

Joint York County/Cumberland County Public Works Directors Meeting
November 17, 2010
9:00 A.M.

Present: Mike Shaw (Scarborough), Roger Mosley (Standish), Shawn Bennett (Pownal), Mary Ann Conroy (Kittery), Guy Casavant (Biddeford), John St. Pierre (Berwick/South Berwick), Terry Oliver (Wells), Mike Claus (Kennebunk), John Foster (Brunswick), Charlie Andreson (Sanford), Mike Bolduc (Saco), Erik Street (Yarmouth), Myranda McGowan (SMRPC), Lynne Powers (GPCOG), Eben Marsh (GPCOG), Frank Beliveau (Innovative Surface Solutions)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 9:10 A.M. and introductions were made.

Frank Beliveau from Innovative Surface Solutions gave a presentation on the Nitrous 1-2-3 process for de-icing roads, saying that it increases melting capacity, lowers application rates, has lower working temperatures, and reduces labor and equipment costs as well as bounce and scatter when it hits the road. There was a brief question and answer session and Frank invited anyone with further questions, or requests for the Powerpoint of the presentation, to e-mail him.

2. Acceptance of Cumberland County Minutes from August 11, 2010

This item was skipped and will be taken up at the next Cumberland County public works directors meeting in December.

3. Regional Training Coordinator

The York County public works directors have been working with SMRPC to create a position for a regional training coordinator to help with keeping track of employee trainings. Myranda McGowan came to a meeting at GPCOG in August to extend the invitation to any Cumberland County town public works departments that were interested in participating. The goal is to hire someone part time for \$30 an hour, breaking down the cost per town based on the number of employees. The position would entail keeping records and reminders, and facilitating training sessions.

Mike Shaw suggested that this employee could help write safety plans with specific quick reference PPE guides for various functions (chainsaw use, cutting concrete, etc.). He said that Scarborough just finished a year and a half long process writing those, working with information from the Maine Municipal Association and customizing it; he offered to share them with anyone interested, and to take the idea of a regional training coordinator back to the next Cumberland County meeting and poll the group for interest.

The suggestion was made that the first thing an employee in this position could do would be to take inventory of what participating public works departments already have in place. Mike S. pointed out that MMA has a safety grant of several thousand dollars that it awards, and the group supported the idea of Myranda drafting a letter applying for that grant.

4. Cooperative Purchasing

Eben asked for suggestions of items to add to or take off the list of shared products that go out to bid through GPCOG. Anything with continuity of use among communities, down to idle reduction techniques or boiler maintenance supplies, is a possibility. He would like to have an informal group sit down and discuss where the program is working, where it isn't, and what can be improved, both price-wise and service-wise. The program currently works with Midcoast

COG and with SMRPC, so there is a solid base to work with. Eben asked that people send him lists of what they might be interested in as products.

5. Mutual Aid/Equipment Sharing Program

Myranda said that in order for a mutual aid agreement equipment sharing program to come into effect, three things need to happen. An agreement needs to be finalized and signed (she had a draft agreement for York County that was several years old), there need to be lists of the equipment that people have at their disposal, and it needs to be updated once or twice a year. Charlie Andreson pointed out that there will be legal reviews and feedback as well. Eben said that he could discuss with Myranda, as something similar was done in Cumberland County.

6. Promotion of a Public Works Week (May 15-21, 2011)

The point was made that having a single location or event was unlikely, but that public works departments could work together to do promotion or awareness. There was general interest expressed in doing more promotion and activities targeted to public works week. Erik Street suggested creating an event listing for the area for anyone doing open houses or touch a truck events, and sending it around, and Mary Ann Conroy suggested creating a T-shirt common to public works in Maine. Myranda brought up the idea of asking for planning tips from Carey Kish at GoMaine, who organizes Commute Another Way Week.

7. Future Meetings

Mary Ann suggested having joint meetings quarterly or biannually, and that the next meeting be in March. Mike S. said that several items discussed today could require an earlier meeting. He mentioned the idea of setting a biannual meeting in stone, then polling the members occasionally with updates on the status of various plans or initiatives to see if other meetings are deemed necessary.

The York County group discussed its next meeting, which will be on December 9th and feature a regional representative from the Department of Transportation. They decided to hold it at the Sanford town hall annex. The next Cumberland County meeting will be at GPCOG on December 8.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.