

Cumberland County Public Works Directors Meeting
April 13, 2011
9:00 A.M.

Attending: Mike Shaw (Scarborough), Doug Fortier (Windham), Roger Mosley (Pownal), Erik Street (Yarmouth), Tom Eldridge (Westbrook)

Guests/staff: Dana Milair (John Deere), Jay Hart (John Deere), Steve Szostek (NorTrax), Eben Marsh (GPCOG), Lynne Powers (GPCOG)

1. Welcome

Mike Shaw welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting at 9:05 A.M.

2. Acceptance of minutes from March 9, 2011

Erik Street made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 9 public works directors meeting, and Doug Fortier seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

3. Presentation from NorTrax

Dana Milair and Steve Szostek of NorTrax, with Jay Hart of John Deere, gave a presentation on NorTrax, which is the largest John Deere construction and forestry dealer in north America. NorTrax has experienced sales professionals, six million hours of no lost time injuries, and can and will service equipment or order parts on nights and weekends if necessary. The nearest warehouses are in Grimsby, Ontario in Canada and Springfield, Vermont. Jay said that if NorTrax doesn't have a part available here, they can find it at a dealer elsewhere in the country or take it off the factory line.

There were some questions about bonding. Jay said that it would depend on how quickly a municipality needed to act. If equipment was needed immediately or within the next four months, it could be difficult to get bonding done that quickly. If the municipality doesn't have the money to make a payment, the non-appropriation clause comes into effect and it can just return the equipment. The only stipulation is that if a municipality returns a piece of equipment such as a backhoe because it can't afford the payments, it doesn't immediately go out and buy a backhoe. Some upcoming equipment that will be available includes G-series excavators and hybrid power loaders.

4. Storm Water Group Discussion

The group briefly discussed the inter-local stormwater group, which is benefiting from the economies of scale created by having a number of members. The ad, trying to keep pesticides and chemicals off of lawns, is getting a lot of exposure. Mike suggested that this may be a place for GPCOG to work with the group, which has 14 municipalities signed up. Tom Eldridge wanted to see a separate budget set aside for environmental compliance.

5. National Public Works Week

The Maine chapter of the American Public Works Association formed a subcommittee this year on ideas for National Public Works Week. There will be a statewide article running in local papers with recognition paid to the week – what it is and the history – and to include events that are happening. Four York County public works departments will be displaying equipment at the Kittery Trading Post. Erik has been talking to the Maine Mall and they're very interested in hosting some equipment inside. Tentatively, it would be Thursday through the weekend, with several dedicated people there to move the equipment outside so that not all of the departments

have to have someone there. They could move the equipment out on Sunday night and have it picked up from the parking lot in the morning.

The equipment would be placed in the older section at the center of the mall and toward Macy's and Sears'. There are six different potential locations for equipment. The restrictions are 10 feet, six inches wide and 11 inches tall. Erik has tried to get a similar event started in the Auburn and Skowhegan areas as well but hasn't heard back. He expressed a hope to keep this going and to expand next year, beginning the process earlier in the year. They may consider Cabella's as a location in 2012. The mall has insurance requirements and would like departments that bring equipment to sign liability waivers; those are being sent to the national chapter and MMA to look over. Each piece of equipment will have a small display sign that will spell out which town sponsored it, miles of road in the town, the population, and information like that. The committee is working on a list of information to include. They would like to see some variety in the types of equipment displayed.

6. Updates: Culvert Law and MaineDOT Highway Simplification Study Final Report

Erik said that the simplification study report is now available online. It's all tied to funding, so the project is currently on hold. An important result of the project were the positive relationships built around the table. The MaineDOT commission has set aside \$7 million in his budget to work with municipalities.

Erik also gave an update on the state culvert law that has been discussed in previous meetings. There is a new law being proposed and the MMA is looking for comments on it. The language about fish/aquatic life has been removed from the new law, but if a town wants to do replacements or slip lining, they have to get a permit and then follow the same requirements that were in the original version of the law. Erik classified it as a retread without fish passage in the title.

7. Announcements

Arty Ledoux of Westbrook Public Works is on the board of the New England Safety and Health Council. On June 22, he will be holding a class at Acadia Insurance concerning what departments need to do in order to earn the SHAPE award in the state of Maine. It involves safety and compliance checks and showing a decrease in on-the-job accidents and injuries. It gives the department a two-year pass on inspections from the Bureau of Labor and Standards. Erik suggested safety in general as a topic for a future meeting.

8. Other Business

Eben said that bids for road striping, gravel, and catch basin cleaning are coming in this week, with results coming in next week. Paving bids will be in as of April 27 and there will be results around May 1. Diesel fuel will be next; directors should look for the estimated needs form within the next week or so. Eben will send out a notice about possibly locking in the price of fuel, as COG does bid it both ways. The culvert pipe and road salt bids will follow

9. Next Meeting

There will be no public works meeting in May due to the annual snowplow roadeo; the next meeting will be on June 8.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.