

NEBPP Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2020

1. **Roll Call** Darlene Lane, Asim Zaman, Den foster, Ed Welch, Georgette Chahine, Gerald Oliveto, Jennifer Hawkins, Rich Van Allen, Jason Fogg, John Hooks, Karim Naji, Chris Keegan, Lorella Angelini, Maurice Agostino, Michael Hill, Raj Ailaney, Richard Dunne, Richard Runyen, Rod Thornton, Scott Snyder, Seth Burgess, Shah Nasiruddin, Tom Pechillo
2. **Motion to Approve Previous Teleconference Minutes** April meeting minutes approved.
3. **Quick Update on October 2020 Regional Meeting:**
 - Harrisburg Hilton October 5-7, 2020. *Reviewing contract in case need to cancel.*
 - John Hooks' provided update on presentation agenda. *Currently have 30 potential presentations*
 - *Conference is still on at this point but will be closely monitoring situation. John meeting with oversight panel to discuss contingency plans if meetings must move to virtual format. Will report back on meeting results. Should also get industry feedback on moving meeting to a virtual format. Dick and Tom will reach out to industry.*
4. **General Discussion: Impact of COVID-19 on States and Vendors**
 1. What kind of challenges did your Office face because of COVID-19?
 2. What kind of solutions or new ideas/processes did you come up with?
 3. What are some of the processes, lasting impacts and/or improvements to your Office that you will keep implemented for the long-term?
 4. Any other comments or issues you would like to mention regarding the impact from COVID-19?

Highlights of Discussion:

CT-Working remotely using Office 365 applications. Construction program still moving forward. Taking advantage of reduced traffic.

NJ-Working remotely as much as possible. Taking advantage of reduced traffic. Responsiveness from internal and external is better during state of emergency. Using pdf electronic signatures to move paper processes to an electronic format.

MD -Working remotely using Office 365. Following CDC guidelines for field staff. Budget issues resulting in four week pause in all advertisements, bid openings, and notice to proceed for construction.

Tom Pecello-Provided industry perspective. Staff working from home. Field work following CDC guidelines, driving separately, disinfecting vehicles, etc. Different states having

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different restrictions has been a challenge. For example, RI has closed borders and staff needs to carry letters documenting essential travel.

NY-Essential and Non-Essential working from home. Maintenance crews working in shifts. Gradual reopening starting shortly. Will utilize more vehicles and stricter cleaning protocols. Will keep some of these practices going forward to aid in flu prevention in the future and reduce potential impacts to staff during winter operations.

Chris Keegan- Provided western state perspective. Shut down construction and inspection. Just starting to reopening today. Mandatory masks, gloves, maintain 6ft social distance, and employee screenings to enter buildings are some of procedures that have been put into place. Screenings include remote temperature checks.

Maine-Offices open but encouraged to work from home. Taking advantage of reduced traffic to get work done. Put plastic up in truck crew cabs to provide separation so that multiple people can be in one vehicle. Using respirators and gloves when working within 6ft. Using one-person inspection teams. Bucket truck and snoopers willing to wear respirators.

PA-Paused inspection for two weeks. Have worked with FHWA, noted inspections can go into 25th month without penalty.

5. Treasury:

- Current treasury balance (\$75,819.09). *Ed reported that large treasury could be helpful should states have budgetary issues.*

6. Volunteer Contributions (Last months):

- Update (NOTE ***States may find it difficult to pay next year's contribution because of pending budget issues.***) *Rhode Island and DC have not made their contributions.*

7. TSP2 Website Development:

- Discuss the request to provide updates to the TSP2 website regarding any recent work development within the Work Groups so as to provide accurate information for everyone using the website. *Seth provided report. Need to add local agency representative. Need to update working groups.*

8. Local Agency Involvement: Discussion Items

- Scott Snyder to report on having Bridge Engineers from each PA District attend.
- Partnership has agreed to cover up to 10 local agency registration costs.

9. Attendance of the MaC & the Other Partnerships:

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- Scott Snyder, Ben Foster, and Eric Belanger have volunteered to attend the MaC. ***Scott Snyder, Ben Foster cannot attend with current travel ban in their states. Status of MAC uncertain at this point.***
- Upcoming Events:
 - SBPP Hot Springs, AR August 24-26
 - WBPP Phoenix, Arizona November 2-4
 - MaC Denver, Colorado July 17-23
 - MWBPP Lexington, Kentucky September 9-11
 - AASHTO SCOBS ***Virtual meeting week of 6/1.***

10. Other Business & List of Action items:

Possible Future Conference Call Topics

- Discuss the revisions to the standards for the NBIS (Scheduled for July's Call)
- What evaluation process do States use to determine which decks to selected for replacement?
- Policies/procedures for repairing impact damage to bridges.
- Share experiences with the usage of Unmanned Aircraft Systems for inspection.
- Any topic you would like to present?

11. Working Group Report Outs:

- Status or progress made? ***No updates.***

12. Research:

- Any more discussion on possible research projects in conjunction with all four partnerships? ***No updates.***
- Any other research to report on? ***No updates.***

13. Training:

- Update on Local Agencies training. ***No updates.***

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Schedule Next Meeting & Adjourn:

- Next Planning Meeting conference call is scheduled for **June 1, 2020 at 2 PM**
- Next monthly conference call meeting scheduled on **June 2, 2020 at 10 AM**
- **Next Month's Conference Call Presentation** – *Rod will send quick survey to group with list of topics for next month's meeting.*