



September 2015 Newsletter

President's Message:

It has been a busy first half of the year for the Association. At the Annual Technical Meeting, held in Concord, on March 19, 2015, we heard presentations regarding SUCCESSION PLANNING – transfer of knowledge and skills, OVERVIEW OF THE LEBANON NEW HAMPSHIRE SOLID WASTE FACILITY – this facility services 24 communities, 76,000 people and handles 38,000 tons of trash per year, SOCIAL MEDIA FOR EVERYONE – how the use of various platforms can be used and how Moultonborough and Keene use social media, and an update from the UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE STORM WATER CENTER – recently constructed projects in Dover and Rochester, NH.

At the Annual Meeting, held in Manchester, on May 12, 2015, we heard presentations regarding HUMAN FACTORS: WHO WE ARE AND WHY IT MATTERS-the importance of human factors and the impact on your leadership, LED STREET-LIGHTS: THE PROCESS AND CONSIDERATION FOR CONVERSION –the process Manchester followed in selecting a vendor and an update on the progress, and PETERBOROUGH'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PATH – how Peterborough has diversified their energy sources, including renewables, and at the same time control costs.

Changes to the Associations By-Laws were also acted upon at the annual meeting. The meat of the changes were to Article V- Board of Directors and included staggering terms of the Directors and better define the Board of Directors, and length of terms.

We were also fortunate, at the annual meeting, to have Governor Maggie Hassan attend. The Governor spoke on how the State's budget would impact resources and the importance of the budget to the Public Works community and our constituents. Lastly, the Governor made a proclamation acknowledging Public Works Week.

Both events were well attended by members and guests from both private and public sectors and appeared to be well received. The Board of Directors (BOD) would like to thank our guest speakers for their informative and interesting presentations.

As I write this final message as the Association President, I would like to thank all of those in the association that have lent a helping hand, assisted in organizing events, made presentations, volunteered and attended our events. I sincerely believe, to make our profession stronger, everyone should get involved and encourage all to step up in any way possible.

I can assure you that the Association will be in good hands with Catherine Schoenenberger -President and Bruce Temple - President Elect. These are two people I've come to know over the years and they are committed to keep the Association on track and focused.

Enjoy the Fall.

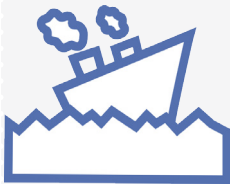
John R. Trottier, PE
NHPWA President



- **Aug. 30-Sept. 2:** APWA International PW Congress & Expo, Phoenix, AZ
- **Sept. 16:** 10th Annual Ken Ward Memorial Plow Rally, New Boston, NH
- **Sept. 17-18:** 7th Annual NH Construction Career Days, New Boston, NH
- **Oct. 21:** 2nd Annual NH Salt Symposium, Windham, NH
- **Oct. 22:** NHPWMA Emergency Response Seminar Workshop, Wolfeboro, NH
- **Oct. 28:** NHWWA Waterworks Expo, Concord, NH
- **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

SCHOLARSHIP

The NHPWA will be awarding 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.



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!

KEN WARD MEMORIAL



SNOW PLOW RALLY COMPETITION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015
RAIN OR SHINE

Hillsborough County 4-H Youth
Fairgrounds
15 Hildale Ln.
New Boston, NH (Rte. 13)

Ken Ward's admirable dedication to the public works industry was second to none. He pioneered the planning and executing of the snow plow rallies throughout our state; so to honor and continue his legacy this Annual Ken Ward Memorial Snow Plow Rally Competition is held.

To register go to this link

http://www.t2.unh.edu/sites/t2.unh.edu/files/documents/affiliates/nhpwa/Ken_Ward_Brochure_2015.pdf

Print and fill out the form then mail, scan and email, or fax it to us at:

Fax: 603-862-0620

Email: Amy.begnoche@unh.edu

Due to limited amount of space and time for this event the rally will take the first 14 registered teams (only 1 team per municipality).*

Get your registrations in today to reserve your spot in the competition!

* Plow Rally competitors must have a valid CDL license to participate.

PHASE 1: THE WING SLALOM CHALLENGE

PHASE 2: PLOW TRUCK PRE-TRIP INSPECTION

PHASE 3: PLOW TRUCK TEAM QUIZ

Sponsored by the New Hampshire Public Works Association

7th Annual New Hampshire Construction Career Days is About to Commence

Catherine Schoenenberger
President, Stay Safe Traffic

New Hampshire Construction Career Days (NH CCD) will hold its 7th Annual event on September 17th and 18th at the Hillsborough County 4-H Youth Center in New Boston. Since 2009 well over 4,500 students from New Hampshire have participated. At the core, CCD events promote hands on activities, safety, diversity, partnerships, teamwork, continuous improvement and follow up for and to all of the students participating.

New Hampshire Public Works professionals and municipal agencies have been a huge source of support

for this event. We are seeking Exhibitors, Sponsors and Volunteers throughout the Public Works community. Get involved. Make a difference. Please go to www.nhccd.weebly.com for more information, or contact Catherine Schoenenberger at staysafetraffic@aol.com.



Becoming A Climate Resilient Community

Bethany McCarthy, P.E.
Civil Engineer and Climate Resilience Coordinator
NHDES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau

Climate resilience means planning, reorganizing and adapting to the challenges presented by our changing climate. These challenges include more extreme and more frequent floods, droughts, wildfires, sea level rise, power outages, and many other concerns that will affect our drainage, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure.

The Northeast U.S. is experiencing more increases in extreme precipitation than any other part of the country. Over the past 50 years, the Northeast saw more than a 70% increase in the amount of precipitation falling in very heavy events. In New Hampshire, sea-level rose about 5.3 inches during the 75 year period of 1926 to 2001. This increase in sea level, when combined with more frequent and more extreme flood events, is already impacting many New England communities. On average, winter weather has been getting warmer

and of shorter duration. Summer weather has been getting hotter and lasting longer. This change in seasonal conditions could impact our water supplies, resulting in low surface and groundwater levels during the high demand summer months. Changing climate conditions are expected to continue well into the future, presenting both water quantity and water quality concerns.

To ensure sustainability, we need to create organizational culture that is not only reactive to disasters and emergencies, but is also proactive in planning for future risk and building for this new paradigm. Traditional planning and design standards that are strictly based on historical weather patterns and data will not work in a changing climate.

Adopting adaptation strategies will protect infrastructure, public health and safety, and the ecological health of our waters. Adaptation will also help ensure ad-

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Working With Consultants

John C. Vancor, PE

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

One of NHPWA's goals is to foster better understanding between municipalities and consultants about aspects of the business of consulting. Many times, agreement is reached about the scope of consulting services only to find disagreement about the wording of contract clauses.

The last thing consultants want is to start a new assignment with disagreement with their client over contract terms. However, with legal advice and insurance carrier requirements, consultants sometimes feel obligated to request revisions to their client's standard contract language.

For good reason, municipalities require consultants to carry professional liability insurance. Consultants want to make sure that all work under their scope of services will be covered by their insurance. It is in everyone's interest that the provisions of the contract serve to clarify specific roles and define specific responsibilities. Insurers can also find their role in these discussions difficult. They see their role, not as an impediment, but rather as support to facilitate successful contracting.

NHPWA has reached out to members, and will continue to reach out, to ask about specific aspects of how consultants perform their business which seem to lead to misunderstanding or disagreement. The hope is that with further discussion, future disagreement can be avoided.

Some recurring points typically relate to efforts by consultants to limit liability and avoid indemnification. Other points relate to specific terms which consultants request be struck or revised in the description of services to be provided.

This article is intended to be the first of a series of articles which will focus on one or two of these questions in each NHPWA newsletter.

For this article, the focus is on the concept of Standard of Care. When professionals are hired, the hope is that the work will be error free. Certainly most engineering and environmental consultants strive for perfection in their work. However, it is important that an understanding be reached on reasonable expectations for standard of care under which services will be provided. It is important to recognize that perfection is simply not attainable. A perfect

design, study or even newsletter article has yet to be prepared. Provisions that require perfection are unreasonably onerous.

Brett Gough, of Ames & Gough, serves many design professionals as a specialty insurance broker. Brett notes that often contract language is written which, if accepted, would raise expectations of a consultant's performance to an unreasonable and possibly uninsurable high standard. A requirement to perform "to the highest standard of practice" describes an unreasonable expectation. A more reasonable expectation is that a consultant will perform in a manner consistent with the Standard of Care ordinarily followed by qualified professionals practicing under similar circumstances.

These circumstances are typically defined to include factors such as project location and timeframe. Under this definition, the Standard of Care is not static, but evolves due to advances in technology, practices in the profession and our understanding of the environment.

Discussion between contracting parties specifically aimed at arriving at agreement of the expectations for the anticipated Standard of Care can serve to strengthen contracting relations and also serve to avoid, or at least minimize later disagreement.

Watch for future articles with discussion on other aspects of the business of consulting.

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



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

At the Annual Meeting held on May 12th Rick Merson, President of the New England Chapter of American Public Works Association (APWA), was in attendance and recognized Catherine Schoenenberger as recipient of the Diversity Exemplary Practices Award. This national award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to diversity. Catherine increased Public Works awareness to our female colleagues, as well as young professionals. CONGRATULATIONS, CATHERINE!

equate and safe water supplies. There are also financial reasons for implementing climate adaptation measures. In a 2005 study by the Multihazard Mitigation Council, the public/private partnership documented that every \$1 spent on disaster mitigation saves society an average of \$4. (For this study, the savings included reduced cost of emergency response, avoided property damage, avoided business interruption loss and other avoided losses.)

Adapting to a changing climate may seem daunting - where to begin? There are many strategies and tools to help communities get started on climate resilience. Many local governments have already started planning and implementing adaptation strategies. The following suggestions will help you get started.

Step 1: Research impacts for your geographic area

There are many online resources that identify the expected impacts of climate change in different geographic areas of the U.S. Start with the National Climate Assessment, an interactive online document developed by a team of more than 300 experts guided by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee, including federal agencies and a panel of the National Academy of Sciences. Visit nca2014.globalchange.gov to view the report which identifies climate change impacts by region, as well as resilience strategies. In New Hampshire, we are fortunate to have three reports that summarize the results of “downscaling” global climate models to more closely evaluate New Hampshire’s future climate conditions. Google these Climate Solutions New England reports: Climate Change in Southern New Hampshire, Past, Present and Future (and one for Northern New Hampshire), and Climate Change in the Piscataqua/Great Bay Region: Past, Present and Future.

Step 2: Partner with individuals with similar goals

Reach out to individuals in your organization, in other municipal and state departments, and in non-profits to find partners to advance resilience. These individuals and agencies may have many common goals that can be advanced through climate resilience, such as sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and improvements to public health and quality of life. This can’t be a one-person job, but it often takes just one champion to get

the ball rolling.

Step 3: Research adaptation strategies

Adaptation strategies can include designing drainage infrastructure for higher intensity storms for additional protection of critical infrastructure and vital facilities, installing generators or power transfer switches at water treatment plants, improving stormwater management techniques to protect water quality, and conserving critical tracts of land. You can find guidance in several user friendly online documents, including EPA’s Adaptation Strategies for Water and Wastewater Utilities, and other resources on the EPA Climate Ready Water Utilities website.

You may not need to reinvent the wheel - you might be able to adapt strategies developed by a nearby municipality or other government entity to meet your needs. Visit the Georgetown Climate Center website for examples of plans that other communities have developed. Once there, look for their Adaptation Clearinghouse and the State/Local Adaptation Plan pages. The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit (toolkit.climate.gov) also includes case studies of climate resilience strategies under the “Take Action” heading.

Step 4: Tap into staff and your citizenship

Once you have started your research and have some ideas of actions to increase climate resilience, you will need the support of your organization and community to implement change. It’s important that individuals in your organization are aware of the impacts of climate change and the need for adjusting practices such as operation and maintenance procedures and design standards. Educating your community on the impacts of climate change and what needs to be done differently will help with “buy-in” and will also encourage individuals and businesses to make any necessary changes to the “business as usual” strategy. EPA’s Climate Ready Water Utilities website provides a Workshop Planner that can be used for this purpose. Users can customize the presentation for their purposes.

The public may be more willing to engage on this topic
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than you might expect. In the September 2014 Effective Climate Change Communication for Water Utilities report, the Water Research Foundation reported the results of a national survey on climate communication. One of the more significant results of this poll was that the majority (72%) of the American public views their water utility as a trusted source of information on climate change. When talking to the public about climate resilience, keep it simple and non-political and avoid blame. Talk about local extreme weather events, the increased frequency and magnitude of these events, the increased cost to respond to disasters and what can be saved by implementing resilience strategies.

Step 5: Develop, review and update resilience plans

Develop plans that identify steps that your organization will take to become climate resilient using the resources listed above and other available resources. These plans might identify information or data that you need to collect, recommend strategies to protect infrastructure or reduce energy needs, or identify goals for land conservation and protection to reduce storm water runoff and improve water quality. After your plan has been put in place, review and update it to maintain it as a living document. Our actions need to be as dynamic as the physical processes that create our weather patterns and must account for new knowledge, data, scientific evidence, and lessons learned.

Thank You!

Jennifer Perry, PE, Director Exeter Public Works, was recognized at the May 12th Annual Meeting as the NH Public Works Association Outgoing Past President. Jennifer has been an active Board member since 2007. Recently, Jennifer was elected as 1st Vice President of the New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). CONGRATULATIONS JENNIFER and thank you for continued efforts in promoting Public Works and the communities we serve!



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

Lebanon, NH Gets a Face

Bruce Temple, City of Lebanon, DPW

The City of Lebanon is a vibrant community of 13,500 residents, and its Public Works Department is an integral part of Lebanon being a full service community to its residents. The Public Works staff maintains approximately 100 miles of roadway, over 135 miles of buried pipe, a water treatment plant that pumps 1.1 mgd, and a sanitary sewage treatment plant that treats 1.2 mgd. Additionally, Lebanon Public Works operates and maintains a very active Solid Waste Landfill and Recycling facility.

Since the year 2000 the City of Lebanon began a 20 year infrastructure program that would begin to address separating the city's combined Storm sewer from the sanitary sewer system. This long term commitment also addresses an aging concern of the City's water system, poor neighborhood streets, and sidewalks. Essentially, the commitment was to rebuild the neighborhoods from the bottom of the sewer system, to the top coat of asphalt roadway paving. Since the year 2000 some 8 projects have been completed, CSO #9 will be substantially completed by R D Edmunds Inc. of Frank-NH, CSO #10 is being constructed by H E Sargent Inc. of Stillwater, ME, and CSO #11 is under design with Wright_Pierce consulting engineers of Topsham ME. A very interesting note is that this major commitment will be valued at some \$60 million dollars.



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The City also is under a major upgrade to its wastewater treatment facility, which discharges its effluent into the Connecticut River. The value of this work is approximately \$12 million, and is hinged around major upgrades to the physical plants pumps, motor, blowers and electrical improvements. The design and construction services is currently being provided by Underwood Engineers of Portsmouth, and construction is by Penta Corporation of Moultonborough. This project should be substantially complete late in the fall of 2015.

In closing Public Works is operated under the guidance of DPW Director Mike Lavalla, with strong input and review from city engineer Christina Hall, PE and her assistant Erica Brittner.

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



**NH PUBLIC WORKS
ASSOCIATION**

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