

Pennsylvania Precast Association

Membership Meeting

January 13th 2016

Welcome

Self-Introductions and Anti-Trust Reminder

Minutes were approved from November 4, 2015 meeting

New executive committee was introduced- they will serve 2 year term.

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*

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

- Manhole standards- Mark Burkhead will have the drawings to the FHWA in February. We should see something in March.
- ASR issues – comments were received by PennDOT. Nothing has or will change until the new specification has been written and approved. Phase I testing is complete. Joe suggested to check with your aggregate suppliers for their test results in order to plan for the future. There will be a case-by-case determination.
- HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit) review—products in the PennDOT right of way will/may require PennDOT inspection. Each district issues the permit. PennDOT is reviewing the process to give the district/contractors estimates for inspection services prior to producing/shipping the product. Currently permittees are being charged for inspection costs after the fact.
- Stock items being shipped to projects other than PennDOT projects may require approval from PennDOT prior to shipping. PennDOT intends to bill for inspection services for large quantity transfers, or will not allow these transfers.
- Reminder from Joe Bracken to check Bulletin 15 frequently as approved supplier lists change often.
- There is a change coming down the pike regarding “Buy America” regulations. No date was provided, but it may pertain to “ALL” materials, including lifter, tie wires, etc. will be required to be domestic material. The allowance for a certain percentage of foreign materials to be used will be removed. Again, no effective date has been determined. *After the meeting Joe requested that PPA members submit a list of items that would constitute a hardship if purchased/manufactured domestically. Please submit all items (including product name and manufacturer) related to all types of precast concrete construction.*
- Note – Vexcon has been removed from Bulletin 15 as a source of stain/paint.

Quality Assurance and Specification Issues

- Clearance Transmittal for small bridges- was distributed to group for comment.
- The Exceptions portal on the PPA website will remain active, but will be simplified. It has proved to be a useful tool in the past when a new standard is submitted. PennDOT uses “SharePoint” for electronic transmission of documents i.e. shop drawings, at the district level.

Contractors and consultants have been granted access, and precast producers may be added in the future. When and if that happens, it might make the exception portal redundant.

- There was a meeting to discuss precast box culverts on November 12, 2015 at PennDOT lab. There will be a follow up meeting in late February to review those issues identified as priorities. A recommendation was made to review the letting schedule in order to maximize production efficiency and to accommodate schedules. Lettings for 2016 will remain as scheduled but 2017 and following may reflect a more balanced approach.

Action Items since November 4th 2015

- Follow up topic as to whether PPA precasters need NDA to protect proprietary information. After additional discussion it was decided that this item has been closed. There is no real concern across the industry that would require a PPA non-disclosure agreement.
- “Accepted as Noted” drawings may be used for fabrication of products, but PennDOT will not stamp products prior to receiving final, as built, approved drawings.

Associate Spotlight

- Ed Pennypacker, JepCo Sales/ Concrete Sealants
- Topic: Microbe Induced Corrosion (MIC) in concrete
- A summary Ed’s presentation- is attached in his newsletter

The following companies have expressed an interest in participating in 2016 spotlights: Kelken Construction Systems, Forta Corporation; InfoSight Corporation, Valbruna Stainless and Press-Seal Gasket Corporation.

Membership and Marketing

- Currently have 18 producer members, 4 Professional Members, and 19 Associate Members.
- PPA Welcomes Valbruna Stainless and InfoSight Corporation as our newest Associates.
- Brayman Precast has expressed interest in joining.
- Please review your vendors and associates that are not involved. Send MS info of someone that may benefit from PPA membership.
- MS requested that product and project photos will be helpful as we upgrade our web site. Please submit to MS in jpeg format.

Executive Director Report

- Given the abrupt closure of the Hotel Carlisle, the January meeting was held at the Susquehanna Club in New Cumberland PA. The space was an improvement over our prior venue – and it was unanimous to hold all of our meetings in 2016 at the Susquehanna Club
- One important suggestion was that the acoustics were not adequate to hear some of the discussion. MS will utilize a microphone at future meetings –or encourage everyone to stand and address the entire audience.
- The Club is available for our meeting dates as follows: 3/9, 5/4, 9/7 and 11/2/16

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- MS participating in Total Quality Initiative (TQI) with PennDOT, Turnpike, Industry. They have asked for industry feedback regarding the inconsistencies across districts. One suggestion was that they need to enforce standard details for manhole frame and cover as there are various sizes allowed throughout the state. Please send other ideas like this one to MS to compile.
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- NPCA and PCI have completed the industry wide Environmental Product Declaration. This 20 page document is included with the meeting minutes. Some producers are already being asked for EPD as it can be used toward LEED certification.
- Membership drive is underway—please forward any candidates for associate or producer members to MS or Nadine.
- Please note change of address so that checks are not sent to Hank.
- Brief discussion regarding meeting dates for 2016 – slight adjustment in schedule due to conflicts.
- Discussion about upcoming Precast Show in Nashville. Serge suggested that MS report any conflicts between NPCA and PennDOT policy updates.

Review of Recent Financials:

- Estimated Reserves (as of December 31, 2015): \$36,750
- Changes in the Portland Cement Association at the National and Regional level will have financial impact on our budget.
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Key Dates

February 16-17- PA Concrete Conference, Harrisburg PA
 March 1-5, 2016 Precast Show Nashville, TN
 March 9, 2016 - PPA Meeting, New Cumberland, PA
 May 4, 2016 – PPA Meeting, New Cumberland, PA
 June 6-10 – International Bridge Conference, National Harbor, MD
 September 7, 2016 – PPA Meeting, New Cumberland, PA
 November 2, 2016- PPA Meeting, New Cumberland, PA