



## **CPWA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2015**

The CPWA Board of Directors met by teleconference on June 9, 2015. The meeting was chaired by CPWA President Kealy Dedman (Ontario). The meeting was also attended by Andrew Stevenson (Saskatchewan), David Knowles (Atlantic Provinces), Claudine Claeseens (Quebec), Bill Grabowecky who substituted for Steve Blayney (Manitoba). David Sparanese (British Columbia), Darwin Durnie (Alberta), and Craig Kennedy (Newfoundland/Labrador) was unable to attend.

Guests who joined the call included Alain Gonthier, Past President and Bradley Leeman, Current Chair for the Canadian Network of Asset Managers (CNAM).

CPWA Executive Director Peter King and Gail Clark, Canadian Advocacy and Outreach Manager were in attendance. CPWA Director/CPWA Liaison Chuck Williams and CPWA Advocacy Consultant Alan Young, Tactix, were unable to attend. Alan Young sent a report which is included in these minutes.

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Kealy Dedman welcomed the CPWA Board of Directors and guests Alain Gonthier, Past Chair and Bradley Leeman, Current Chair for the Canadian Network of Asset Managers (CNAM).

### **Update from Canadian Network of Asset Managers (CNAM).**

Alain Gonthier, Past Chair and Bradley Leeman, Current Chair for the Canadian Network of Asset Managers (CNAM) provided background on CNAM and discussed how CNAM and CPWA might work collaboratively.

Mr. Leeman summarized CNAM background: CNAM was incorporated seven years ago and serves as a network of public sector asset managers and others involved in asset management. They maintain a website, have held nine annual conferences, and share best practices. Networking is the foundation of the organization. CNAM does not serve as an advocacy group; CNAM is focused on “improving the practice” of asset management.

Mr. Gonthier added that CNAM has served on the Advisory Group for the **Canadian Report Card for Infrastructure (CIRC)** and were the principal creator of the **CIRC Primer for Asset Management** that was released in 2013. Like CPWA, they also work with other organizations. For example, as 60% of infrastructure is municipal, they have worked with FCM on some aspects of asset management training.

During discussion concerning the **Canadian Report Card for Infrastructure (CIRC)**, both CNAM and CPWA agreed that the major focus for the Steering Committee for the CIRC should be on completing the report in a timely matter, ensuring balance in the report, and working on a strategy for communication of the results.

Other areas of possible collaboration included support for each other’s annual conferences and the possibility of development of workshops. As the recognition of the benefits of the practice of asset management grows, both parties agreed the conversation between CNAM and CPWA should continue. As follow-up, CPWA will extend a complimentary VIP registration to Congress for Bradley Leeman as Chair for CNAM.

### **Approval of April 27-28 CPWA Board Minutes**

The Board of Directors amended, then approved, the Minutes for April 27-28, 2015.

### **Ottawa Update from Alan Young: (Alan was not in attendance but provided this written report)**

Kealy Dedman reviewed the Update from Ottawa that Alan Young sent prior to the meeting. This update follows:

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Gail Clark, CPWA  
**From:** Alan Young  
**Subject:** **Ottawa Update for June 9 Board Meeting**  
**Date:** **June 4, 2015**

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- The House of Commons sits for 11 more days before MPs leave Ottawa for their summer break. The Conservative government and the Liberals prefer to rise earlier but the NDP have insisted on remaining until June 24.
- This summer will be different because the MPs will not be returning in September as they normally would.
- Parliament will be dissolved by the issuance of an election writ sometime this summer, with the federal election to be held on Monday, October 19.
- We are now, and have been for several months now, in what I call the “phony war” part of the election campaign – there is no formal campaign but everything the political parties are doing is with an eye to the October election.
- Parties can spend as much money as they want on advertising up until the writ is issued, at which time strict spending limits come into effect. Therefore, we are being inundated with political radio and tv ads these days.
- The government has had its Budget Implementation Bill passed in recent weeks which means that the Public Transit Fund that was announced in Budget 2015 can come into effect starting in fiscal 2017-18.
- The government may have dodged a bullet with regard to the ongoing trial of disgraced Conservative Senator Mike Duffy who faces 31 criminal charges. His trial is taking much longer than originally thought and will be extended into August. However, the Duffy trial will be taking a break after August and will not recommence until November. This means that there will not be daily headlines about the trial during the election campaign.
- However, there could be serious headlines heading into the launch of the election as Prime Minister Harper’s former Chief of Staff, Nigel Wright, who wrote the infamous cheque to Senator Duffy, may be testifying during the August segment of the trial. Many Canadians are eagerly anticipating his testimony.
- The expected report of the Auditor General into the expenses of all Senators is to be released this month. It is anticipated that several more Senators, some sitting, some retired, could face RCMP investigations.
- The “good news” for the government is that it will not likely be only Conservative Senators put in an uncomfortable light – there could be some Liberal Senators as well. Because there are not any NDP Senators, this opens the door for NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair to attack both the Conservatives and the Liberals for being responsible for misspending public funds and to once again call for the abolition of the Senate.
- Elections aren’t won or lost on Senate reform but it could be a topic of some interest during the campaign.
- As noted in previous meetings, the two major opposition parties can be expected to make increased infrastructure spending a major part of their respective election platforms (which have not yet been released). This will be good news for the CPWA and should there be a change in government this fall it would open the door for more consultation and work with the government.
- Kealy Dedman made a very successful appearance before the House Transport Committee last month. Moreover, the Board’s meeting with the NDP and Liberal Opposition Critics during the Ottawa Board session proved fruitful – these activities are helping to fix the CPWA firmly on the radar screen in Ottawa.

Kealy Dedman added to these comments that her successful meeting with the House TRAN Committee was due to the excellent preparation that Alan Young had provided. She noted that Alan spent much of the day preparing her for questions that she might be asked. She also noted the invitation from the TRAN Committee was a direct result of the meetings that Alan had set with Matthew Kellway, MP and others in Ottawa in April. Kealy asked that the meeting minutes confirm that Alan is a great asset for CPWA in Ottawa and note that much progress has been made with his assistance.

### **International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME) is Planning Spring 2016 Ottawa Meeting**

Kealy Dedman noted that Doug Drever, IFME President and CPWA/APWA representative, had been in touch with her to suggest that CPWA and IFME hold joint meetings in Ottawa next Spring. CPWA Board members asked that Kealy further research IFME and what their meeting purposes and expectations for a joint meeting might be. Kealy noted that Doug Drever had indicated IFME would also like to line up technical tours for their Board of approximately 15 people. Kealy also noted that in 2018, IFME's World Conference will be held in conjunction with the 2018 APWA PWX.

### **APWA Update**

Due to time constraints, Peter King, Executive Director, APWA limited his comments to a brief update:

**Peter King has accepted a new position as the CEO of the Association of Washington Cities in Olympia, Washington.**

He will continue at APWA through mid July at which time he anticipates the Board will appoint an interim Executive Director while they conduct a search for a new executive director. The search is expected to take six – nine months.

Kealy Dedman and the Board of Directors offered congratulations and thanks and appreciation for Peter's role in CPWA advocacy and outreach over the past years and his leadership for APWA/CPWA.

**Membership:** Membership holds steady at 28,700.

**Budget:** Peter noted that the finance committee has completed review and the 2016 budget will be presented to the Board at the June meeting in Des Moines.

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

**CPWA Website:** Gail Clark reported that she will be working on the CPWA website using the Chapter Template and hopes to share progress at the August meeting.

### **Chapter Updates**

Chapter updates were reserved for the next meeting due to time restraints.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on July 14, 2015 at 1:30 pm EDT.