

Public Works Directors
Nov. 9, 2011

Present: *Mike Shaw (Scarborough), Tom Eldridge (Westbrook), Doug Fortier (Windham), Roger Mosley (Standish), John Foster (Brunswick), Shawn Bennett (Pownal), Erik Street (Yarmouth), Eric Lavalle (Portland), Mike Bobinsky (Portland)*

Staff/guests: Andrew Soucy (Fairpoint), David LaRose (Fairpoint), Bill Hobart (Unitil), Retta Choate (GPCOG)

1. Welcome – Mike Shaw, Chairman

Mike Shaw opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from October 12th, 2011

Tom Eldridge made a motion accept the minutes of the October 12, 2011 Public Works Directors' meeting. Doug Fortier seconded and all were in favor.

3. Presentation on Utilities

a. Central Maine Power

The Central Maine Power (CMP) representative was unable to attend the meeting. We hope to have a CMP presence at a future meeting to discuss their winter operations and participate in a discussion about utilities.

b. Fairpoint Communications

Andrew Soucy, Area Manager for Maine Construction and David LaRose, Portland Construction Manager at Fairpoint Communications were present to discuss their utilities operations in the winter. David LaRose handed out information on emergency contact phone numbers to report power emergencies such as lines falling across roads. Fairpoint will contact the proper authorities to remove the lines. The phone number to call Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. is (207) 878-7140. The phone line is answered by a live representative who will find the appropriate person to respond to emergency incidents. All other hours including weekends and holiday call the Emergency Response Center at 1-888-269-5957.

More emergency events happen during the winter months so Fairpoint prepares by having enough personnel to handle these occurrences. Andrew suggested meeting with the smaller utility companies and PUC for a better idea of how they respond to emergency situations. CMP has a list of companies who are licensed on poles. For more information or questions contact David at David.LaRose@Fairpoint.com.

c. Unitil

Bill Hobart of Unitil said that the winter weather does not significantly affect their operations. They adjust regulators and have emergency preparedness meetings with the local police and fire departments, fix emergency leaks, inspect systems and provide training for certification. Their staff is on standby 24 hours per day, but they operate in more of a maintenance mode than an emergency response mode.

It was agreed that power outages can be avoided by keeping trees trimmed. Residents object to this at times, but if we keep up with it they won't notice much change.

Mike Bobinsky of Portland felt it would be helpful if utilities reps and Public Works Directors met twice a year to get a better perspective on each other's operations. It was agreed that mid-June would be a good time to meet again. We could invite York County Public Works Directors and other members of the state chapter as well.

4. Discussion of Meeting Frequency and Future Topics

Mike stated that the turnout at recent meetings has been consistently low and we may need to change the meeting frequency and format. He suggested scheduling meetings on a quarterly basis as a full group to establish subcommittees to work on important topics such as Cooperative Services bids and other items that may come up. A subcommittee has already met to plan Public Works Week. The subcommittees would report back to the full group at the quarterly meetings. This format may be of more value to us all. It is a commitment to attend meetings and we want to be sure our time together is worthwhile and helpful in our daily operations. We can adjust the meeting schedule as needed during the cooperative services bidding. If you are unable to attend a meeting, we would encourage you to send someone from your staff. It was suggested that we hold some meetings in other parts of Cumberland County instead of just Portland. Mike will draft a proposal to go to Public Works Directors for comments.

5. Cooperative Services Update

There was no report as Eben Marsh was at a transportation conference and unable to attend the meeting.

6. Announcements

a. Lamp Recycling Symposium

Missi Labbe of Ecomaine has invited Public Works Directors and transfer station managers from surrounding cities and towns to attend a Lamp Recycling Symposium. It will be held at Ecomaine on December 14th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., which is our next meeting date/time. There will be three speakers: Carol Cifrino of DEP, Kevin Roche of Ecomaine, and a transfer station manager from a town currently participating in the CFL recycling program. Attendees may sign up their community to participate in the product stewardship sponsored program on the spot and take a postage paid free CFL recycling pail with them. It was agreed that the committee will attend the symposium in lieu of its regular meeting.

7. Other Business

a. National Public Works Week Subcommittee

Erik Street reported that the subcommittee had met to begin planning for National Public Works Week. Erik received a proposal from Trevor Maxwell for \$1,500 - \$2,600 to help work with media to publicize the events. The subcommittee met with the Maine chapter of Public Works Directors and they were interested in working with

us on the planning and possibly subsidizing Erik's fees. A formal proposal will be submitted to the chapter and funding will hopefully be approved in December.

8. **Next Meeting – December 14th, 2011 at Ecomaine.**

9. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.