

## Board of Directors Meeting February 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes

### Welcome and Roll Call

The CPWA Board of Directors met by teleconference on February 9, 2016. Anne Jackson, CPWA Advocacy and Outreach Manager, welcomed the CPWA Directors and called the meeting to order.

#### In attendance

*Steve Blayney, Manitoba Chapter*

*Darwin Durnie, Alberta Chapter*

*Don Morehouse, Atlantic Provinces Chapter*

*David Sparanese, British Columbia Chapter*

*Andrew Stevenson, Saskatchewan Chapter*

*Rick Stinson, APWA Board of Directors CPWA Liaison*

*Larry Frevert, APWA Interim Executive Director*

*Alan Young, CPWA Advocacy Consultant*

#### Absent

*Chair Kealy Dedman, Ontario Chapter (OPWA)*

*Claudine Claessens, Quebec Chapter*

*Ron Fleming, Newfoundland/Labrador Chapter*

### Approval of the January 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Anne Jackson asked if there were any requested changes to the minutes. Don Morehouse moved to approve the minutes, Steve Blayney seconded and the motion was carried.

### APWA Update

**February Combined Council of Chapters and Technical Committee Meeting:** Rick Stinson reported that the Council of Chapters and Technical Committees will be meeting February 17 – 21, 2016 in Kansas City. APWA President Brian Usher has suffered a hip injury after a fall and is unable to attend the meeting, so Ron Calkins is filling in for him. The Finance Committee will be meeting in March, so the time to bring forward budget items for FY2017 is now.

**Membership:** Rick reported that APWA membership surpassed 29,000 in January.

**Chapter Financial Transition:** Larry Frevert reported that APWA staff has been working with the Manitoba Chapter to address their concerns with the financial transition. Steve reported that Manitoba has chosen the proffered second option and that their issues have been resolved.

### Update from Ottawa

Alan Young reported that Parliament is on break this week and will return February 16<sup>th</sup> after the Family Day holiday.

Economic news is bleak for the Government, as the price of oil and employment levels both remain low. The federal government is struggling with budget obligations and the provincial governments are struggling with deficits.

No date has yet been set for the Morneau budget, but Alan expects it will be issued the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Since the Board's last meeting, CPWA has submitted a pre-budget consultation submission online to the Finance Ministry and a congratulatory letter to Finance Minister Morneau.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance has announced that it will be condensing its pre-budget process to four days (February 16 to February 19). Alan suggests CPWA update its written submission from last summer, highlighting its two priorities:

- Build municipal capacity in the management of public infrastructure assets
- Ensure sustainability in public infrastructure projects

Alan reported that Kealy Dedman and Darwin Durnie will be in Ottawa Wednesday (February 10<sup>th</sup>) to meet with:

- Senator Grant Mitchell (Alberta)
- Policy Advisors to Finance Minister Morneau
- Jeff Moore, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Communications, Infrastructure Canada
- Policy Advisors to Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Sohi

Darwin reported that while he is in Ottawa for the FCM Sustainability Conference, he will be meeting with FCM Board Members to discuss asset management. FCM is very focused on asset management, but nothing is happening in communities that don't already have a system in place. Darwin suggests that NAMS could be used for those communities, which could help them access federal funds if the Government ties budget priorities and funding to those communities already doing asset management. Steve noted that he liked the idea and Darwin Sparanese agreed. **Darwin will talk with Kealy about NAMS.**

Alan noted that asset management is addressed in the Prime Minister's mandate letters, but NAMS is not specifically mentioned. He suggested that meetings in Ottawa be structured around CPWA's asks, using NAMS as an example. Alan also noted that there is a 2,000-word-limit for written submissions. **Anne will distribute draft pre-budget consultation submissions to the Board.**

### Update from OPWA AGM

Anne reported on the recent OPWA Annual General Meeting, attended by Anne, Rick, Larry, Rich Berning (APWA Director of Region V) and Brian Van Norman (APWA Director of Chapter Relations). While in Mississauga for the OPWA AGM, APWA staff also attended a meeting of the APWA/CPWA/OPWA Task Force and identified several action items as follows:

#### Education and Training

- Continue Canadian representation on the PWX Content Review Committee to ensure educational needs of Canadian members are fulfilled
- Establish a Canadian Education Task Force to address ongoing education and training needs of Canadian membership
- Three Click, Listen and Learn webinars will be dedicated to Canadian content between now and June 2017

#### Advocacy

- Quarterly CPWA updates will be posted to CPWA website and sent to CPWA Board for distribution to chapters
- PXX 2016 Session on Advocacy will include Canadian content
- Chapters should encourage their members to attend the CPWA Board of Directors meeting at PWX
- The September 2016 Click, Listen and Learn on Advocacy will include CPWA
- Staff will distribute a PPT slide template that chapters can use to share opportunities for advocacy engagement

#### Chapter and Member Engagement

- Chapters should encourage members to self-nominate for APWA committee positions

Larry suggested CPWA think about the suggested Canadian Education Task Force as a way to enhance education opportunities for members in Canada. Darwin noted that there is a long history of the association in Canada, but what keeps it going is participation from Canadians.

### RR Crossing Grading Regulations

**Spring Seminar Series for West Region Chapters:** Steve reported that a speaker has been lined up for Winnipeg and Andrew Stevenson reported that the same speaker may be willing to come to Saskatchewan. It was noted that Ontario and Quebec would be on their own to set up workshops, but the Maritime Provinces may want assistance.



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Newfoundland and Labrador only have 5 crossings covered by the regulations. Jeannette Austin is willing to organize workshop details.

**Joint CAMA, CPWA and FCM communique:** Darwin reported that the idea for this communique may have originated at a meeting of the Western Chapters, where FCM spoke and these new regulations were a topic. Steve noted that he is hoping to get the seminar series up and running in Manitoba in May and it would be nice to have this communique finalized and approved by the CPWA Board. ***Darwin reported that he will talk with FCM in Ottawa. Anne will copy Darwin and Steve on a follow-up email to Marc LeBlanc at FCM.***

#### **Website Translation**

***Anne suggested this item be tabled until Claudine Claessens can participate in the discussion.***

#### **CPWA Board of Directors April Meeting (Ottawa)**

Anne asked for input on presentations at the Ottawa Board Meeting. Darwin suggested inviting CNAM to the afternoon CPWA meeting and perhaps a cabinet member to the morning joint meeting with IFME. It was suggested that CPWA meet with Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Pablo Rodriguez, on Tuesday morning.

David noted that Deryk Lee will be attending the Ottawa Board Meeting in his place.

#### **National Public Works Week 2016 Proclamation Campaign**

Anne reported that NPWW 2016 Proclamation Campaign letters were sent to all Canadian Chapter Presidents on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Other Business**

**CPWA Luncheon Speaker for PWX:** Steve noted that Don Lowry with Alberta Oil Sands, who he suggested at the last meeting, is unavailable. He suggested Diane Gray from CentrePort Canada, Manitoba's tri-modal inland port. ***Steve will ask the Manitoba Chapter President to reach out.***

It was also suggested that someone from Infrastructure Canada be invited – and to think big: the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. Darwin noted that he liked the idea and Alan suggested planting the seed during Hill meetings. ***Darwin will coordinate with Steve.***

#### **Adjournment**

Having concluded their business, the Board adjourned the meeting.

#### **Next Meeting**

The Board of Directors will next meet by teleconference March 8, 2016 at 1:30 PM Eastern Time.

*The minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted by:*

*Anne Jackson*

*CPWA Advocacy and Outreach Manager*