

## **NH PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

### **December 15, 2009**

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#### **PRESENT:**

**Board Members & Officers:** Kurt Grasset, Caleb Dobbins, Brian Barden, Bill Herman & Kathryn Myers.

**Guests:** Johnna McKenna—DES, David Danielson

Meeting called to order at 9:18 AM. With three voting members out of seven in attendance, a quorum was not present to conduct business.

#### **Previous Meeting Minutes**

- No action was taken on the minutes of the June 8, 2009 or September 14, 2009 Board meetings due to the lack of a quorum.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- There was no Treasurer's Report presented, nor could action be taken.

#### **Review of Activation**

- There has been no program activation since last meeting that anyone was aware of.

#### **Community Membership**

- The Towns of Center Harbor, Moultonborough and New Castle have joined the program. McKenna noted that in speaking with some North Country communities, there is a sense that they are focused on helping each other when needed, but not through a formal program such as NHPWMA.

#### **Statutory Authority Update**

- McKenna reported Senator Martha Fuller Clark of Portsmouth is the prime sponsor for the legislative authority for the NHPWMA in the 2010 Legislative Session. The proposal has been assigned Legislative Services Request (LSR) #2010-S-2784-R. Other sponsors include Senator Robert Odell and Representatives Betsey Patten, Mary Cooney and Amanda Merrill.

#### **Potential Bylaws Revisions**

- It was agreed the Board would use its February 2010 meeting to focus on proposals for bylaws amendments for the NHPWMA. Those present generally agreed the NHPWMA would wait until the statutory authority revisions were adopted before formally taking actions, but work could be done now to develop the proposals.

## **Training/Outreach**

- Local Government Center Conference – November in Manchester. Myers indicated by all reports, the NHPWMA workshop presentation was excellent, but the location was difficult and the attendance was low. However, the NHPWMA participation with other Public Works organizations in a combined booth presence at the conference was well received.
- EPA Tabletop Workshop – McKenna reported the EPA Tabletop Workshop training had been scheduled for Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the North Country Resource Center in Lancaster. The NHPWMA program has agreed to provide a light continental breakfast for this program. Danielson is going to invite Executive Councilor Raymond Burton to participate as a welcoming speaker for the workshop.
- Public Works Summit – Grasset reported the Summit meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> did not attract a quorum, so no business was formally conducted. The next meeting was scheduled for January 15, 2010. He indicated the Summit had a list serve up and running so members can communicate with each other between meetings. One area of particular interest the Summit members are discussing is working towards recognition of cross training and workshop or CEU acceptance for various licensing or credentials.

## **Other Business**

- Barden expressed the view that the NHPWMA seems to have gone from something real simple to something real complicated. Although the activation process itself has not changed, the sense is that the organization has. He indicated there were some sentiments expressed that the addition of different functions and professions (i.e. – building inspectors, water, wastewater, etc.), the organization is moving beyond its initial focus on specific highway-related responsibilities.
- Grasset expressed understanding for these sentiments, but also acknowledged that in many communities, highway departments are being given tasks and assignments more and more beyond the maintenance of town road systems. As a result, he felt the NHPWMA provided an umbrella for the multitude of public works functions (i.e. – highways, water, wastewater, etc), but he didn't want to see the umbrella overshadow any of the individual components. It was also noted that the impact of disaster declarations and FEMA funding is playing a greater role today in many efforts and activities than it has in the past. And the NHPWMA is the recognized vehicle for ensuring FEMA funding for assistance provided.
- Danielson reported as part of the Operational Plan being developed, they were putting together a one-page "How to Activate NHPWMA" to make things as easy as possible for folks. The Operational Plan itself will fill in the details of the "How To".

The BOD adjourned at 10:40 AM.