

Pennsylvania Precast Association

Membership Meeting

November 4th 2015

Welcome

Self-Introductions and Anti-Trust Reminder

PENNDOT Topics by Joseph A. Bracken III, P.E., CWI

- Manhole standards – PennDOT has received comments and due to other priorities a response won't be forthcoming until March 2016.
- ASR Phase 2 is in the works.
- Now that winter weather is here be aware of cold temperature concrete practices.
- P3 is moving forward. In full operation for prestressed beams – gearing up for box culverts
- P3 projects have 106 box culverts in 2016. Lettings started in September, 2015 and will continue every month through the Spring, 2016. In addition to P3, PennDOT has 100+ box culvert projects hitting the street. They are asking fabricators to attend a meeting to discuss schedules, backlogs, etc. Looking for ideas as to how to expedite the process.
- Looking back over last 5 years – typically 170 box culverts/year. Should be more than 200 next year.
- Joe is gathering information from districts as to the location/county/dates/span/skews to provide industry with a complete picture of upcoming work.
- They want to take advantage of the slow time in winter. Also want to review repair procedures in advance to expedite these projects. Refer to Pub 145 for typical repairs.
- Box culvert meeting for precasters is Thursday November 12th at PennDOT lab. Contact MS for more information.
- Box culvert E-notification was released. They are still reviewing sizes, lift capacity, transportation limitations, etc. Once this information is compiled – they will include in Bulletin 15 so that GC's are not wasting time looking for fabricators. Please review the draft E-notification and forward any corrections to JB or MS.
- Discussion regarding whether culvert sections could be stamped further in advance of shipping. Continued discussion at meeting on 12th.
- Aesthetic coatings – no updates.

Quality Assurance and Specification Issues

- LRFD Manhole Standard Exceptions – PPA website has manhole exception portal. The login/password from 2010 is still valid. Contact MS if you need access.
- PADOT would like to hear ideas for improvements of precast box culverts. Discussion as to whether to dry-fit at the plant? Issues with culverts not fitting together in the field.
- Best practice is to dry-fit to make sure they fit together. Not necessary on every piece, but commonplace if there may be an issue with complexity. Some precasters fit the first two pieces together – if no issue then proceed with casting remainder. If there are 2 molds, they will cross fit to make sure no issues. On long culverts sometimes pieces are checked just to make sure nothing has changed. It is unreasonable to dry fit every piece.
- Discussion regarding box culvert schedules – production capacity is often based on only 50% of the year because projects are not awarded in time. Not enough capacity to meet compressed schedule. Lead times are a dynamic thing – if nothing to bid on can turn around fast, but when 100 are let at a time it causes an issue. Other factors include the complexity of job-- w/ skew angles, double skews ... if they could square them off It would save a lot of time and headaches.
- Currently, nothing to bid on. Ones being let now are not being produced until Feb or March.
- We are seeing a lot of P3 jobs that are not fully designed. Asked to bid from TS&L drawings – then throwing a number – real design comes out and the numbers aren't even close. Changes are being made after shop drawings are complete. Issues to be discussed at the box culvert meeting.

- District 5 HOP projects –can certification be used instead of inspection? PennDOT to follow up on this issue. To be discussed at next meeting.

Action Items since September 2nd 2015

- Discussion as to whether PPA precasters need NDA. More GCs & utilities require non-disclosure agreement to review drawings – do we need to protect our proprietary information?
- Consultants are very intimate with our plant. They don't have anything in terms of an agreement – we should have something for them.
- Consultants added that although nothing is signed, they are trained to make sure we do not share those things.
- Is it okay for people to take pictures - and how do we keep them from sharing info?
- Supervisors not always in plant – inspectors take pictures – that are then used to train people in the future. Consultants are trained not to interfere with plant procedures, but simply communicate with QC managers. Just there to enforce PADOT specification.
- Would be beneficial for binding obligation instead of just “best practice”
- Typically don't share confidential info. But how do you know that you are protecting that information to the best of your ability? Will an inspector actually sign NDA?
- Put general provision in the front of 145 for inspectors (simple statement/language) so inspectors don't need to sign anything.
- Topic tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

Committee Membership Review

Executive Committee for 2016

- President- Tom Dixon– Dixon Precast
 - Vice President – Todd Monahan – Airmatic Inc.
 - Secretary- Nadine Crapo– Faddis Concrete Products
 - Treasurer – Rick Amlin -Delta Engineers
 - Immediate Past President- Rusty Fox – By-Crete
- Unanimous vote to approve slate of officers for 2016.

QA Assurance & Specification Committee: Still active and keep going? Yes- Mike will continue as chair.

Manhole standards Workgroup: Keep committee until new design standard is published. Remove Jeff Solvesky from list.

Membership & Marketing: Nadine : Chair.

- Nadine looking for info from everyone – asking for help & potential member info.
- Go through vendors and associates that are not involved. Send Nadine info of someone that may benefit from PPA membership–just need name & Phone number.
- Asking for 1 suggestion from everyone – Nadine will follow up from there
- Newsletter has been discussed for a year, only 2 articles have been submitted.
- Please submit project case studies, or any relevant content to Nadine.
- Project profiles will also be helpful for web site content.

Septic Tank Committee: Ed Wagman: pretty inactive – 4-5 years ago DEP was pushing some things, since then they have not had the money to re-write. At this point, nothing to review and hasn't been for years. Ed's brother keeps a watchful eye on this and will notify Ed if anything comes up.

Associate Spotlight

- Jeffrey Ma, Marketing Manager, BASF
- Topic: Antimicrobial Admixtures for concrete
- For more information, or a copy of his presentation- contact Jeffrey at 216-839-7222
- Jeffrey.ma@basf.com

*January 13 associate spotlight is open as are all meeting dates in 2016. Please contact Monica if interested.

Executive Director Report

- Unanimous vote to remove Initiation fee for new members. MS will make change to membership forms and by-laws as needed.
- PPA Website in need of major overhaul. Vote approved unanimously to move forward with website.
- MS participating in Total Quality Initiative (TQI) with PennDOT, Turnpike, Industry.
- Membership drive is underway—please forward any candidates for associate or producer members to MS or Nadine. New ideas and faces keep things from being stagnant. Trying to get box culvert producers to join PPA. Solicited Brayman Precast, Rinker and Lindsay Precast, etc. to join PPA.
- 100% of producer dues collected in 2015. 1 affiliate member dropped out of PPA.
- Membership renewal forms/ dues reminder to be sent in December. Please note change of address so that checks are not sent to Hank.
- Brief discussion regarding Hotel Carlisle. It is good location, but MS will report back on other venues in the area. If you have any suggestions, please contact MS.
- Brief discussion regarding meeting dates for 2016 – slight adjustment in schedule due to conflicts.
- Suggestion to start scholarship fund to promote our industry. Other ideas would be to host tour at facility to include larger number of students. Further discussion at next meeting.
- Reminder that NPCA Production and Quality Schools (PQS Levels I & II) Philadelphia, PA, December 8-11 www.precast.org/education

Review of Recent Financials: Estimated Reserves (as of October 31, 2015): \$22,600

Key Dates

November 16-17 PACA Annual Meeting (PA Concrete & Aggregate Association)

November 18 - 20, 2015 APC/PennDOT Conference, Hershey, PA

December 8-11 NPCA Production and Quality Schools, Philadelphia

January 13, 2016 PPA Meeting Carlisle, PA

February 16-17- PA Concrete Conference, Harrisburg PA

March 1-5, 2016 Precast Show Nashville, TN