

**Public Works Directors Association Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**9:00-11:00 a.m.**  
**GPCOG Conference Room**

**Present:** Erik Street, (Yarmouth), Chair; Shawn Bennett (Pownal); Doug Fortier (Windham); John Foster (Brunswick); Bill Landis (Cumberland); Bob Malley (Cape Elizabeth); Roger Mosley (Standish); Dan Nowell (Sebago); Kevin Noyes (Portland); Mike Shaw (Scarborough); Jim Vance (Portland); Robert Wood (Freeport);

**Staff:** Carol MacKenzie (GPCOG), Eben Marsh (GPCOG); Sue McIntyre (GPCOG); Steve Linnell (GPCOG).

**1. Welcome and Introductions** – Erik Street - Chairman

Erik Street called the meeting to order at 9:00 and welcomed those present.

Carol introduced Eben Marsh. Eben will be replacing Carol as the new Cooperative Services Director. Eben is a former Town Manager of Gorham and has worked for the State of Maine. Carol is retiring as of July 1<sup>st</sup> after having provided 33 years of service to COG. (*Many thanks Carol! We will miss you!*) Eben said he is looking forward to working with everyone.

**2. Acceptance of Minutes from April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

*Roger Mosley made a motion for approval of the April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting minutes, seconded by Doug Fortier. Vote taken. All were in favor. Minutes approved.*

**3. Update on Alternative Fuels** – Steve Linnell – GPCOG

Steve Linnell provided an update to the group about Alternative Fuels as well as funding opportunities.

Steve is the Coordinator of the Maine Clean Communities Program. The Clean Cities program was established by the Department of Energy to promote alternative and/or clean fuels and clean fuel vehicles in support of the promotion of clean air and energy independence. This includes among other things, propane, natural gas, hybrids, E10 and biodiesel. The Clean Cities program is 15 years old and has helped in displacing 2 billion gallons of petroleum.

This year the national Clean Cities Program received \$25 million (in comparison to the average amount of \$6 million received in previous years). The Program also received an additional \$3million from the stimulus funding. The Maine Clean Communities program conjunction with Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, are in the process of completing a grant application for \$5 million in funding. The grant requires a 50/50 match. Since none of the States mentioned earlier are able to come up with their own respective \$5 million in matching monies for a project of their own, it was decided to apply for the grant as a group.

Other items of interest:

- Maine is currently working in getting propane school buses plus fuel infrastructure for propane.
- Scarborough will be getting another propane truck.
- The City of Portland, through the DERA funds program, will be getting four new CNG buses. Their application also includes three hybrid school buses.
- Lucas Tree will be buying hybrid bucket trucks. These hybrid trucks allow the operation of the bucket without having to run the engine. (This might be an item of interest to Public Works Directors.)
- The Maine Clean Cities Program is hoping to work with EcoMaine and/or have them put in a natural gas fuel station near EcoMaine so waste haulers in the area could switch to natural gas. Many towns and waste haulers are interested but not everyone can put in the 50% match in funding.

Steve noted that theoretically there could be another round of funding with applications due in September, (if the funding is not exhausted in this first round). Steve will let the group know if there is second round of funding. For those who might be interested in natural gas, Vermont is doing a workshop similar to the natural gas workshop that was recently held in New Hampshire. The all day workshop is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$45.00 and includes lunch. A flyer was distributed among the group. Anyone interested in attending may contact Steve Linnell.

Steve spoke of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding program. This is EPA funding and has been around since 2005. The funding is normally available on a regular cycle but there is a lot of stimulus funding that was added this year, so more will be available. More information is available at the EPA website. : [www.epa.gov/cleandiesel](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel) The State DERA program is easier to get. One program that is currently being worked on includes the lobster fishermen to replace their old boat engines and is called the Clean Marine Engine program. The intent of the DERA program is to reduce emissions from old fleets and improve air quality. They do diesel particulate filters. Anyone interested in getting more information can contact Steve. A short question and comment period followed. Steve will put all Public Works Directors on his email distribution list in order to make sure that the group is updated on any upcoming funding opportunities pertaining to alternative fuels and or vehicles, etc. A small brochure depicting current light-duty vehicles was distributed. Steve has another list pertaining to heavy-duty vehicles, if interested.

#### **Roundtable Discussion** – Cumberland County Roadeo

Bob Malley provided an update on the preparations for the Cumberland County Roadeo. Registrations forms have been sent out by email and regular “snail” mail. Robert Wood will provide the score sheets and Bob M. will bring back the fence line. Props have been gathered. Support is needed from directors to attend the program and more volunteers are needed especially for scoring and additional judges. This should be a team effort.

The course layout will be kept user friendly and doable. The Cape Elizabeth course layout is big enough to allow the use of two trucks at a time. This could move the event along a little quicker. It is expected that up to 25 teams might be participating. Kevin Noyes as offered to be the course supervisor. The course will be set up at 9:30 a.m. and judging will be done at 1:00 p.m. A pizza lunch will be provided for volunteers and participants. Spectators will have to bring their own. The fee is \$15.00 per participating team. Checks should be made payable to the Maine Chapter of APWA. Parking will be available at the adjacent parking lot. Please get your registrations in as soon as possible.

#### **4. Announcements**

Fuel bids are coming out. Gas and diesel bids are opening on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Road salt estimates are due on May 20<sup>th</sup>. A road salt bid opening is tentatively scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion took place pertaining to the State of Maine’s bid offerings. Carol has sent out a comparison quick fact sheet. GPCOG’s bids offer voluntary participation and Carol noted that she wants all members to have the opportunity to get the best prices that is why she compiled a bid comparison sheet. It was noted that part of the reason that COG gets good prices is that COG is the biggest coop in Maine and maybe even New England. Following a short discussion on prices, delivery needs, etc., there was general consensus to stick with COG’s bid. Further discussion continued on the topic of diesel fuel and kerosene. Some towns have already locked into a price.

#### **5. Other Business:**

There is a Supervisor Training Workshop being offered this week by the Maine Chapter of APWA.

#### **6. Next Meeting - June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

*There was consensus among the group to skip the July meeting.*

The REACT Joint Board would like to have a meeting with the Public Works Directors Association group in September. The REACT Board has formalized the Regional Disaster Aid Agreement for Cumberland County and has also refined the Procedures for Implementing the Agreement. An update on the Agreement would be provided and discussed.

It was decided that the topic at the next meeting in June would be “Safety Works”. It was noted that MEMIC currently offers a ten-hour course that updates you on all the OSHA standards. Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough recently had safety inspections done by Safety Works. A short discussion followed pertaining to importance of hazard assessment forms, keeping good training records, emergency evacuation plans along with diagrams, etc. Cape Elizabeth has a Safety Committee that goes around once a week to check all of their safety items and keep records of each of their findings. It takes him about two hours to get this done.

#### **7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.