



Canadian Public Works Association  
45 O'Connor Street, Suite 1150  
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Phone (202) 408-9541 • Fax (202) 408-9542  
[www.cpwa.net](http://www.cpwa.net)

## Board of Directors Meeting March 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes

### Welcome and Roll Call

The CPWA Board of Directors met by teleconference on March 8, 2016. CPWA President Kealy Dedman, Ontario Chapter, welcomed the CPWA Directors and called the meeting to order. Anne Jackson, CPWA Advocacy and Outreach Manager, staffed the meeting.

### In attendance

*Deryk Lee, British Columbia Chapter*

*Steve Blayney, Manitoba Chapter*

*Rick Stinson, APWA Board of Directors CPWA Liaison*

*Larry Frevert, APWA Interim Executive Director*

*Alan Young, CPWA Advocacy Consultant*

### Absent

*Darwin Durnie, Alberta Chapter*

*Don Morehouse, Atlantic Provinces Chapter*

*David Sparanese, British Columbia Chapter*

*Claudine Claessens, Quebec Chapter*

*Ron Fleming, Newfoundland/Labrador Chapter*

*Andrew Stevenson, Saskatchewan Chapter*

### Approval of the February 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes

**Approval of the February 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes is postponed until the April meeting when quorum can be established.**

### APWA Update

Rick reported that a new Executive Director, Scott Grayson, has been hired by unanimous selection of the Board and will start with APWA April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Rick also noted that the Finance Committee will be meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City and will forward its budget recommendations to the Board.

Larry reported that APWA Kansas City's move to a new office is complete and the new address is posted on the website. The move came the week after the Technical Committees and Council of Chapters convened in Kansas City for a combined meeting. Larry also reported his gratitude for Canadian hospitality at his recent visit to the Saskatchewan Chapter's Annual Meeting.

Rick asked whether Larry or Scott would attend the CPWA meeting in Ottawa, given Scott's start date, and noted that it would provide a great opportunity for Scott to meet with the CPWA Board. Larry reported that he is scheduled to discuss with the Executive Committee and would know later in the day.

Kealy echoes Rick's comments, noting that Scott will be a terrific addition to APWA/CPWA, particularly for the Canadian chapters, and possesses all the qualities the Board was looking for. Rick noted that Scott speaks French and **Kealy reported that a press release would be going out later in the day, which Anne will add to the CPWA website.** Rick also reported that he gave some PWX flyers to Michel Frenette and Martin Letarte from the Quebec Chapter to translate into French, so that PWX can be better promoted to French-speaking members.

Steve asked if the Finance Committee would be considering the issue Canadian chapters have with fee collection/registration service for events. The Manitoba Chapter pays \$1,500 annually for a service that US Chapters have automatic access to, allowing them to collect fees for event registration. **Steve spoke with APWA staff in Kansas City about the issue and Rick reported that he will look into it.**



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## Update from Ottawa

Alan reported the following updates from Ottawa:

Prime Minister Trudeau will be in Washington, D.C. March 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> for a White House Dinner and was interviewed March 6<sup>th</sup> on 60 Minutes.

The House of Commons is back in session this week, off next week, back the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>, then off for two weeks. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> the Liberals' first budget will be tabled in the House after the markets close at 4:00 PM. Tactix is working on having someone in the Media Lock-Up, the advance briefing for journalists and others, though all material will be embargoed until the budget is tabled and wireless devices are not allowed. This will allow Tactix to quickly alert its clients to budget items of interest as soon as the budget is tabled. So far there has not been a pre-release of any budget items. With the budget release, the Government's immediate plans for infrastructure (in the next two years) and details about the proposed infrastructure bank, which will allow provincial and municipal governments to leverage the borrowing power of the federal government, will be known.

Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi addressed the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities on March 7<sup>th</sup> but revealed very little, despite detailed and technical questions. The opposition is concerned about investment in rural communities, given that the government caucus primarily represents cities and towns.

Minister Sohi's briefing binder, prepared by Infrastructure Canada officials, has been made available to the public. The good news is that CPWA was recognized as a key national stakeholder. The report is 140 pages, but Alan called CPWA's attention to Annex D, where Kealy was specifically called out as someone to keep an eye on.

The Prime Minister announced a new Deputy Minister of Infrastructure on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jean-François Tremblay, who was previously the Deputy Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. This is a positive signal about the stand-alone significance of infrastructure to the new government.

Alan reported that he has confirmed Judy Sgro, Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, for the CPWA Board Meeting in April and has a request in to Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Pablo Rodrigues, who appeared at the hearing with Minister Sohi March 7<sup>th</sup>. Alan is waiting to hear back.

## RR Crossing Grading Regulations

**Spring Seminar Series for West Region Chapters:** Steve reported that he has been in contact with Darwin and Jeannette Austin, who are arranging seminars in Alberta and BC. The intent is to have seminars in all West Region Provinces the second week of May, with the same speakers for consistency.

Steve is coordinating seminars for Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The Manitoba seminar will be held in Portage la Prairie, between Brandon and Winnipeg. Consultant Mark Reimer from Moor Consulting, who has finished over 200 RR Crossing reports for the City of Winnipeg, is lined up to speak (Mark gave a similar presentation last Fall in Halifax at the TAC conference). The seminar will also feature speakers from the Railway Association of Canada and Transport Canada.

Steve and Andrew are coordinating the seminar (possibly two – north and south) for Saskatchewan and Darwin expects Ontario and Quebec to arrange on their own.

Kealy reported that she raised the idea with OPWA, but it not appear to be a high priority, noting that other organizations may cover this issue. **Kealy will reach out to Claudine about Quebec hosting a seminar.**

Steve noted that municipalities do not seem to know yet about the regulatory requirements and CPWA is doing the work for FCM in terms of getting the word out, which is a stumbling block.



Kealy asked how CPWA could reach out and send information to members who are unable to attend a seminar, perhaps through a CLL. Steve noted that it may be possible to video a seminar or develop a brochure that can be distributed via email. Kealy suggested a link from the website.

### **Asset Management Roundtable (2015) – Follow Up Actions**

Kealy asked if the CPWA Board had received the 2015 Asset Management Roundtable Report and Anne confirmed it had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Kealy reported that this document will set the stage for discussion in April with Alain Gonthier of CNAM, who is the Asset Management Roundtable lead. Kealy noted that there are several follow-up action areas where CPWA can be effective, particularly in terms of advocacy, and that may be of interest to the Canadian Education Task Force being formed.

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

Anne distributed a draft agenda for the Ottawa Board Meeting and asked for any comments, additions or revisions, particularly regarding the Monday afternoon business meeting agenda items.

Anne reported that travel trackers and hotel reservation forms had been sent to the CPWA Board. **Anne will re-send travel details, travel policy and expense reimbursement forms.**

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

Anne noted the following feedback from Chapter Presidents about the NPWW 2016 Proclamation Campaign:

- Jim Moore reported that Newfoundland is signing a proclamation April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Terry Hardy reported that Ontario will not sign proclamations, but has read a statement of appreciation in past years
- Bill Grabowecky reported that Manitoba has a provincial election scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>, at which point a proclamation can be requested
- Bill Grabowecky reported that he will request a proclamation from Winnipeg

Alan noted that Saskatchewan's provincial election campaign began March 8<sup>th</sup> (for an April 4<sup>th</sup> election). Alan noted that in past years, CPWA has requested a proclamation from the Prime Minister. **Anne will forward a draft letter to the Prime Minister to Alan and Kealy. Anne will also send a follow-up message to Chapter Presidents about the NPWW 2016 Proclamation Campaign.**

### **CIRC Click Listen and Learn**

Kealy reported that Anne is working with Steve Wyton and Alain Gonthier to identify a date in May for the CIRC CLL. **Kealy suggested that all chapters promote the CLL once it is scheduled.** Larry reported that APWA is moving forward with the formation of a Canadian Education Task Force, and that APWA will coordinate this directly with chapters, as education is a fundamental service of the association and not necessarily related to advocacy, which is CPWA's priority. Larry reported that Chapter Presidents will be contacted soon to identify a representative.

### **Other Business**

**CPWA Luncheon Speaker for PWX:** Steve reported that he contacted Bill Grabowecky to invite Diane Gray from CentrePort Canada, but she is no longer CEO. Anne noted that Darwin suggested at the February meeting to invite the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. Alan noted that confirming a Cabinet Minister is always a challenge and suggested extending an invitation to Parliamentary Secretary Pablo Rodrigues.

**Steve will reach out to CentrePort Canada to see if there is interest and CPWA will invite Parliamentary Secretary Rodrigues during the Ottawa meeting.**



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Steve asked if the CPWA luncheon is still scheduled for Monday and Anne confirmed, noting that staff has been discussing moving the business meeting to Saturday, but it is not confirmed and all other CPWA activities will remain on Monday. Steve asked about the time allotted for the Luncheon Speaker and Kealy confirmed 30 minutes.

**Memo to CPWA Board from Darwin:** Anne noted that Darwin distributed a memo to the Board in advance of the meeting requesting the Board give further consideration to CPWA's role in 'filling the gap' on asset management by partnering with IPWEA to introduce its asset management system.

**Request from Memorial University of Newfoundland Students:** Anne reported that she received a request from two students at Memorial University of Newfoundland for CPWA to participate in a research study about public construction in Canada, particularly the reasons behind project delays, cost overruns, and failures. The students want to compile a list of Canadian construction projects that have experienced difficulties related to budget and/or schedule. Kealy suggested that the request was more appropriate for the Canadian Construction Association. **Anne will provide the students contact information for Bill Ferreira with CCA.**

### **Adjournment**

Having concluded their business, the Board adjourned the meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The Board of Directors will next meet in Ottawa on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

*The minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted by:*

*Anne Jackson*

*CPWA Advocacy and Outreach Manager*