

**Agenda with Discussion Notes for  
AASHTO Winter Maintenance Technical Service Program (WMTSP)  
Summer 2013 Meeting  
July 20, 2013  
Diamond 1 Room  
Sheraton Burlington Hotel  
Burlington, Vermont**

**Saturday, July 20, 2013**

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|-------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 8:00-8:15am | Introductions & Agenda Review<br><i>Attendees: Rick Nelson, Wilfrid Nixon, Mark DeVries, Ben Dow, James Bryant, Steven Lund, Paul Pisano, Greg Parker, Gummada Murthy, Lee Smithson and guest John Conrad</i>   | Rick Nelson                 |
| 8:15-9:30am | Global Outreach Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outreach reports<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Invitational Technology Trip to SNRA<br/><u>Mark made a power point presentation on his trip to the Nordic Way Conference in Sweden and Russia. Mark and Steve Lund made presentations at the conference in Sweden. The Conference had large inside and outside equipment displays. Went to several maintenance yards in Sweden and took many photos of equipment. Spent lots of time discussing chemical blending. SNR just started using other chemicals and is in blending experimental stage. Just getting into the brine business. They pre-wet at the spinner. On lower LOS roads, they let the snow build up and use a scarifier to remove packed snow or scarify to improve friction. SNR demonstrated the ASF salinity sensor and the car they use (has salinity sensor and friction measurement wheel). SNR has a RWIS testing facility on a major road where they require RWIS vendors test their equipment and pre-quality before they get on the bidders list. SNR contracts snow removal and the contractor provides both the operators and a fleet of equipment. Bret went to Snow Forum in Russia</u></li><li>○ World Snow Forum in Russia<br/><u>Bret went to the Snow Forum in Russia. Setting was a festival with snow sculptures and opened with selection of snow queen. Extensive equipment expo. Visited their maintenance yards (very cold -50 degrees)</u></li></ul></li></ul> | Rick Nelson<br>Mark DeVries |

- PIARC Update Rick Nelson
  - TC2.4 Committee Work Program  
*Rick reported on the meeting of the TC2.4 Committee he attended and the material he sent to WMTSP in advance of our meeting.*
  - Themes for 2014 International Conference, Andorra  
*Need to promote attending Andorra conference. Rick attended the planning meeting in Santiago, Chile and reported on progress being made on the 2014 Conference. There will be a Snow Plow Rodeo. So far 14 papers have been received on Winter Service, 21 papers on Climate Change, 16 papers on Extreme Events, 67 papers on Winter Service Management, 70 papers on Operations.*
  - SIRWEC 2014, Andorra  
*The SIRWEC be held in a different town. Don't have details yet. Will have to fly to Barcelona and bus to Andorra. Last SIRWEC conference was in Helsinki.*
  - Possible Web Conference/SICOP  
*Rick would like to establish some liaison with PIARC and SIRWEC to exchange information on projects and work programs. Rick will work on Crisis Management—put together management of extreme events. Wilf will be working on Sustainability and Climate Change. Gabe will be working on Advance Technology, Data and Probe Vehicles. Next meeting will be in October.*

9:30-10:00am      Break

- 10:00am-1:45 PM      Domestic Outreach Reports Rick Nelson
- Report on SSOM meeting Gummada Murthy &
    - SSOM Strategic Plan John Conrad  
*The purpose of this agenda item was to better understand SSOM and how WMTSP could collaborate or liaison with them in carrying out some of the requirements laid out in MAP21. John reported that for the last three or four years the committee was fragmented and John has been helping them to develop their program and responsibilities. Each area has a task force. There is a standard of excellent for each area. Currently a program needs to be formulated in each area, the question is, "how to get started with liaisons and collaboration". A SSOM meeting was held*

in April and they passed a resolution to establish an operational business plan. SCOH approved so progress will begin. SSOM will also develop webinars and establish liaisons. Rick stressed how important this work will be in meeting the vision of MAP21. There needs to be a high degree of coordination with WMTSP work and SSOM to improve traffic operations and increase reliability of the system in all types of weather events. An important next step will be establishment the National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCoE). There is a Policy Resolution PR-2-13 for the NOCoE

- SSOM/SICOP collaboration  
John reviewed the conference call he had with Rick and Lee. There have been difficulties with getting folks involved SSOM business due to job changes frequently occurring. Started out with Performance Measures (MAP-21); Operations Strategies (still formulating their plans; and last one is establishment of a NOCoE. Rick attended their Spring meeting and felt there was high member interest in the work. John gave a power point presentation on establishment of a NOCoE.
- AASHTO Center of Excellence  
Discussion began with a Power Point---What is a Center of Excellence; Why now?; (no center of focus); Working Collaborative—Strengths of the Organizations (AASHTO/ITS/ITS America); Potential NOCoE Business Models: 1. Single Association; Model 2 Cooperative Model; +others. Gummada and John are working on a MOU and developing a business plan. Wilf pointed out that this would point to a national level of service, which will be difficult. Steve pointed out that we should be able to point to the benefits of establishing NOCoE. Discussed the term "Reliability" it is not just during fair weather. How do all the parties or pieces fit together? Currently each discipline is working in there own silo. Haven't made much progress on breaking down the silos, but hopefully liaisons will "poke holes into the silos".
- SHRP2 Efforts  
First SHRP program focused on products. SHRP2 cuts across all the program areas. SHRP2 reliability helps

agencies work across institutional areas in implementing SHRP2 products. Train the trainer sessions have had great success (1200 trainers trained). Need to have a push from the top to enhance implementation efforts.

- AASHTO SCOM Strategic Plan  
& HS&R TWG Progress Report Steven Lund  
HS&R TWG Statement of Direction  
Current Statement of Direction is ready for review  
HS&R TWG FY 2014 Work Plan  
Will be developed in TWG session  
Establishing Liaisons  
Steve reviewed the changes made in the SCOM organization during the past several years. Basically the original 5 Task Forces and 5 Focus Groups were rolled up into the new HSCOM organization consisting of 5 Technical Working Groups (TWG) with 4 Strategic Focus Areas. The TWG Statement of Direction is general and the Work Plan deals with specifics of the coming year's work. This is the third year that the SCOM has been under the new organization, Steve feels he needs to determine how to better use his vice chairs. One of the goals on Steve's radar is to establish liaisons this year. He would like to have the role of the liaison more defined. Rick agrees the liaison process needs to be more defined. TWG membership turn over is a problem since the folks that come to this years TWG meeting might not appear next year nor future years.
- WMTSP Future Directions Rick Nelson
  - "Grand Challenges: A Research Plan for Winter Maintenance" Wilf & Rick  
Wilf reviewed the six grand challenges. Some Clear Roads studies like "Cost-benefit Analysis Toolkit" (June 2013) and "Understanding the True Costs of Snow and Ice Control Operations" have been finished, are in the process of being implemented while others like "Cost-benefit of Various Winter Maintenance Strategies" and "Snow and Ice Control Environmental Best Management Practices Manual" are research in progress. Max followed up that Aurora is evaluating how to tell the story. Mark says it goes beyond telling the story, it is getting best practices implemented. He pointed out

*that is the purpose of the last session of the peer exchange. Wilf asked is there a need for an update of the Grand Challenges? If so, is there 20-7 funding available? Which issues in the Grand Challenges still need further attention? Are there new Grand Challenges? Still work to be done? Do we need a TRB workshop to help identify Grand Challenges? Also look at the NCHRP 20-68A, US Domestic Scan Program, "Scan 07-03 Best Practices in Winter Maintenance" Scan Report for more challenges.*

- Sustainability in Winter Operations
  - AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence Chapter 8 Update Report Lee Smithson *Chapter 8 has had an extensive update and has been sent to the AASHTO Center of Excellence for posting. It contains many new best practice methods which have been implemented by the state DOTs. This update shows that an effective technology transfer process is taking place in implementing snow and ice control research.*
  - APWA Center for Sustainability and Sustainability Conferences Mark DeVries *The APWA has held two conferences on Sustainability in Public Works. (See website at [www.apwa.net/sustainability](http://www.apwa.net/sustainability) ) Had high interest and good attendance at each conference. APWA working close with Salt Institute in promoting their "Safe and Sustainable Snowfighting". See [www.saltinstitute.org/content/download/17075/104488](http://www.saltinstitute.org/content/download/17075/104488) .*
  - FHWA Sustainable Highways Self-Evaluation Tool Paul Pisano *Prototype is available and FHWA granted permission to all agencies to use it. Paul isn't up to date on how many states have used it. Wilf noted that the questions cover a wide range of subjects. PIARC working on their sustainability efforts relative to climate change. All these efforts are worthwhile, but the questions now are, so agencies are using many of these best method practices, what does it mean to the*

agency and collectively to the snow and ice control community and how much difference does this make? From a political/societal view how does the balance between increased cost and societal benefits work? Can this balance be reported in meaningful terms? How does it fit into the big sustainability picture? Maintenance is an operational process while a bridge it is an achievement with a sustainability certificate. Will Maintenance be able to jump through an EPA sustainability hoop and meet the necessary requirements? Once you have a set of criteria then you need to determine their importance.

- APWA 2013 North American Snow Conf. Mark DeVries Mark sent out an e-mail update on July 5, 2013 with seven attachments covering conferences, APWA Winter Maintenance Subcommittee Business Plan, rosters and meeting summary. Among highlights of special interest to WMTSP include APWA Snow Conference in Charlotte, NC had attendance of 1521; Certificate Program so far has held seven workshops with over 1,000 supervisors attending; and last year APWA sold 14 CBTs.

Noon- 1:00pm

Lunch

1:45-2:30PM

Winter Maintenance Agency & Consortium Reports

- FHWA Paul Pisano  
FHWA has many winter maintenance projects underway or completed. Discussed how to get the attention of the winter maintenance community to try them and implement those that work for them. How can WMTSP help? So far the best communication method seems to be the SICOP list serve with hot links to the reports. Paul has new report, June 2012, Pub #, FHWA-JPO-12-046 "Guidelines for Disseminating Road Weather Messages".Let him know if you would like a hard copy.
  - MDSS Paul provided an update
  - Clarus Initiative  
Retired the Clarus jersey last week at the stakeholder meeting and handed it off the NWS
  - Extreme Weather Events Workshop  
Held back in April. It was a good opportunity to get designers, operators, etc involved.
  - Road Weather Stakeholder Meeting

Road Weather Stakeholder meeting was held last week. 118 people were registered. Currently FHWA and NOAA are working on a joint project entitled "Improving Collaboration between State DOTs and the Weather Enterprise". The purpose of this project is to document the state-of-the-practice and current working relationships between State DOTs and the weather enterprise, which includes the local weather forecast offices (WFO's) and other public and private weather service entities. The objective is to provide information and guidance to State DOTs around the country on different methods of operations and good practices that can be adopted to integrate weather information and other resources from different parts of the public and private weather enterprise. Several case studies are being developed to characterize the different processes and methods currently used by State DOT's to incorporate weather solutions in transportation operations, specifically in their Traffic Management Centers.

- IMO Project

Still working on how to package all that data that comes off the campus.

- Aurora Max Perchanok  
Max discussed three handouts: Report from TRB Winter Maintenance Committee; Report from the Aurora pooled-fund partnership; and Proposed NCHRP Problem Statement to develop a performance measures toolkit for winter maintenance. These handouts were previously sent to WMTSP in Max's e-mail dated July 16, 2013.
- Clear Roads  
Mark DeVries attended the last Clear Roads meeting. They have approved \$600,000 in projects. Want to publish guidelines for plowing roundabouts. Best way to follow their progress is [www.clearroads.org/research-projects.html](http://www.clearroads.org/research-projects.html).
- TRB Wilf Nixon  
This will be Wilf's last year to serve as chair of the Surface Transportation Weather Committee. He asked for suggestions for a chair to replace him be given to him or to James Bryant.  
Max Perchanok  
See Max's e-mail to WMTSP dated July 16, 2013.
- American Public Works Association Mark DeVries

Mark and Ben covered more of the information Mark sent out in his July 5, 2013 e-mail to WMTSP. They also reviewed articles they had published in the APWA reporter.

- National Association of County Engineers Greg Parker  
Greg reported on the NACE conference he attended in Des Moines. Wilf also presented a paper at the conference.

2:30-3:00

Break

3:00-4:30pm

Project Review of SICOP Program

Rick Nelson

- CBT (Web ready/SCORM-Compliant) Lee Smithson  
Contractor continued providing assistance to states that have contacted him for help in getting connected to web or have encountered any problems with administering the training. The system has been very reliable and seems to operate almost flawlessly.
- Update on 2013 National Winter Maintenance Peer Exchange and Project Progress Lee Smithson  
Lee reported that 32 states have registered. Lee sent the draft agenda to WMTSP in a July 16<sup>th</sup> e-mail
- TRB Practice Ready Papers Max/Wilf  
A total of 12 papers have been selected (8 from Winter Maintenance and 4 from Surface Transportation Weather Committees). Wilf and Max need to post these to their TRB Committee website and check with TRB and see if there is any problem with posting them on the SICOP web.
- Draft WMTSP 4 Year Program Lee Smithson  
Lee sent an e-mail to WMTSP on July 8<sup>th</sup> draft which included all WMTSP comments. Members agreed it can be considered final and is ready to post to SICOP website.

4:30-5:00pm

Unfinished WMTSP business

Rick Nelson

There were no items of unfinished business. Rick is planning on having a short meeting at the end of the Peer Exchange to review the research problem statements assigned to WMTSP. Also WMTSP need to plan on having a conference call in November.