



Board of Directors Meeting December 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Roll Call

The CPWA Board of Directors met by teleconference on December 13, 2016. CPWA President Andrew Stevenson, Saskatchewan Chapter, welcomed the CPWA Directors and called the meeting to order. Anne Jackson, Director of Sustainability and CPWA Advocacy, staffed the meeting.

In attendance

- Darwin Durnie, Alberta Chapter
- Don Morehouse, Atlantic Provinces Chapter
- David Sparanese, British Columbia Chapter
- Steve Blayney, Manitoba Chapter
- Sal Iannello, Ontario Chapter
- Luc Fugere, Quebec Chapter
- Rick Stinson, APWA Region I Director, APWA Board of Directors CPWA Liaison
- Chuck Williams, APWA Region VI Director
- Jill Marilley, APWA Region IX Director
- Scott Grayson, APWA Executive Director
- Alan Young, CPWA Advocacy Consultant

Absent

- Craig Kennedy, Newfoundland/Labrador Chapter

Approval of October 11 and November 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Luc Fugere moved to approve the October 11, 2016 meeting minutes, Don Morehouse seconded, and the motion passed.

Sal Iannello moved to approve the November 8, 2016 meeting minutes, Darwin Durnie seconded, and the motion passed.

APWA Update

Rick Stinson encouraged all chapters to send a representative to the Chapter Leadership Training to be held February 16 – 17, 2017 in Kansas City.

Rick reported that the APWA Board, at its November meeting, approved the supplemental agreement between APWA and IPWEA to deliver IPWEA's online Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning (ProCertAMP). The APWA Board also reviewed a draft business plan for professional development and will be developing an online financial report format along with the FY2018 budget.

Chuck Williams reported that prior to the APWA November Board meeting, a 1.5 day facilitated strategic plan meeting was held and Chuck thanked Andrew for participating. Scott Grayson and staff are working to develop a draft to be finalized before the APWA February Board meeting. Operational goals for staff and committees are also being developed and will include performance measures that will be tied to a staff performance evaluation tool. Andrew reported that it was beneficial to participate in the process.

Ottawa Update

Alan Young reported that the House of Commons will rise for the holiday this week and then begin a 6-week break in their ridings, returning January 30th.

Andrew was in Ottawa November 30th and December 1st for a series of meetings with senior political staff in the Prime Minister's Office, the Office of the Minister of Infrastructure and with policy staff from FCM. Unfortunately, a scheduled meeting with the Office of the Minister of Finance had to be rescheduled at the last minute and Scott was unable to attend any of the meetings as planned due to weather that delayed his flight.



Canadian Public Works Association
45 O'Connor Street, Suite 1150
Ottawa, ON K1P 1A4
Phone (202) 408-9541 • Fax (202) 408-9542
www.cpwa.net

At the meetings Andrew introduced himself as the new CPWA President and delivered CPWA's core public policy messages regarding asset management, sustainable infrastructure, and climate change mitigation.

Minister Sohi's staff was interested in learning more about Envision, and information was included in follow up materials. It was noted that details for the new Infrastructure Bank announced in the [Fall Economic Statement](#) will be forthcoming in early 2017 – perhaps in the Budget. The Bank was described as a vehicle for de-risking private sector investment in major infrastructure projects, such as east-west electricity transmission lines. It was also noted that the Minister intends to establish a roundtable with stakeholders to discuss the features of the Infrastructure Bank. CPWA was asked to participate and Andrew and Alan of course said yes. Andrew noted that in the meeting with FCM, it was noted that a timetable for the asset management fund is forthcoming.

Alan reported that Minister Sohi will speak at a House Committee meeting Thursday morning and will be taking questions.

Bill S-229 Outreach

Alan reported that Bill S-229, sponsored by Senator Mitchell, is not expected to be dealt with in a Senate committee until early 2017, but Alan is not yet sure which committee. ***Darwin moved that CPWA send letters of support, using the template provided by the Alberta Common Ground Alliance, in a targeted campaign to Senators. Luc seconded the motion and it passed. Alan will forward to Anne a list of Senators to target, based on which committee he expects will deal with the bill.***

2016 NPWW Awards Presentations

Anne reported that since the November meeting, the NPWW First Time Entry award was presented to the Town of Newmarket, ON on November 28, 2016 by Michelle Albert, President-Elect of the Ontario Chapter. Awards were previously presented to the Town of Richmond Hill, ON and the City of Cold Lake, AB. CPWA is awaiting details from the City of Brampton, ON in order to schedule the presentation of their award.

Other Business

Office of the Auditor General Strategic Planning Exercise - Federal Investments in Public Infrastructure. Identified as a key stakeholder on infrastructure investments, CPWA was invited by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) to participate in a strategic audit planning exercise related to infrastructure. Alan reported that the OAG periodically selects departments and programs to audit and seeks advice from stakeholders on program processes and inputs. The OAG is exploring elements of a potential audit of Infrastructure and Communities Canada.

The OAG issues two reports per year – spring and fall. If an audit of Infrastructure and Communities Canada is undertaken, Alan expects it will be done in fall of 2017. Reports include findings as well as responses (departments are invited to review and respond) and departments typically agree with the OAG's recommendations.

Anne distributed a questionnaire in advance of the meeting with draft responses developed by her, Alan and Andrew, and Andrew invited the CPWA Board to review and comment.

Darwin noted that CPWA has advocated for long-term, predictable funding for a long time. He questioned the funding approach when projects aren't big enough; it's not possible to keep projects 'shovel ready' five years in a row. Further, what does 'shovel ready' even mean? Darwin suggested advocated for resiliency through Envision and Andrew noted Envision is already mentioned in the draft responses. It was asked whether the issue of equitability of funding by population should be raised in light of sustainability. Alan suggested issues not be volunteered if a question doesn't come up.

Collecting Dues in US Currency. Scott reported that he and Andrew engaged all Canadian chapters related to an APWA Board agenda item to charge all members in US dollars. The APWA Board's motion was the result of a red flag raised



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during a Financial Analysis of APWA's Business Practices conducted by Rubin Brown. APWA is incurring between \$38,000 - \$68,000 per year in currency conversion fees and losses due to currency fluctuation. Best practice is for all transactions to be both invoiced and paid in the currency of the country where an organization's corporate headquarters is located. After Scott and Andrew spoke with all chapter presidents, no chapter president was opposed. Three presidents asked for more specifics on the potential dues increase for Canadians, given the current exchange rate, but Scott confirmed that APWA's dues policy caps increases. Canadian members may see a \$6 - \$8 increase over last year. Chapter presidents expressed that they understand the business reason for the change, but are unsure what the impact may be for members. They suggested that if the APWA Board approves the change, a communication to all Canadian members about why, as well as affirming the value of membership, would be beneficial. The issue of whether Canadians feel that they are members of their chapter, or CPWA, or APWA, came up during the conversations and it was communicated that Canadians have a very nationalist spirit.

Scott and Andrew realized through their discussions that the Quebec Chapter collects all dues for their members so that they can deliver invoicing and correspondence in French. Luc confirmed that most Quebec members speak French and Scott suggested a solution could be explored to reduce the administrative effort. David Sparanese noted that municipalities may apply more scrutiny to nonprofessional memberships paid in US currency. Scott suggested that remittance to CPWA may alleviate the concern. Darwin noted that at a recent strategic planning meeting, his chapter expressed support for correspondence coming from CPWA. Scott noted that all chapter presidents were pleased that Scott and Andrew reached out.

Adjournment

Andrew thanked everyone for their time and participation and, having concluded their business, the CPWA Board adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting

The CPWA Board of Directors will next meet by teleconference January 10, 2017 at 1:30 PM Eastern Time.

The minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted by:

Anne Jackson

APWA Director of Sustainability and CPWA Advocacy