Pennypacker, JepCo Sales
Alissa Myers, PennDOT
Dan Schaffer, Lehigh Cement
Chad Forcellini, AC Miller
Eric Church, Lehigh Cement
Chip Winner, Oldcastle Infrastructure
Amy King, KTA Tator ** (new consultant for PennDOT)
Jay Behney, ALP Supply
Kyle Hignett, New Hampshire Metal Foundry
Barry Fleck, ALP Supply
Paul Jordan, Mapei *** (new PPA Member)
Steve Somerville, Mapei *** (new PPA Member)
Todd Platek, TRC
Tom Roddy, Yoe Industrial *** (new PPA Member)
Eric Wetzal, Master Builders
Monica Schultes, PPA

**Amy G. King, P.E., Sr. Engineer, KTA-Tator, Inc.; Cell: 334.201.7962; aking@kta.com

***Tom Roddy, V.P. of Business Development, Yoe Industrial; Cell: 717.487.7349

Office: 717.244.1140; troddy@yoeconcreteindustrial.com

*** Steve Somerville, PE, Sales/Technical Service, Mapei, 717-649-4378; ssomerville@mapei.com

Items for Discussion: Quality Control

- Introductions were made by those who attended the virtual meeting. Apologies for any technical difficulties you had with the Microsoft Teams format.
- MS read the standard Anti-Trust Statement that still applies to PPA virtual or in person meetings
- Amy King, KTA Tator is managing a new contract with PennDOT regarding inspection of precast plants. Her contact info is available in the attendee listing above.
- Joe Bracken from PennDOT started our discussion (see attached for his notes)
- KTA took over agreement with PennDOT instead of Pennoni. There have been no issues during the transition if your plant was one of the shops affected.
- Attached to the minutes is the contact info for KTA for those who need to get in contact with them regarding inspection contract.
- There is a link to Pub 145 on PennDOT web site which shows the publication and a summary of key changes. The updated publication was effective as of December 2020.
- For those who are new to the organization, Joe introduced Randy Lazouras who is our contact in western PA and Matt McSweeney in the eastern half of the Commonwealth. Depending on where your precast plant is located as to who to contact. Sun Vu and Alissa Myers and Doug Falcon and Adam Zucculato are also part of the PennDOT team.
- Things are moving forward and PennDOT has been coordinating with fabricators to get copies of COVID plans. During the pandemic we have been able to work with everyone to adjust according to each situation especially during temporary shutdown in March 2020.
- We did update standard BD632 – the biggest change is the standards changed and worked with PPA regarding fabrication of box culverts. There is a typical drawing showing suggested maximizing the number of square sections and minimizing skew pieces to help with installation. There was some discussion from box culvert manufacturers. “*8 feet or 10 feet form” There are times that it would be better to make larger skew in one piece (11 feet for example). Culverts skew angles less than 75 and you can skew all the segments if you have that option. The preference was to square off sections. Yes – you can go longer than 10-feet mostly the issue was the typical limit with form molds that most can accommodate. Would it be better to have 8-foot minimum and allow for long end to go longer without approval by district engineer each time there is an exception.
- SOL was out and updates were made and overall reorganization of the document for Pub 145 we also updated the document. Some of the changes in part 1, include the requirements for ASR, automated batching, electronic filing and modifications to stock inventory (as discussed throughout 2020 at PPA meetings). In Part 3 there were some pre-approved repair methods.

- Pub 145 is finished and on the web site it was distributed and available to all.
- Everyone should be familiar with PennDOT web site.
- Matt McSweeney discussed the certification dilemma and recommended if personnel have certifications that expire in the next 6-9 months – you should enroll them in the available courses (See emails sent with classes being held by ACI and PACA) Better to have some certified in advance than having it lapse.
- There was some discussion regarding those who were at-risk for Covid who cannot attend public re-certification class. Until things change with the pandemic, those who already have certification will have to work with the system. This applies only for those that expired after March 2020 to meet any extensions that might be granted. Federal regulations require certification for anyone performing testing or concrete acceptance. ACI has been the main vehicle for training and certification. As of last year they were unwilling to extend the certification for those individuals who can't get re-certified due to Covid. If there is an issue with more than one plant PPA should push ACI or FHWA to extend certification to those with extenuating circumstances.
- ACI is ramping up courses in PA and surrounding states. MS has distributed that info to PPA producers.
- PennDOT is reaching out to others who are not members of PPA.
- Additional discussion regarding PACA and their offering of courses. If there was enough need for a private class at a producer's facility they may be able to help facilitate that. For the rest of those who only need a few employees to go through class there will be some held around the state.
- In response to Chip Winner's question, Matt McSweeney provided an update on CT RC31 went out as Step 1 CT and they are finalizing comments. They were doing that at the end of 2020. The status of issuing a Step 2 is probably imminent. The RC standards are managed in house but PennDOT uses a consultant to manage the changes and that contributes to some delays.

Steve Somerville gave an update on new associate member Mapei. He is now their representative in the Mid-Atlantic area. Steve reviewed the product line across the spectrum of construction products including admixtures, in the US and around the world. For more info on the company and for his contact info see attached for his presentation.

Todd Monahan with Airmatic, President of PPA shared what he learned at a PACA conference regarding the 2021 outlook for the industry. The speaker explained that the federal government is short on funds for transportation, mass transit is losing a lot of money due to the pandemic, and Pennsylvania has some funding shortages due to travel reduction. PA has high gas tax but with state police syphoning off some of that there are projects that won't be advancing. Letting schedule for projects is on hold until the budget is passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- MS welcomed Mapei and Yoe Industrial as our newest PPA members. Their contact info is on page 1.
- Comments on the Clearance Transmittal on precast barrier are due back to MS by 2/11.
- If any PPA member has a project they would like to promote – please send the details to MS to create a case study for the newsletter and web site.
- The NPCA /PCI Precast Show has been postponed until May 2021 (originally scheduled for late February) still will be held in New Orleans.
- NPCA Convention still scheduled for October 28-30 in Colorado Springs.
- Tentatively a virtual PPA meeting would be held on Wednesday morning March 3rd, 2021 at 9am. If there are any pressing items in the interim please let me know and we can have ad hoc conference call.