

NH PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

June 8, 2012

PRESENT:

Board Members & Officers: Jim Terrell – Walpole, Kurt Grasset - Hancock, Alan Coté – Derry, Kurt Blomquist - Keene & Bill Herman - Auburn.

Ex-Officio Board Members & Guests: Beth Hamilton– UNH T2, Johnna McKenna—DES, Caleb Dobbins – NHDOT, David Danielson – Forecee Advocacy & Lance Harbor – Bureau of Emergency Management.

Meeting called to order at 11:07 AM.

Previous Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of March 9, 2012 meeting. Coté moved to approve the minutes as printed. Seconded by Grasset. Unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

- Coté reported he did not have a formal report to present, but indicated the treasurer had a balance of approximately \$20,000, which he would like to see re-invested in the Public Works Mutual Aid Program membership for training and other similar efforts. There was general agreement with that sentiment, but it was suggested we may want to wait until dealing with the merger with other organizations and all resources are potentially pooled.

Review of Activation

- There was discussion on program activations since March from the Town of Amherst and the Town of Gilsum and other southwestern communities due to flooding conditions.
- Harbor reported the State was in the process of seeking a federal declaration for recent flooding in the Cheshire County area. He thought the Governor would be signing the request today. He indicated they had met the County threshold in damages (\$250,000) and the State threshold (\$1.25 million). At this point, the disaster declaration had estimates of approximately \$3 million in damages.
- Harbor also encouraged communities to consider implemented “406” Hazard Mitigation efforts as part of their disaster assistance efforts. He indicated that potentially up to 100% of disaster related expenses could be secured through disaster declarations if approached appropriately. Blomquist noted communities had to have a current Hazard Mitigation Plan in place, and Harbor reported all but three New Hampshire communities have a current plan in place. He indicated New Hampshire was the most compliant state in the country on that front.

Community Membership

- Hamilton reported there have been no new members since the March meeting, but three members had updated their inventory listings with the program.

Membership Mailing

- Hamilton reported the member mailing for renewals had been sent out through the NH Local Government Center. She inquired whether an effort should be made to reach out to former Public Works Mutual Aid Program member communities who had not renewed their memberships. She estimated there were approximately 10. There was unanimous consensus that this would be an appropriate step to take.
- Grasset noted that with police and fire mutual aid agreements, departments or towns do not have to renew annually. Usually once an agreement is in place; it stays in place until an action is taken to dissolve it. He wondered if a similar system might not make sense for NHPWMA.

Training

- McKenna reported the EPA sponsored tabletop workshop held in Lebanon in April was reasonably well attended with 25 attendees, but there had been limited attendance from the western portion of the state. She indicated the attendees were a good mix of water, waste water and public works disciplines, and that a Northfield mobile home cooperative was signing in as a NHPWMA member.
- The June 26th Emergency Management Preparedness Conference in Manchester was noted. The NHPWMA Program will have a booth. Cote and Terrell both volunteered to help staff the booth. Hamilton will e-mail out information and expectations for the program.
- The Fall Conference of the NH Local Government Center was discussed. There was consensus that the program offered an excellent outreach opportunity. It was agreed there should be a joint booth shared by the all the organizations that are coming together to form one entity. New maps identifying member municipalities will be developed for the event, while work will commence on developing a give away item for the NHPWMA Program. Blomquist also noted there will be a Public Works / Emergency Management workshop offered during the conference, and invited Harbor to assist him in putting it together, which Harbor agreed.

Old Business

- Blomquist requested anyone who might have an article of interest to the membership of the NHPWA to submit it for publication in the NHPWA newsletter. He indicated the deadline was June 22nd for the July newsletter. The NHPWA has gone to an electronic newsletter, making it easier to produce and less costly in distribution.
- McKenna and Danielson reported on meeting with the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions, and that those assembled seemed very interested and willing to help promote the NHPWMA Program.

Adjourn

Coté moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Grasset. Unanimous vote. The BOD adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Herman, Secretary
June 11, 2012