

Pennsylvania Precast Association

Virtual Meeting

March 10, 2021

Attendance via virtual Teams Meeting

Joe Bracken, PennDOT

Randy Lazouras, PennDOT

Matt McSweeney, PennDOT

Ed Wagman, Monarch Products

Bill Heath, EJ

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

Alissa Myers, PennDOT

Ed Pennypacker, JepCo Sales

Chip Winner, Oldcastle Infrastructure

Amy King, KTA Tator

Robert Hamilton, KTA

Dawson Dottery, KTA

Jay Behney, ALP Supply

Kyle Hignett, New Hampshire Metal Foundry

Steve Somerville, Mapei *** New PPA Member

Todd Platek, TRC

Tom Roddy, Yoe Industrial *** New PPA Member

Adam Folmer, Yoe Industrial ***

Frank Palas, Concrete Sealants

Sandra Palone, SP Associates

Terre Henne, Morgan's Welding/ Neenah Foundry *** New PPA Member

Jim Valent, ALP Supply

Monica Schultes, PPA

Introductions were made by all in attendance. An Anti-trust reminder and disclaimer was reviewed before the meeting started.

Items for Discussion: Quality Control

- There was mention about a fire at Eagle Precast Products in Somerset County. No injuries but significant damage to the office portion of the plant.
- Joe Bracken gave a few updates from PennDOT
- He expressed condolences for the loss of Executive Deputy Secretary George McAuley, who passed away while on vacation. This is a huge loss for PennDOT and the Commonwealth after his more than 30 years of service.
- PennDOT specs have been updated and have been distributed. Pub 145 was published and is available on PennDOT web site.
- There is sunset date on barriers which is five years. In the interim MASH barriers in stock inventory should follow FIFO, the oldest pieces need to be used first.
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- Matt Mc Sweeney said there are two materials related items for discussion. The first is the usage of admixtures that were affected by Covid. Mix designs were affected that couldn't get the sodium thiocyanate additive. PennDOT is working on getting this resolved or substitutes. The second is the slag production at Evansville is shutting down. There are some precast plants affected since they were using that material. Can plants switch to another source of the same composition as equal substitute or is it considered a new mix design. PennDOT following up.
- Randy Lazouras gave an update. He said that Eagle Concrete was still in operation but had to use ready mix concrete source until their lab is back operational. They did not lose any product in the yard. RC standards for those that utilize outside fabricators for cages and tops - let those vendors know that those changes have taken place so they can adjust.
- An e-notification has not gone out yet as follow up to ongoing discussion regarding the recommended length of skew for precast box culvert
- Follow up to ACI certification discussion from the January meeting. MS asked if there was anyone who had difficulties in getting their people certified. Matt McSweeney informed the group that there were a lot of classes available across the Commonwealth. After the January gap of classes have opened more.
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- PennDOT had originally sent a letter several years ago, voiding the freeze-thaw test which will now be re-instated. It only applies to new mix designs. In the past due to the lack of failures and because the freeze thaw test took so long - the test was rescinded. Since the specs were updated, now the freeze-thaw test is going to be re-instated.
- Nelson Martin asked how that would affect producers with the burden of additional test and the subsequent delays in approving new mix designs. (the freeze thaw tests can take several months to complete)

- With the spec update and because quarries have changed over the years – Penn DOT wants to re-instate the testing. If there are new mix designs, those requirements will be in effect. It isn't necessary for mix design updates, only those complete new mix designs that had not previously been approved.
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- Jim Valent asked a question about getting ALP Supply's new bearing pad approved by Bulletin 15

Tom Roddy gave an update about Yoe Industrial Services. As a new associate member, Tom introduced his company and the divisions that might best be of use to PPA membership. For more info on the company and for his contact info see attached for his presentation.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- 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 opened registration for the May 2021 event to be held in New Orleans.
- NPCA Convention still scheduled for October 28-30 in Colorado Springs.
- Our next PPA meeting would be held on Wednesday morning May 5th 2021 at 9am, still to be determined if it will be in person or virtual.
- There was some discussion because PennDOT has travel restrictions through June at this point. There was the option of waiting until September until the population is vaccinated and PennDOT will be able to attend. Many thought it would be difficult to conduct a hybrid meeting given the public Wi-Fi connection.
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- If there are any pressing items in the interim please let me know and we can have ad hoc conference call.