

# Pennsylvania Precast Association

Membership Meeting

March 9<sup>th</sup> 2016

## Welcome

*Self-Introductions and Anti-Trust Reminder*

*Minutes were approved from January 13, 2016 meeting*

## Buy America Act – Bob Horwhat, PE, Chief Materials Engineer, PennDOT

- Discussion regarding Buy America Act and PA Steel Procurement Act
- See attached for more information regarding the history and specifics of this legislation
- If steel is unidentifiable on its face – must certify with mill cert (see memorandum 12-21-15)
- Clarification “steel” is predominately steel (90%)
- Bolts, nuts, screws, tie wire, spacers, chairs, lifters are no longer exempt
- Products that are permanently installed must be domestic
- Pass on mill certs if MMUSA
- PennDOT projects let after 2/18/16 – all materials must be domestic
- NPCA has met with FHWA requesting that they reinstitute the 2012 memorandum
- For federally funded projects- greater of 0.1% of (total) contract value or \$2500 is allowance for foreign steel for that project
- Requires full disclosure, including costs of foreign steel (invoices)
- Submit accounting of foreign steel in bid prior to project award to document any foreign steel used in precast
- Use of foreign steel act- PennDOT : 75/25 rule
- If a product contains both domestic and foreign steel it is considered US steel if at least 75% of the cost of the articles, materials and supplies are domestic. Must provide invoices/costs to contractor.
- Documentation is required by both laws
- Packing slip not required – if requests are inconsistent across the districts –inform Bob Horwhat. Invoicing must be accurate and current – correlating to the material within the precast products.
- The appeal process in in the works – but it could take 6-18 months.
- Lifters to be identified on drawings.
- Mill certs have not been required in the past for incidentals, but will be required soon
- PennDOT is trying to avoid collecting mill certs and have the precast hold them
- Web site will be set up to post FAQ for Dept. and business partners with links to FHWA, etc.
- Be aware that FHWA will not issue waivers. Requests for waivers are being accepted – but put on hold so no decisions will be made in the near future.
- ECMS will list funding sources so you can determine if it is federally funded or other.

\*\*\* As a follow up to our meeting – Bob emailed me to add this to the minutes regarding any precast inventory that you might currently have:

--- a subject I hadn't considered was raised today concerning 'stock' precast items. I reached out to our FHWA PA Division office and they indicated that the production date was irrelevant. If there is foreign steel in the stock items and they are shipped to Dept. projects let after February 18, 2016 then the new rules apply, ie incidental foreign steel incorporated into the items must be disclosed and accounted for. \*\*\*

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

- The new ASR Spec is still being written/approved. PennDOT will host webinar and possibly attend future PPA meeting to review changes
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- Manhole standards- being reviewed by FHWA, something should be available soon.
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- Stock items being shipped to projects other than PennDOT projects may require approval from PennDOT prior to shipping. Additional storage fee not applicable. Storage of more than 45 days you can bill for product. Stock items – 50% of production can be in stock.
- For those aggregate suppliers are sending different aggregates – Bulleting 14 properties must be met – suppliers must send new data to PennDOT. It is OK to use mix designs with higher strengths- send design history to Serge for old mixes with higher strengths.

## Quality Assurance and Specification Issues

- Box culvert meeting to be held at PennDOT lab at 1:30 this afternoon. The discussion will focus on show drawing approval process as well as bidding schedule. This is a follow up to the meeting on November 12, 2015 at PennDOT lab. 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 from January 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 meeting

- None

## Associate Spotlight

- Bob Speer, InfoSight Corporation (“we barcode difficult stuff”)
- Topic: Product Tracking for the Precast Shop: Improving Profitability by Improving Processes
- Bob’s presentation is attached

2016 Meeting spotlights:

May Meeting = Valbruna Stainless

Future meetings: Kelken Construction Systems, Forta Corporation; Press-Seal Gasket Corporation.

## Membership and Marketing

- Currently have 19 producer members, 4 Professional Members, and 19 Associate Members.

- PPA Welcomes Valbruna Stainless and InfoSight Corporation as our newest Associates.
- Brayman Precast has joined PPA as our newest producer member
- 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

- Positive feedback from January meeting at the Susquehanna Club – this will be our venue for the rest of the year.
- A microphone was used to improve acoustics as per suggestion at January meeting.
- The Club is available for our meeting dates as follows: 5/4, 9/7 and 11/2/16
- 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 or inconsistencies like this one to MS to compile.
- 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.
- PPA had booth space at the Pennsylvania Concrete Conference.
- MS created new pop up booth for this and future events – the exhibit utilized graphics from NPCA with the tag line “Take a new look at precast”.
- PCA Northeast future is uncertain. There were no cement suppliers attending the meeting. MS will find out more and provide update at next meeting. If group support is stopped, PPA will ask for cement shippers to contribute individually through membership dues.
- Please inform your admin people of change of address so that checks are not sent to Hank.

### Review of Recent Financials:

- Estimated Reserves (as of March 7, 2016): \$40,745

### Key Dates

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  
 March 2-4, 2017 – The Precast Show, Cleveland, OH  
 February 22-24, 2018 – The Precast Show, Denver, CO