



November 2015 Newsletter

President's Message:

Hello New Hampshire Public Works Association members and colleagues. It is my honor to serve as your President for this next year. How this actually happened, I am not entirely sure? As I write this President's Message, I am, of course, multi-tasking. If you've ever seen an email of mine of late, you know that I have not been satisfied with just my 14-letter last name. Evidently I am a fan of the acronym! I admittedly "step-up" or "lean in" to ¹ whatever organization/association in which I am involved. I would have it no other way, for I am always in great company. As is the case with this Association.

The NHPWA Board is full of talented, intelligent and extremely busy men and women. Our most recent addition proves this point even further - Ms. Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director, Nashua. Welcome Lisa. Each of us wish to represent New Hampshire, and all of Public Works, in the best and most efficient way possible.

Membership is what drives any organization/association. In these next few months, our Board will be focusing on cleaning up the membership roster. Our goal is to figure out who, and who is not, a member (either as an Individual or as a part of a Group). We will then be able to establish the best contact information for the member and create better and more consistent communication. Some reading this newsletter right now are probably not members! NHPWA is asking that you take a proactive step to make sure the information we have on you, and your agency, is correct. With retirements, personnel changes, and other restructuring events, "Group" memberships have a tendency to suffer the most. Please get in touch with any of our Board members (page 7). We will do our investigation and make sure you and your agency are all up to date.

On November 19th & 20th, NHPWA members will be participating, once again, at the NH Municipal Association's Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester. Nancy Mayville, PE, Municipal Highways Engineer at NH DOT will give the introduction to and Peter Rice, DPW Director Portsmouth will be facilitating our workshop "Environmental Regulations: A Navigational Guide for Construction & Maintenance of Transportation Infrastructure" presented by Kevin Nyhan, Administrator, Bureau of Environment, NHDOT with Christine Perron, McFarland-Johnson, Inc. Our workshops are always well attended, and this one will be no different. Please make your plans to join us. Our workshop is scheduled for Friday at 1:30.

We are looking forward to our Spring Technical Meeting (March 2016). Should you have a topic, a tour, a conversation you'd like to see us coordinate, we are all ears. The truest value in this Association is that we are all connected. We *do* cover the entire public works community. (Take a look at our Board of Directors if you have any doubt!) If you're interested in it, need more information on it, or simply need a conversation regarding it, LET US KNOW! As Immediate Past President, John Trottier, wrote in our Summer Newsletter, "everyone should get involved and encourage all to step up in any way possible."

I would like to express my appreciation to all of our Public Works officials who volunteered their time and energies to our two major events this past September. To Scott Kinmond (Secretary/Treasurer) for his leadership in facilitating the 10th Annual Ken Ward Plow Rally Competition (page 3), and special shout out to Amy Begnoche and Stephanie Cottrell (UNH T²) for their hours of effort at both the Plow Rally and at our record setting New Construction Career Days (page 5). With the written "goal to enhance the overall service provided to the citizens of the State of New Hampshire"² these are the obvious events that make us do just that.

Stay Safe,
Catherine Schoenenberger
President, NHPWA 2015-2016

¹ Lean In, Sheryl Sandberg, 2013 Random House Publishing

² NHPWA's Mission Statement, last line

Calendar

Nov. 19-20: NHMA Conference, Manchester, NH

May 22-25, 2016: North American Snow Conference, Hartford, CT

TBD 2016: The return of the NHPWA Portsmouth Harbor Cruise

2015 Engineering Excellence Award Recipient

by Bill Boulanger
Superintendent of Public Works & Utilities
Community Services, Dover

The American Council of Engineering of New Hampshire (ACEC-NH) is pleased to announce that The H.L. Turner Group, Inc. is the Overall & Water Resources winner for our 2015 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition. The firm's winning project was the Jackson Mills Dam Restoration and Flood Mitigating Crest Gate. The Engineering Excellence Awards Competition recognizes projects of engineering achievement by New Hampshire consulting engineering firms. Entries are judged on the basis of engineering excellence, the degree to which the client's needs are met, and the benefits to the public welfare and private practice of engineering.

The City of Nashua has a history of flooding, with the 1936 flood being the most significant for the Nashua River. Starting in the 1800's, mills and other industries grew throughout New England and utilized the river for water power and the transportation of goods. As this industrial use waned over time, the mills and other buildings have been the focus of re-adaptive use per the City's Master Plan. Because of their close proximity to the river, the former mill buildings and other riverfront structures were vulnerable to flood events as frequent as a 25 year (4% chance annual) flood.

A private developer, The Stabile Companies, retained The H.L. Turner Group to investigate flood relief solutions, determine the most effective option, as well as design, permit, and assist with the construction of the best flood relief alternative. The most effective option was to improve the flood discharge capability to the city-owned Jackson Mills Dam.

The result was the formation of a private/public partnership to finance, permit, and construct an 8 foot high by 140 foot long pneumatically controlled crest gate at the City of Nashua's Jackson Mills Dam.

The successful completion of this \$2.5 million project not only lowered flood elevations of 70 upstream homes and business, but it also allowed for the immediate construction of the \$26 million Cotton Mill Square Housing Project, an adaptive reuse of a vacant downtown mill building and a long term objective of the City of Nashua's Master Plan.

The project team, included: Methuen Construction, the City of Nashua, The Stabile Companies, Nashua Hydro Associates, HTE Northeast (geotechnical) and Hayner/Swanson (surveying).

10th Annual Ken Ward Plow Rally

Hillsborough 4H Fairgrounds

by Scott Kinmond
NHPWA Secretary/Treasurer
Director of Public Works, Town of Moultonboro

New Boston, NH- The New Hampshire Public Works Association was again honored to host the 10th Annual Ken Ward Plow Rally. The event once again had beautiful weather, and good participation for a cross section of the state with 10 communities and 1 NHDOT Patrol Shed (NHDOT Champs) coming from mid-state communities such as New London, and East to NHDOT District 6 (Dover Shed) and West to Keene. These two person teams competed in three (3) phases of testing: First: a written examination on winter maintenance operations and safety. Second: a pre-trip inspection of a plow truck and Third: plow truck Rodeo, utilizing a fully equipped plow truck with reversible front plow, wing plow and spreader body. During the plow truck rodeo the teams each had to navigate a course of hazards, and vehicle maneuvers to test the teams skill in working together and their individual operator skill. The teams had to navigate simulated narrow streets with parked cars and mailboxes. The operators then had to use good driving skills with stop and turning maneuvers, then alleyway backing and then forward serpentine to a front alleyway stop. The operators then switch drivers do a backing serpentine, to a then a left hand sweeping turn, with wing obstacles. The teams are scored by how the negotiate the course, along with being timed in case of a tie.

After the results were tallied, the winning Municipal team was from Merrimack DPW, with operators; Jason Kimball and Dean Stearns and "First Runner

Up" was Londonderry DPW, with operators; Brian Stowell and Ken Carter. The Municipal winners then squared off with the NHDOT team. These two teams competing in the plow truck rodeo course, which resulted in a tie by points, and was decided by time, giving the state championship to the NHDOT Team from District 6- Dover Patrol Shed champs; James Callahan and Brad Bartlett.

NHPWA President Catherine Schoenenberger and NHPWA Secretary/Treasurer and Plow Rally Coordinator Scott Kinmond congratulated and presented the Municipal Champion's, First Runner up teams and State Champions with plaques and Gift certificates. The two teams will now travel to the New England Public Works Association Plow Rodeo in Boxboro, MA in November to compete in the New England's finals.

We would like to thank all the 2015 rally sponsors: NHPWA, EW Sleeper, HP Fairfield, Chadwick-BaRoss, Inc., Liberty International, Nh Road Agents Association, Primex3, Renaissance Tree Service, Nortrax Equipment, Freightliner of NH, NH Driving Towards Zero, Property Liability Trust Inc. Stay Safe Traffic Products, Inc., NHDOT, UNH T2 and Jordan Equipment.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

The NHPWA awarded an educational scholarship, in the amount not to exceed \$1,000, to John Trythall from the Town of Merrimack, NH Public Works Department. John will be utilizing the funds to enroll in the New England Public Works Institute online course in leadership and management practices. Upon completion of the training John will provide a written summary of the event to the NHPWA Board of Directors for inclusion into the NHPWA newsletter. Alternatively, John may offer to present information gathered in the training at an NHPWA Technical Session as a means of providing learned information to the greater public works community.

Working With Consultants

John C. Vancor, PE

Vice President/Principal Engineer, Hayner/Swanson, Inc.

This column is the second in a continuing series of articles intended to help foster better understanding between municipalities and consultants.

NHPWA has reached out to members, and will continue to reach out regarding specific aspects of consultants' performance which seem to lead to misunderstandings or disagreement. The hope is that with further discussion, future disagreement can be avoided.

In the most recent NHPWA newsletter, this column focused on the concept of Standard of Care and how agreement on the expectations for the standard of care to be applied to a consultant's work can help avoid later disagreement. For this column, the focus is on construction phase services and specifically, the role consultants play in observing construction of a project.

Often a municipality asks a consultant to include construction "inspection" in their scope of work. It may seem like splitting hairs, but often the consultant feels the need to make a distinction between calling the task "inspection" or calling the task "observation". This distinction is important however, because the two terms have very different meanings when incorporated into the scope of an engineering contract.

Typically, the role of a consultant observing construction is to provide a basis for the conclusion that the work generally complies with project plans and specifications. Measurements of key elements may be taken and material testing performed based on accepted practice. The consultant may be onsite full time or part time depending on the project needs and client's wishes. In either case, the purpose is to confirm general conformity with technical requirements for the finished work.

In this role, the consultant is not responsible for the means and methods which the contractor chooses to employ to construct the work. The consultant is also not responsible to assure that the contractor's crew follows safe work practices and that the work and site are in compliance with regulatory safety requirements.

With this scope of work and level of onsite involvement, the consultant could not assure that there are absolutely no defects in the work. Likewise, with this level of oversight, a consultant could not reasonably be expected to guarantee that there are absolutely no code violations in the work.

Under this common level of site involvement, construction "observation" is a more accurate description for the service provided than "inspection". The consultant observes the work and keeps accurate records of the observations made. Each detail is not necessarily witnessed and evaluated, but enough of the work is observed to support general conclusions about conformance with design requirements. When defects are observed, these are noted and communicated.

Successful completion of a scope of work for construction observation depends on clear communication about the extent to which the work shall be observed and the frequency of site visits. Depending on how the work advances, the extent to which further attention is desired may increase or decrease.

Alternatively, when the term "inspection" is used in a contract scope of work, a much more detailed examination of the work is implied. "Inspecting" construction may suggest responsibility to find any defect. The term may require observing the actions of all crew members during construction of each and every element.

Brett Gough of Ames & Gough serves many design professionals as a specialty insurance broker. Brett advises his clients to be careful and understand the differences between the words "observation" and "inspection". He notes that the inappropriate use of the words in contracts can establish obligations that neither party intended.

Agreeing to "inspect" construction elevates the standard of care expected of a consultant. The result can be a very significant increase in liability and risk which goes beyond the intended responsibility for the constructed work and could even leave the consultant responsible for workers' safety and possible injuries.

Continued to page 5



Promoting The Construction Industry To New Hampshire's Youth

by Catherine Schoenenberger
President, Stay Safe Traffic Products, Inc.

The 7th Annual New Hampshire Construction Career Days (NH CCD)

were held September 17 and 18 at the Hillsborough County Youth Center in New Boston. By all accords, these were the best yet. Highlights included bringing back the two student challenges: NAWIC's Girls Can Too Challenge, sponsored by the Granite State Chapter** and the Construction Engineering Challenge, with lead coordination by the NH Department of Transportation and Project Lead the Way. The NAWIC challenge received completed slips from 35% of the female students attending, while the Engineering challenge boasted over 44% participation from all students in attendance! The competitive spirit is alive and well in New Hampshire.

Here is Success by the Numbers:

Schools/CTE Centers Represented: 43

Total Students in Attendance: 1,070

Female Students: 19%

Minority Students: 9%

Total number of Exhibitors: 60 with a total of 100 personnel each day

Volunteers: 25 volunteers each day

Chaperones: 145

Total pieces of operating Heavy Equipment: 28

Plans for the 2016 events have already started. Next year's dates will Thursday, September 22nd and Friday, September 23rd at the same venue. If you would like to participate in this very worthwhile event, or for more information about NH Construction Career Days, please visit their web site: www.nhccd.weebly.com

New Hampshire Construction Career Days is a non-profit organization which brings students together with the Construction & Transportation Industries to explore career options through hands-on activities. Each year fundraising and in-kind donation start from scratch. These events are made possible through monetary and in-kind donations from private sponsors.

**National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)'s Granite State Chapter celebrated 40 years of enhancing the success of women in the New Hampshire construction industry this year.



Continued from page 4 Consultants

While there are instances when clients actually want or need "inspection" services performed, in these cases the greater standard of care and likely greater effort required should be discussed and understood in advance. However, for most municipal construction projects, a scope of work which calls for construction "observation" better describes the standard of care most often needed and desired.

Needless to say, whether the construction is observed or inspected, the efforts of the consultant in no way change the Contractor's singular responsibility to construct the work in accordance with contract plans, specifications and requirements.

If you wish to comment on this column, or have topics you would like considered for future columns, please email John at jvancor@hayner-swanson.com.

Become a member of the NHPWA!

\$25 for Individual membership

\$100 for Group membership; Group includes entire Public Works/Engineering Department, firm or business.

To download the membership application form and to learn more about the NHPWA go to

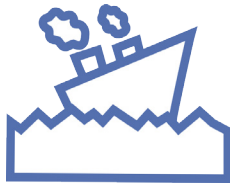
www.t2.unh.edu/nhpwa



Drone view of New Boston Fairgrounds, September 2015, Ken Ward Plow Rally

Cruisin' Right Along...

The NH Public Works Association, Board of Directors, is planning for a social cruise in Portsmouth Harbor sometime in 2016. Stay tuned for further details!



NORTH AMERICAN SNOW CONFERENCE 2016 SHOW & SNOW

2016 APWA North American Snow Conference
The Premier Event in Snow & Ice Management
May 22-25, 2016
Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT
Hosted by the APWA New England Chapter
www.apwa.net/snow

The 2016 Snow Conference in Hartford will bring together more than 1,500 snowfighters from every corner of the winter maintenance community. Public, private, rural, metropolitan, domestic, international – they're all sure to be there at the Show for Snow! The 2016 Conference features an exhibit floor packed with the newest equipment and products, quality education programs and technical tours, and opportunities to exchange ideas with manufacturers, distributors, consultants and other public works professionals. Its four days of winter training and networking you can't afford to miss out on!

For attendees the 2016 Snow Conference has it all – from expert-led snow and ice education sessions to an exhibit floor full of excited vendors who can't wait to show you the latest winter maintenance solutions your community's been looking for. Make plans today to join your peers in Hartford for the Show for Snow in 2016

This issue of the NHPWA newsletter was edited by Stephanie Cottrell, Training Coordinator, UNH T² Center

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Winning teams, 2015 Ken Ward Plow Rally



Personal instruction, 2015 CCD



Pre Trip station, 2015 Plow Rally



Gov. Hassan visits 2015 CCD



Fearless leaders, 2015 NH CCD



Wing Slalom, 2015 Plow Rally