

**CAWV/DOH  
JOINT COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE**

*May 2, 2006*

*CAWV/APAWV Offices*

**MINUTES**

**INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES:** Bill Hilborn, *Co-Chairman*  
Doug Cooper                      Jim Mattingly  
Lee Cooperrider                  Bob Orders  
Joe Deneault                      Ed Phares  
Sumith Hapuarachy              Tony Stanchina  
Mike Harvey                      Gene Thompson  
Dale Hill                          Ed Treadway

**DOH REPRESENTATIVES:** Paul Mattox, *Co-Chairman*  
Darrell Allen                      Marvin Murphy  
Lovell Facemire                  Jim Sothen  
Jason Foster                      John Walker  
Richard Genthner

**FHWA REPRESENTATIVES:** Tom Smith                      Joe Werning  
Steve Stille

**STAFF:** Mike Clowser, *CAWV*  
Pat Parsons, *APAWV/CAWV*

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and no changes were made to minutes of the January 28, 2004, meeting. The following items were discussed:

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Minutes from a February 23, 2006, meeting were provided. Industry noted that the DOH has been provided a proposed price adjustment index for bulk blasting agents.

Industry inquired about the status of the DOH adding more railroad information to the bid documents but no update was available.

The CAWV also expressed their interest in the use of electronic bidding, offering their assistance and the use of their new iSqFt program.

**2. ASPHALT SUBCOMMITTEE**

Minutes from an April 13, 2005, meeting were provided. Industry thanked the DOH for working together on many recent enhancements to the specifications and design directives.

**3. PCC SUBCOMMITTEE**

Minutes from a September 2005, meeting were provided. Industry noted that they will be advancing a proposal for the price adjustment of cast-in-place concrete and a proposal relating to Class H concrete. The DOH stated that they, too, are working on some proposed specification changes.

**4. AGGREGATE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Minutes from a December 6, 2005, meeting were provided. It was reported that the committee is currently working on enhancements to the purchase order bidding process and aggregate test criteria for acceptance.

Industry discussed problems created by changes made in the state's road weight regulations and the new coal haul road network, adding that they will likely pursue solutions on the federal level. The FHWA acknowledged that variations in the federal regulations create a patchwork of state enforcement criteria.

**5. UTILITY SUBCOMMITTEE**

No report.

**6. SPECIFICATION AND PUBLICATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Industry stated that electronic distribution of meeting materials works well and that they appreciate the opportunity to participate on the committee.

The WVDOH reported that they plan to publish a new Design Directives Book.

**TASK FORCES****1. ELECTRONIC PLANS / BIDDING**

Jim Sothen requested another meeting of the task force and will contact Pat Parsons for scheduling.

**2. DBE**

Industry expressed concerns with the program, including the goal; availability of DBE firms; and their ability to be bonded and competitive. Further, industry requested guidance on what constitutes a good faith effort. The FHWA responded that the DOH has to respond to the facts presented in each case and that no DBE "cost percentage" has ever been defined.

The DOH said they need to better understand the challenges the program presents contractors and that the task force should meet again soon.

**3. STEEL / RISK MANAGEMENT**

No update provided.

**4. SMOOTHNESS**

The committee discussed implementation efforts for a new Section 720 pertaining to the use of profilers to measure ride quality of pavement surfaces. The DOH stated that they will likely want to hold another Pavement Designer Workshop to facilitate implementation of the specification.

**7. LRFD**

No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. REGIONAL CERTIFICATION**

The DOH reported that the program may not be ready for implementation in 2007 as reported earlier.

**2. WASTE / BORROW SITE APPROVAL**

The DOH said they were still exploring the development of an internal Corps of Engineer's position. Industry stated that they are facing increasing risk and challenges in timely permitting of sites, requesting that the DOH consider permitting sites, even if they do not acquire the property. The DOH responded to a question regarding 404 permits by stating that the permitting process can take from less than two months to over a year.

**3. DBE PROMPT PAY DOCUMENTATION**

The DOH indicated they are not getting enough of the information they need.

**4. ARCHIVING**

No report; remains on the agenda.

**5. WORK DAY / CPM / IDLE TIME FOR DOUBLE SHIFTS**

Industry indicated that they have provided suggested specification changes for consideration by the DOH.

**6. MANDATORY PRE-BIDS**

The committee indicated this item can be removed from the agenda, as they understand the Department's policy.

## 7. UTILITY DELAYS

DOH indicated they are still pursuing methods to overcome these type of project delays.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. DEP's ROLE IN SPECS / REGULATIONS DEVELOPMENT

The committee discussed DEP's impact on WVDOH construction methods and costs and the need for all contractors to be aware of regulatory changes. Contractors pointed out that adding more information related to compliance reduces contractor risk and associated costs.

A decision was made to form a Joint Environmental Task Force that would meet with the DEP and also coordinate training needs.

### 2. ESCALATING MATERIAL COSTS

Industry noted again that they are proposing specification changes related to PCC and blasting agent escalation clauses.

### 3. DESIGN BUILD RULES

The DOH reported that they will continue to work with industry on development of the three pilot projects authorized by recently enacted legislation. They added that the first project should be ready early in 2007. The DOH stated that they may have an issue with a contractor having a position on the review team.

### 4. CONSTRUCTION / FUNDING UPDATE

Commissioner Mattox reported that congressional limitations will actually reduce the amount of federal aid funds West Virginia will receive to 85.5% in FY 2005 and to 87% beginning FY 2006. Mattox described a road fund and highway program that is faced with diminishing funds and escalating costs. He pointed to the contract paving program, which will be reduced from \$50 million to \$37 million next year. The Commissioner reported that the Department is looking for other funding alternatives.

### 5. WVDOH OUTSOURCING

The DOH said that they were discussing some ideas but had nothing to propose at this time. Industry expressed interest in the idea.

### 6. CONSTRUCTABILITY REVIEWS

Industry expressed interest in providing input in the design and/or post-construction process.

**7. PCC MIX DESIGNS**

Industry expressed significant concerns over a proposed requirement for PCC mix designs to be submitted annually, suggesting a reverification or other more cost effective approach. The DOH stated they would work with industry on the issue.

**8. WEST VIRGINIANS FOR BETTER TRANSPORTATION**

Joe Deneault urged members to get involved in this new organization, discussing their educational role in the highway funding process. He added that additional information was available at [www.wvbt.org](http://www.wvbt.org).

**9. TRAFFIC CONTROL / GUARDRAIL**

Darrell Allen was provided a list of items for review relating to traffic control, bid items and production rates for guardrail construction.

**10. MEETING SCHEDULE**

It was suggested that the committee strive to meet quarterly.

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.*

*Submitted by: Pat Parsons*