



**CPWA Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes for April 27-28, 2015  
Westin Ottawa Hotel, Ottawa, ON  
*Approved by the Board on June 9, 2015***

The CPWA Board of Directors met in Ottawa on April 27-28, 2015. The meeting was chaired by CPWA President Kealy Dedman (Ontario). The meeting was also attended by David Sparanese (British Columbia), Bill Grabowecy who substituted for Steve Blayney (Manitoba), Darwin Durnie (Alberta), Andrew Stevenson (Saskatchewan), David Knowles (Atlantic Provinces) and Claudine Claeseens (Quebec). CPWA Director Craig Kennedy, (Newfoundland/Labrador) was unable to attend.

APWA Director/CPWA Liaison Chuck Williams was in attendance. APWA staff Gail Clark, Canadian Advocacy and Outreach Manager was in attendance and CPWA Advocacy Consultant Alan Young, Tactix, was also in attendance.

### **Welcome/Introductions/Congratulations**

Kealy Dedman welcomed the CPWA Board of Directors and the Board proceeded with self introductions. Kealy welcomed CPWA Consultant Alan Young to the meeting and thanked him for his participation. Kealy reviewed the agenda and provided brief background on the organizations that would be visiting the meeting to provide updates.

Kealy also offered her congratulations to Darwin Durnie who has been named one of the Top Ten Public Works Leaders in North America for 2015. Kealy noted that Canada has two winners of the award this year as Paul Smeltzer of the Ontario Chapter has also been named a Top Ten.

### **Update from Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

Adam Thompson and Andree Chenard, Senior Policy Advisors, from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities provided an update on FCM pre-election strategy regarding promoting municipal and infrastructure investment. Adam noted that FCM plans to follow on with the approach of their recent "Hometown Proud" campaign leading up to the election. The message will position local governments and cities as key to Canada's success. He emphasized that local governments will speak with one voice on national challenges such as infrastructure.

Andree Chenard updated the Board on the update to the **Canadian Infrastructure Report Card (CIRC)** noting that the Steering Committee is still focused towards a September release for the updated version. In discussing the CIRC, Andree noted that the quality of the response to this year's survey was improved, yet the number of surveys to be utilized was the same as last year at 123 submissions. She noted that challenges for the survey included the rate of response, municipal time commitment (average 60 hours), and municipal outreach. It was concluded that sending the survey initially to the CAO was probably as mistake as many did not follow up. Additional thoughts were shared on better communication and "building the brand" for the CIRC and the release this fall.

CPWA and FCM will continue to collaborate before the election and through the Municipal Infrastructure Forum.

### **APWA Update**

APWA Board Liaison Chuck Williams expressed his pleasure at being able to meet Board Members face to face and in attending the meeting in Ottawa. He noted the following updates:

**National Committee Nominations:** President-elect Brian Usher met with Staff in April to discuss recommendations from Board liaisons, committee chairs and staff liaisons for appointments. President-elect Usher will reach out to his choices for Chair. Following careful consideration of qualifications, chapter and regional representation, and diversity, he will notify staff of his selections for appointment. Letters will be sent out to appointees, with chapter and board liaisons copied, in late May.

**Membership:** As membership has remained steady; there is also attention being given to the goal of increasing participation and involvement to increase member satisfaction.

**Education:** The Donald C. Stone Center is working to identify areas for improvement and streamlining so that it is easier for public works supervisors and managers to move through the program. DCS is also recruiting more Mentors for the DCS programs.

**Budget:** Chuck noted that the Finance Committee will be working on the budget in April and May with plans to submit the budget to the Board in June 2015. Fiscally, APWA is in good shape with strong success from the Toronto Congress and the recent Snow Conference in Des Moines.

**2015 Congress Registration and Housing Open:** Chuck announced that registration is now open ([click here](#)) for the 2015 APWA International Public Works Congress & Exposition to be held August 30-September 2, 2015 in Phoenix, AZ. More information, including hotel accommodations can be obtained by clicking [here](#).

**Snow Conference:** Chuck noted the success of the 2015 North American Snow Conference which was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 12-15, 2015. The conference broke exhibit records with 207 companies participating covering over 46,000 square feet of exhibit space. 1,853 attendees participated, totaling 2,588 people including exhibitor representatives. The Winter Maintenance Supervisor Training program was held in conjunction with the conference once again this year and 257 people earned their certificate.

### **Update on the New Build Canada Program - INFC**

The Board of Directors hosted Mr. Marc Fortin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Program Operations, Infrastructure Canada and his colleague Bogden Mahuc, Director of Program Intergration for an update on INFC and the New Build Canada Plan. Kealy Dedman led introductions of the Board of Directors and gave background on CPWA.

Mr. Fortin noted that INFC is not a large organization with a staff of only between 300-400 persons and no offices outside of Ottawa. INFC manages the federal contribution programs that target provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure – i.e., funding provided for infrastructure owned by other levels of government. He reviewed key elements of the New Build Canada Plan including the Gas Tax Fund, National Infrastructure Component, and the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component. A copy of the Power Point presentation is attached to these minutes. He noted that they have been criticized for “reannouncing money that was already there,” but noted that the announcement is meant to convey that the “money is still there (continues to be available.” He noted that INFC would appreciate any assistance that CPWA might contribute that illustrates that this investment is reaching its goals.

Mr. Fortin also referenced the recent asset management round table discussion held by INFC and his interest in hearing more about APWA Congress and the CPWA International Infrastructure Roundtable Event at Congress. Bill Grabowecky asked if they could attend Chapter events and Marc offered that the INFC staff is available to travel outside of Ottawa as speakers when appropriate.

### **Update on Ottawa**

CPWA Government Affairs Consultant Alan Young updated the Board on events in Ottawa. Noting that the late (April 21) tabling of the budget, Alan predicted that Parliament will likely sit until mid-June or later.

**Budget:** In regards to infrastructure, the April 21 budget recapped past announcements along with an exhortation to keep moving on the New Building Canada Fund. One new item of particular interest was the announcement of a new Public Transit Fund. This new Fund would provide \$750M over 2 years, starting in 2017-18, and \$1B per year thereafter. Conservatives are showing support for cities with this new announcement.

**Government's pre-election Strategy:** Leading up to the October 19, 2015 federal election, Alan noted the current government will be focusing on policy decisions that appeal to the core support voters (the 33%) while also focusing on narrowing appeal to specific groups as well. Putting money in people's pockets is also a key strategy for the government prior to election. Infrastructure will also continue to play an important role as it has been shown that investment in infrastructure has a greater return than tax reductions.

**Defiant Duffy:** Alan noted the start of the Mike Duffy trial on April 7. Duffy has pleaded not guilty to 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery in connection with his Senate travel, living and office expenses. On trial, Duffy seems determined to bring down as many people as he can. Alan noted that the trial was slated for 41 days, but will most likely drag on beyond that time.

**CPWA Outreach:** Alan commented that he was pleased that CPWA was reaching out to the opposition parties during this visit to Ottawa. Previous CPWA concentration has been on the bureaucracy and party in power. It is especially important in an election year to have dialog with all.

### **Chapter Updates:**

**David Knowles of Atlantic Provinces Chapter** reported on the Chapter's membership which has remained stable. The chapter Conference is set for Fredericton on October 21-23, 2015. They have been invited to the Nova Scotia municipal public works association May conference but David doubts anyone from the Chapter will be able to attend. He noted that the CPWA Atlantic Provinces Fall Conference for 2015 will be held in Fredericton, NB. David also reported that his City will participate in the National Public Works Week celebrations.

**Bill Grabowecky, Manitoba Chapter** reported that the Chapter would be hosting a golf tournament in May. The TAC Annual Conference is in September and has Bill requested that information about the TAC conference be placed on the CPWA website for information of CPWA members. The Chapter has also had good success with the project of the year award program. The Roadrunner winter edition is available.

### **Darwin Durnie submitted a report for the Alberta Chapter as follows:**

#### *Membership Update*

☑ Our current membership is at 429. As per our last report, we are continuing to pursue memberships in both the engineering sector and within the aboriginal community. Both areas have expressed interest but we have yet to see our anticipated numbers in terms of actual members.

#### *Chapter Activities*

- Intro to Construction Inspection June 3 – 5, 2015 in Red Deer
- Equipment Rodeo September 10 – 11, 2015
- Partners in Excellence Conference & Tradeshow October 5-7, 2015 in Red Deer.

#### *Strategic Partnerships*

- Co-hosting Conference with Alberta Municipal Supervisor's Association, Alberta Transportation and Alberta Roadbuilders needs to be re-evaluated to ensure the best product for our members.
- Partnering with British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well as the Rural Public Works Association in Alberta on the publication of the Roadrunner magazine.

#### *Chapter Capacity Best Practice/New and Innovative Idea*

We are continuing to work on having our existing education programs integrated into other associations learning initiatives for the purpose of gaining CEU recognition in other public works sectors. In addition to allowing the chapter to access potential new members, this also increases the value of our programs through the accumulation of CEUs from outside organizations. The chapter's revenue stream is enhanced when participation in programs is extended outside of our current market. We will also be developing a marketplace on our website to feature exhibitors from our annual tradeshow. This marketplace showcases contact information as well as links to web and social media feeds.

#### *Chapter Key Issue and Area of Focus/Challenge*

Looking to partner with the BC Chapter to create a joint public works institute.

**Claudine Claessens, Quebec Chapter reported** Quebec's membership is at 300 and the Chapter will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017. The Snow Conference is being held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May in Victoriaville and a series of technical programs have been held in four locations in April. The Hockey Tournament was also held in April with much success.

**Kealy Dedman, Ontario Chapter reported** the Chapter is working on strategic planning including how to involve more young members. The Chapter is holding focus sessions and phone interviews and targeting negative reviews as information for improvement. They will be hosting their National Public Works Week Seminar and Awards

Luncheon on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. At that event, they will honour Paul Smeltzer, P. Eng. as one of the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year for 2015.

**David Sparanese noted the British Columbia** Chapter continues with its education and networking events and the 83<sup>rd</sup> PWABC Annual Conference and Trade Show will be hosted September 21-23, 2015 in Penticton, BC. The arrival

**Andrew Stevenson reported on activities of the Saskatchewan Chapter (SPWA)** including the Chapter's efforts in soliciting Proclamations for NPWW from the Premier, all SK cities, and also the Towns our Board members reside/work in. Board members have to attend some of the communities to facilitate the signing. In addition, SPWA membership is up over 150 and SPWA is just slightly behind the leader in our category (100-200 members) for top percentage gainer. The Chapter will be hosting our NPWW CEU workshop and YP/Industry Steak Night May 21, 2015 in Regina. Before the end of the year, the Chapter will be migrating over to the new website template.

SPWA is trying to host each education session with a social event. Upcoming is the Equipment Expo and Golf Tournament in Moose Jaw, July 24, 2015 and our Fall Operator CEU Workshop and Casino Night will be held at the Saskatoon Inn October 2, 2015. The 2016 Annual SPWA Conference & Tradeshow is taking place February 23-25, 2016 in Regina. Kealy was reminded of the date, in hopes that she can attend.

### **Visit from David McGuinty, Liberal MP**

David McGuinty, Liberal MP for Ottawa South in Ontario visited the Board of Directors. McGuinty is Vice Chair of the House of Commons Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities. McGuinty spoke of his experiences both domestic internationally related to the environment, infrastructure and international competition.

McGuinty referenced world interest and developments in financing infrastructure including China's new \$100 billion Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank... A key aim of the bank is to help meet Asia's massive \$800 billion need annually for highways, railways, ports, telecommunications, energy and electricity projects. 57 Countries have joined the AIIB to date.

Mr. McGuinty noted that he was familiar with the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card. McGuinty explained that he would like to see numbers that quantify the wealth, jobs, and efficiencies that would be created by more investment in infrastructure. He believes that the conversation should not be about costs; but rather the creation of wealth, jobs, and efficiencies. All governments, federal, provincial, and municipal need to come together to ratchet up performance and efficiencies.

Mr. McGuinty also asked CPWA to assist him in getting him numbers that quantify the wealth, jobs, and efficiencies that would be created by more investment in infrastructure. He also suggested that CPWA articulate our "ask" in regards to asset management and sustainability.

The Board concluded the day's discussion and the meeting was adjourned until April 28<sup>th</sup> when the Board will visit Parliament Hill.

### **April 28, 2015**

#### **Meeting with Matthew Kellway, MP (Beaches, East York, ON) and Fin Donnelly, MP (New Westminster-Coquitlam & Port Moody, BC)**

The Board of Directors met with MP Kellway who is Deputy Critic for Transport (NDP) and Fin Donnelly, who is Deputy Critic for Infrastructure, to discuss issues in sustainability and asset management that CPWA believes will prolong and maximize investment in infrastructure. MP Kellway asked if CPWA had specific recommendations on these topics.

MP Kellway noted that the House of Commons Transportation, Infrastructure, and Communities Committee had upcoming sessions related to infrastructure investment over the last 20 years and would like CPWA as a possible contributor. (This Committee hearing took place in early May and Kealy Dedman represented CPWA).

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the CPWA Board of Directors is scheduled for June 9 at 1:30 pm ET.

*Submitted by Gail Clark, CPWA Advocacy and Outreach Manager*

***Approved by the Board of Directors on June 9, 2015***