

**Transportation Association of Canada (TAC)
TAC 2010 Annual Conference**

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETING
Saturday September 25, 2010, 09:00-17:00 hours
Marriott Hotel, Halifax, NS

MINUTES

Council members present:

Thérèse A. Trépanier (Chair)	Ministère des Transports du Québec
Scott Hanna (Vice Chair)	Hatch Ltd.
Allan Widger (Past Chair)	University of Regina
Brian Adeney	EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.
Rhonda Batchelor	Government of the Northwest Territories
Maya Caron	Stantec
Greg Czernick (for A. Buckingham)	British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrast.
Romualdo D'Ippolito	City of Brampton
Rico Fung	Cement Association of Canada
Ron Gerbrandt	Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure
Graham Gilfillan	International Road Technologies Inc.
Clark Gunter	Ecoplans Ltd.
Cathy Hainsworth	Transport Canada
Dick Hanneman	Salt Institute
Bob Hodgins	Independent consultant
Oliver Laser	AMEC Earth and Environmental
Kim Mathisen	New Brunswick Department of Transportation
Kimber Osiowy	Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation
Bill Pacholka	Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure
Bob Pett	Nova Scotia DOT and Infrastructure Renewal
Roger Pottle	Newfoundland and Labrador Transportation and Works
Jim Rockwood	City of Hamilton
Russ Smith	Transport Canada
Don Snider	Alberta Transportation
Shelley Tapp	Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Brian Thompson	Prince Edward Island Transportation and Public Works
Rob Walker	Yukon Department of Highways and Public Works
Kelly Yuzdepski	AECOM
Sandra Majkic (Secretary)	TAC Secretariat

Also Present:

Ian Campbell	AMEC Earth and Environmental
Sylvie Colomb	Nova Scotia DOT and Infrastructure Renewal
Mike Labrecque	Chief Engineers' Council
Ian MacCallum	Nova Scotia DOT and Infrastructure Renewal
Peter Noehammer	City of Toronto
Morton Satin	Salt Institute
Michel Gravel	TAC Secretariat

Council members not in attendance:

Brian Adeney	EBA Engineering
Barry Belcourt	City of Edmonton
Kenneth Boyd	City of Winnipeg
Heather Crewe	Ontario Good Roads Association
Annick Le Floch	Ville de Montréal
Rob Burak (For Information)	Canadian Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
Darren Carter	Alberta Transportation
John Emery	LVM-JEGEL
William Ferreira	Canadian Construction Association
Paul Kalashnikoff	AMEC Earth and Environmental
Arto Keklikian	National Capital Commission
Gary Mayhew	Ledcor Alberta Limited
Linda McAusland	Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Evelyne Nayairo	City of Calgary
David Osbaldeston	Transport Canada
Brad Sacher	Board Liaison
Alec Simpson	Transport Canada
Ian Upjohn	SNC-Lavalin Inc.

Note: Attachments to the minutes are available at:
<http://www.tac-atc.ca/private/environment/ec-index.htm>

Attachment #1-EALSC Report

Attachment #2- EIMSC Report

Attachment #3-DFO Nova Scotia by Richard Devine

Attachment #4- CCTF Report

Attachment#5- EHRDC Report

Attachment#6-CEC Report to EC

Attachment#7-Green Guide for Roads Project Update

Attachment #8- Atlantic Salmon Foundation by Steve Chase

Attachment#9-Environmental Assessment Exclusions by Cathy Hainsworth

Attachement#10-TAC Executive Director's Report

Attachment #11- Contact Information for Chrystal Wheeler

1. Welcome and Introduction

T. Trépanier welcomed participants to the meeting and conveyed the regrets of Council members who could not attend. She noted that the Council has recently welcomed the following new and returning members: Kim Mathisen (New Brunswick, replacing Fred Blaney), Ken Boyd (temporary replacement for Bruce McPhail, City of Winnipeg), Evelyne Nyairo (replacing Ben Wineberger, City of Calgary), Elaine Aucoin (replacing Richard Landry, City of Moncton), Maya Caron (Stantec), and Cathy Hainsworth (Transport Canada) who returned from maternity leave. She expressed her thanks to the new members for their interest in the Environment Council's work.

T. Trépanier informed participants that Sarah O'Keefe will be away from the Council for two years, while on maternity leave.

Mme Trépanier announced that she will be leaving the Council due to changes in her job responsibilities. She introduced S. Hanna as the new Chair and thanked him for his assistance as the Vice-Chair. She remarked that Mr. Widger has been of great help in transferring his knowledge and Chair's responsibilities to her.

Mme Trépanier thanked the Council for their support and excellent work over the years.

A. Widger announced that Kimber Osiowy had been nominated for the Council Vice-Chair. Mr. Widger invited other nominations. None being offered and Mr. Osiowy has been elected as the Council Vice-Chair. The Council Executive thanked Mr. Osiowy and welcomed him to the Executive.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

T. Trépanier drew attention to the agenda that was circulated prior to the meeting. Mme Trépanier informed participants that a few members will provide their roundtable items in the morning due to their commitments in the afternoon. Mme Trépanier also reported that a presentation from Nova Scotia DFO will be accommodated in the morning as requested. R. Smith noted that presentation by C. Hainsworth will be on exclusions and not specifically on the Levan Drive interchange project. No additional comments were offered and agenda was adopted as circulated.

3. Minutes of Past Meeting in Ottawa

T. Trépanier drew attention to the April 2010 meeting minutes, which had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. She invited comments or additions; none were offered. It was **agreed by motion** (*D. Hanneman /B.Hodgins*) that the minutes be approved as circulated and posted on the TAC website.

Action 1: S. Majkic

4. Chair Report

T. Trépanier delivered a report on the activities of the Council Executive since the spring 2010 meetings. She reported that the Executive met twice via teleconference on June 8 and August 16 to discuss Council membership, development of fall meeting agenda items and project status.

The Chairs of all four Councils and Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) convened via teleconference in May to discuss issues of mutual interest. A brief breakfast meeting was scheduled prior to the Board meeting.

The Board suggested in April that the Councils consider a common definition of sustainability to ensure uniformity in the work done by all Councils and committees. The Environment Council Chair offered to draft a definition for further discussion with Council Chairs.

Action 2: S. Hanna

Mme Trépanier noted that the Board expressed some concern about possible overlap between UTC Green Guide for Roads and EC Environmental Best Practices projects. The Board directed Councils to continue monitoring work conducted by two project steering committees to ensure that there is no overlap or duplications.

5. Standing Committee Reports

• **Environmental Advisory & Legislation (EALSC) Report**

R. Gerbrandt, Vice-Chair of the EALSC, delivered an overview of that committee's activities and discussions (*Attachment #1*) on behalf of Linda McAusland who sent her regrets.

Mr. Gerbrandt reported that the committee discussed updates on the Federal Environmental Legislation. The committee provided feedback to the Navigable Waters Protection Program (NWPP) in regard to their activity to convert the Order into proposed Regulations. No response has been received from NWPP. Mr. Gerbrandt remarked that the committee continued tracking changes in regulations and legislations. He noted that the committee suggested an update on Migratory Birds Convention Act be received in spring 2011.

R. Smith expressed his concern that presentations given to the Council are with no or little opportunity to discuss on how the Council can get engaged in their work and provide guidance and/or input. B. Hodgins agreed and noted that the presentations are usually not focused on the engagement process and how to develop mechanism for collaboration.

After some discussion, the participants **agreed** that the Council should take more active role in directing those agencies invited to speak on what the members' expectations are in terms of providing their input and being engaged in the work they do.

It was further suggested that each agency invited for presentation on regulations/legislation changes prepares a one or two page briefing on specific acts that can be circulated to the Council in advance providing relevant points for discussion.

After some further discussion, it was **agreed** that the Council be provided with an update from the Migratory Birds Convention Act in spring. R. Smith indicated that he may be able to get some information from Canada Wildlife Services and suggest a speaker for the spring meeting to the Executive.

Actions 3: R. Smith, Council Executive

- **Environmental Issues Management (EIMSC) Report**

B. Pacholka, Chair of the EIMSC, delivered an overview of that committee's activities and discussions (*Attachment #2*). Mr. Pacholka reported that the committee received updates on the various projects as well as updates on activities of the Climate Change Task Force. He drew attention to the survey developed by the CCTF and noted that the Council's input is sought to assist the Task Force in their future work in supporting and guiding the TAC committees. Mr. Pacholka further reported that the committee expressed interest in a workshop or a presentation from expert(s) on duty to consult. After some discussion, it was **agreed** that a presentation on experiences and pitfalls on duty to consult process be included in the spring meeting agenda. The Council was invited to suggest speakers. The members felt that, each time a presentation is provided to the Council no sufficient time is available for discussion on the topics and exchange of information. It was suggested that be taken into consideration for future presentations.

Action 4: Executive, Council members

It was further **agreed** that the Council organizes a workshop on Aboriginal engagement for the TAC 2011 Conference. It was suggested that speakers be invited to provide insight from different perspectives-federal, municipal, provincial and First Nations. C. Hainsworth, R. Bachelor and D. Snider volunteered to help organize a workshop in Edmonton.

Action 5: C. Hainsworth, R. Bachelor, D. Snider

B. Pacholka continued that the committee observed time constraints at the meetings, especially in the fall when tours are organized. Such issue and the fact that membership between two standing committees greatly overlaps, prompted some ideas amongst members for merging two standing committees.

A. Widger expressed his concern that by merging two committees the Council would lose access to conference sessions sponsorship as well as an Executive member. B. Hodgins agreed and added that it would not be beneficial to the Council's image, which has been building for years. Some members felt that the time constraints during the fall meetings could be resolved by providing a working lunch or lunch boxes for the Council tour.

After some further discussion, it was suggested that the standing committees have joined agenda in fall and separate in spring to allow for more time required for discussions.

6. TAC Awards

S. Hanna provided a brief update on this year's submissions for the Environmental Achievement (EA) Award. The review panel members -S. Tapp, I. Upjohn, R. Fung, K. Yuzdepski, J. Rockwood and B. Hodgins evaluated submissions and recommended the 2009 Award be conferred upon the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario and Transport Canada for the Detroit River International Crossing Environmental Assessment Study.

Mr. Hanna thanked the panel and congratulated to recipients. He invited members to volunteer for the 2010 Award panel. The following members will form the panel for the 2010 Award: B. Thompson, C. Gunter, K. Yuzdepski, I. Upjohn and D. Snider.

D. Hanneman noted that the Award is being conferred in the current year, but it is titled for the previous year. While it is understood that the projects had been completed in the previous year, he suggested the Award carries the title of the year it was conferred to increase the profile and emphasize innovations. The Council agreed. S. Majkic will provide such feedback to the Secretariat.

Action 6: S. Majkic

T. Trépanier reported that the Council nominated and the Board approved the Award for Service to the retired Council member Richard Landry. She also reported that Allan Widger was nominated and will receive the Distinguished Service Award. Mme Trépanier remarked the contributions of Mr. Widger and Mr. Landry and thanked them for their service. The participants acknowledged the awards' recipients with a round of applause.

7. DFO Perspective on Transportation Projects in Nova Scotia

Richard Devine, Habitat Assessment Biologist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, delivered a presentation on issues, challenges and cooperation with respect to compliance with the Fisheries Act (*Attachment #3*). Mr. Devine talked about DFO's role and great cooperation between DFO and NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. He drew attention to the Cheverie Creek project as an example of a successful collaboration.

K. Osiowy noted that sometime, due to lack of resources within the various DFO offices transportation projects may get delayed. Mr. Devine acknowledged that it may be an issue since the regional offices usually don't provide authorization and may try to focus on small projects instead. However, passion of staff involved in a particular project may overcome the lack of resources issue.

R. Bachelor observed that, likewise in the Government of Northwest Territories, DFO may have more an enforcement role than a consultation role. Mr. Devine suggested that forming a working group to have an early impact on the process may be a good approach in such cases. He noted that the off-season time is usually the most convenient time to work with these groups.

Mme Trépanier thanked Mr. Devine for his presentation and noted that cooperation between DFO and Transportation Department in Nova Scotia is an excellent example of a successful approach.

8. Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) Update

G. Gilfillan, Chair of the Climate Change Task Force, provided an update on the recent activities of the CCTF (*Attachment #4*). Mr. Gilfillan noted that a written report on the CCTF activities was made available on the TAC website.

Mr. Gilfillan reported that the CCTF is reviewing its role and considering the remaining work. The committees had been invited to complete a survey providing a single response for each committee. The results of the survey are to be discussed at the CCTF meeting in Halifax. He also invited TAC members to submit articles for the TAC News that are related to adaptation and mitigation of climate change as well as topics for future conference sessions.

B. Hodgins suggested that the Survey Monkey tool be used to collect and compile the results in a timely fashion. He offered to create questionnaire and distribute it during the meetings. He also noted that it may be hard to obtain a collective response on the various issues, which differ and had been dealt with differently in each jurisdiction/region.

G. Gilfillan reiterated that the CCTF need guidance on how to assist committees in their remaining mandate. He thanked Mr.Hodgins for offering assistance in collecting and compiling the data and noted that a single response from each committee will be required for further discussion amongst the CCTF members.

T. Trépanier remarked that attention needs to be paid to ensure that there is no overlap in work done by the Council and CCTF, given that the TF idea was generated by the EC. The issues need to be identified and addressed without duplication of efforts. G. Gilfillan replied that the CCTF's major task was to raise awareness about climate change issues and that seems to be noticeably embraced into committees' working culture. He further noted that, at the end of the mandate, CCTF will report to the Board and it may recommend that the climate change issue be brought back to the Environment Council.

9. Update from TAC Councils on Ongoing Activities

- **Education and Human Resources Development Council (EHRDC)**

S. Hanna delivered a report on the activities of the EHRDC (*Attachment#5*). Mr. Hanna highlighted key activities of the EHRDC emphasizing student outreach initiatives related to the TAC conference. He noted that the EHRDC fall agenda includes discussion on effects of computer access and social media in the workplace, presentations by Austroads on skills gap analysis and skills marketing campaign as well as presentations on Engineering Legacies Program by Association of Canadian Engineering Companies.

The Council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of computer access and social media in the workplaces. It was noted that the number of employers allowing access to the social media (e.g. Facebook) increases.

- **Chief Engineers' Council (CEC)**

M. Labrecque, the outgoing Chair of the Chief Engineers' Council, delivered a presentation (*Attachment #6*) on CEC activities.

Mr. Labrecque reported that the CEC has a number of projects in progress and development. The CEC has been focusing on identifying its priorities and three major themes emerged from members' survey and discussion: technical, environmental and administrative theme. He further reported that the Council fall agenda includes information exchange on various topics of interest as well as a number of business items including sponsored project and standing committee reports.

The participants acknowledged the amount of work and number of projects that the CEC had been generating. Mme Trépanier remarked that the CEC identified environmental issues as their priority and indicated that be an opportunity for closer collaboration. Mr. Labrecque expressed an interest in collaboration with EC and noted CEC's support and assistance in letter balloting the Environmental Best Practices for Highway Construction, Operation and Maintenance project upon its completion.

- **Urban Transportation Council (UTC)**

R. Fung noted that the UTC will meet following day, thus he was not able to provide a detailed update. Mr. Fung reported that the UTC is very active and has a full agenda for the upcoming meeting.

10. Update on TAC Green Guide for Roads Project

R.Fung, Co-Chair of the Green Guide for Roads project steering committee provided an update on the project status (*Attachment #7*). Mr. Fung noted that the project goal is to promote sustainable growth and alternative multi-modal transportation solutions within the corridor, along with safe, long lasting roadway infrastructure and green construction principles. He reported that the project was funded by 24 sponsors. The project steering committee was formed and is developing the terms of reference and request for proposal. The plan is to engage a consultant by middle of December and complete the project by spring 2012.

C. Gunter remarked tremendous work done by the Green Guide Task Force and noted that lots of work needs to be done to apply items provided in a matrix/working template developed by Task Force. He further noted that the document will be more comprehensive than a document developed in the USA and will include planning, operations and maintenance.

R. Smith observed that some elements of urban design, as provided in a supplement to TAC Geometric Design Guide should also be included in the Green Guide. R. Fung agreed and confirmed that the consultant will be asked to review that information as part of the literature scan.

T. Trépanier thanked all Council and committee representatives for their time and presentations.

11. Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation on Fish Habitat Projects

Steve Chase, Executive Director of the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF) provided a presentation (*Attachment #8*) on proposals and processes for conservation. Mr. Chase explained that the main objective of the ASCF is to promote enhanced community partnerships in the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat in Atlantic Canada and Québec. He described organizational chart and elaborated on processes involving provincial advisory committees. Mr. Chase noted that the ASCF facilitates planning for habitat projects and manages habitat projects implementation through the community groups. The ASCF also facilitates reporting to DFO. Mr. Chase indicated that, amongst number of other benefits, their work facilitates habitat credits and has potential to create “habitat bank”.

R. Bachelor was interested in creation of the ASCF. Mr. Chase explained that it took a few years of advocacy and lobbying. A focus was on salmon conservation for recreational purposes, which prompted some funding and seasonal jobs were made available to complete the work.

J. Rockwood asked about the magnitude of projects. Mr. Chase explained that provinces are given \$50,000 each and \$50,000 is allocated for each interprovincial project.

S. Hanna enquired whether or not the Foundation considered engaging provincial and private entities. Mr. Chase explained that they have not had many talks with provincial entities other than PEI. They also considered approaching some private companies such as pipeline/utility companies. Mr. Hanna further enquired if there is similar movement for Pacific salmon conservation. Mr. Chase confirmed.

The members enquired whether or not the habitat restoration could be part of project risk management. Mr. Chase explained that it has not been considered and reiterated that the major

eligibility criteria is partnership. The goal of ASCF as a non-profit organization is to ensure that funds are properly allocated.

T. Trépanier thanked Mr. Chase for his presentation and overview of the organization's goals and processes. Mme Trépanier remarked that the presentation was very informative and initiated an interesting discussion. Mr. Chase thanked the Council for their feedback and input provided for consideration.

12. Environmental Assessment-Exclusions for Infrastructure Projects

Cathy Hainsworth, Manager, Environmental Assessment of Surface Infrastructure Programs with Transport Canada delivered a presentation (*Attachment #9*) on environmental assessment and exclusions for infrastructure projects. Ms. Hainsworth described the regulatory package approved in March 2009 and provided a list of project classes excluded from environmental assessment. She talked about application processes and process for determining if exclusions apply. Ms. Hainsworth provided a few project specific examples and pointed out strengths and limitations of exclusions.

The Council members shared their own experiences with application for exclusions and agreed that, as result of that process, many projects are now delivered much quicker. Some members expressed their concern that in some cases changes in the design throughout the project may delay the project due to the assessment requirements.

It was also noted that some agencies still need to deal with negotiations on land use agreements, which additionally delays projects.

Ms. Hainsworth encouraged Council members to contact her if they need directions or guidance for specific projects.

Mme Trépanier thanked Ms. Hainsworth for her time and clarification provided on environmental assessments and recently introduced exclusions.

13. TAC Secretariat Report

Michel Gravel, TAC Executive Director, delivered a report on the activities of the Board and Secretariat since the April 2010 meetings. Mr. Gravel drew attention to the report that was circulated to the Council beforehand (*Attachment #10*) and provided a few highlights of interest to the Council.

TAC has completed another successful year in terms of technical programs, membership, volunteer participation, member services, networking opportunities, and bottom line results. Membership numbers have declined slightly due to a combination of amalgamations and mergers and the economic downturn, primarily individuals and small municipalities less than 25,000 population. Recruitment continues to be focused on retention of smaller municipalities and efforts are being made to attract contractors and suppliers as members.

This year's conference in Halifax is expected to meet target in terms of attendance and revenue despite the economic downturn. The Annual Awards Luncheon was streamlined while maintaining high level of volunteer recognition.

Spring meetings continue to be well attended.

The Board approved a new mission and vision statement. The Board is currently reviewing draft recommendations from the French language services task force.

Mr. Hanna asked about French language services issues. M. Gravel noted that the biggest concerns were with translation of documents, duration of translation, review of documents that should be available in both languages for benefit of associations as well as issue of simultaneous translations for some and not all conference sessions.

Mme Trépanier expressed her concern for translation being performed by individuals who were not familiar with technical terminology used in Québec.

M. Gravel explained that some discussion with AQTR took place to review the entire process of TAC documents translation.

S. Hanna enquired about new partnerships and how new partnerships are initiated. M. Gravel explained that the TAC is in process of finalizing an agreement with the Canadian Institute of Planners. However, the Board's direction is to focus on strengthening the existing agreements. Mr. Gravel noted that honest is on the Council to demonstrate the need and benefits from specific partnerships.

Mme Trépanier asked about travel restrictions impact on Association's work and membership. Mr. Gravel reported that some agencies who had restrictions started to send delegates to TAC. However, due to travel restrictions still imposed by some agencies there may be less delegates coming from a particular agency.

The Executive thanked Mr. Gravel for his report and opportunity for members' questions.

14. Roundtable Discussion on Emerging Issues, New Legislation, Tools and Projects Related to Environment Council

S. Hanna invited members to share their most important topic first and everyone around the table would have a turn. Afterwards members took turns sharing their second most important topic. The following is a brief summary of some roundtable items brought to Council's attention:

- D. Hanneman announced that he will be terminating employment at the Salt Institute, after twenty four years of service as President, on December 31. He introduced Mr. Morton Satin, the Vice President of Science and Research who will be replacing him as the Salt Institute representative.
- K.Osiowy reported a slow response times from DFO on various projects in Manitoba.
- R. Smith noted that Transport Canada had been working through recent changes that had been made to the Canadian Environment Assessment Act
- R. Pottle brought up an issue of large moose population along highways and inadequate number of hunting licences issued in Newfoundland and Labrador resulting in an increased number of accidents with fatalities. An effort had been made to increase number of hunting licences along the highways. BC is dealing with same problem and is trying to identify how far the warning signs should be extended. QC is reviewing the effectiveness of regular and electrical fencing.
- D. Snider informed participants about the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan.

- R. Bachelor reported on issues with presence of buffalo along highways in the Northwest Territories. Ms. Bachelor also reported that the EMS received official sanction and a steering committee is being formed to start EMS implementation.
- R. Walker noted a small portion of highway with fatalities from accidents with caribou in Yukon and reported an experiment with applying new technologies to reduce the risk of such collisions. There is an interest in sharing / partnering with other agencies on this experiment.
Mr. Walker also expressed his concern about outcome uncertainty from the review by NWPP on various projects in Yukon. R. Smith offered to approach NWPP and require a statement and description of the process to be sent to the Secretariat and shared with the Council members.

Action 7: R. Smith

- S. Tapp reported that Ontario had developed an air quality protocol in cooperation with federal, provincial and territorial agencies. It is now under final approval and an update was suggested for inclusion on the agenda for April.

Action 8: Executive, S. Majkic

- B. Pett remarked that Nova Scotia is trying to harmonize policies on wetland compensations. Saskatchewan treats compensations on case by case basis. C. Hainsworth mentioned that Environment Canada is working on a guidance document on the wetland policy and environmental assessment that will be made available within the next few years. However, Ms. Hainsworth offered to share some other relevant documents.
(Note: These documents were sent to the Council in October).
S. Hanna thought that a compendium on wetland project compensations in Canada may be considered as a new sponsored project for the future.
- K. Mathisen reported that archaeological potential within transportation project sites causing delays and in some cases threat to halt some projects in New Brunswick. The project requirements for protection of archaeological potential became legislation in absence of consultations with transportation departments.
- C. Gunter noted that there is a desire to have the third party certification on sustainability for the Green Guide for Roads Guide. B. Pacholka objected noting that it was not intention of the steering committee.
- R. Bachelor (NWT) reported that EMS received an official approval and a steering committee has been formed to start working on EMS practices.
- S. Hanna expressed his concern that the large number of retirees from DFO offices with significant expertise and experience, who are not adequately replaced, may have an impact on projects' development.
- T. Trépanier talked about the SHRP-2 program and its initiatives. Mme Trépanier indicated that the program offers an excellent opportunity to share the knowledge, noting access to the various funds and ability to share information and case studies. She also noted that a benchmarking tool has been developed and it allows practitioners to compare the values for various criteria relevant to the projects. She invited the members to consider the opportunities to provide case studies or participate in pilot testing of

products. She also mentioned the webinars offered through this program and highly recommended that members attend. In conclusion, Mme Trépanier encouraged members to visit the website <http://www.trb.org/StrategicHighwayResearchProgram2SHRP2/Blank2.aspx> on a regular basis and check the available resources.

- A. Widger reported there were a record number of rainstorms in Saskatchewan the past summer. Some severe rainstorms filled up the drainage system posing a risk for the upcoming fall precipitation.
- B. Hodgins reported that the Winter and Summer Maintenance Subcommittee will approach CEC to send a letter to CCME regarding their water quality guidelines for chloride.
- G. Czernick informed the participants about the *Best Practices for Managing Invasive Plants on Roadsides* produced by the BCMoT. Mr. Czernick also noted some other relevant documents such as *Roadkill Guide* and 2010 document on amphibian and reptile. He further noted that the documents are available on the Ministry's website but he also provided the contact information for Chrystal Wheeler (**Attachment #11**), who should be able to provide copies of the documents upon requests.
- B. Pacholka also offered to provide some reference documents on the invasive plant management. He also reported on the internal review currently underway in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to renew the organization. The focus will be on environmental affairs within the Ministry, which currently don't have defined roles and strategy.
- J. Rockwood informed about the most recent air quality report for City of Hamilton, which is now available on their website at www.hamilton.ca. Mr. Rockwood reported 67% reduction in CO.
- I. MacCallum talked about current activities related to use of treated lumber on bridges in Nova Scotia.
- D. Snider mentioned that the Alberta Water Council is currently working on a project for controlling pollution. A survey will be conducted soon. Mr. Snider also reported that some work had been done to identify the appropriate questions to be posed during consultations with the First Nations.
- R. D'Ippolito reported that the City of Brampton is working on the recycling program for sand. Savings by recycling in range of 7 to 8% had been reported.
- S. Tapp reported that Ontario is updating their erosion and sediment control best practices. Mr. Tapp also took the opportunity to thank everyone in helping organize the 2010 workshop.
- T. Trépanier reported that MTQ is revisiting their noise policy.
- R. Gerbrandt reported on a project that is currently underway in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan to review the GHG emission at various construction sites.

15. Agenda Items for the TAC 2011 Council Meeting in Ottawa

T. Trépanier informed the Council that there was suggestion by H. Crew to invite Mr. Ian Crawford from Ontario Natural Resources to provide an update on new Endangered Species Act and its impact. The presenter confirmed his participation at the meeting in April.

Mme Trépanier also reported that Mr. Patrice LeBlanc from the DFO head office in Ottawa expressed his interest to provide an update on new bill and their program renewal.

J. Rockwood mentioned that he may be able to secure a speaker on duty to consult topic. The Chair invited other Council members who may have some suggestions for speakers either for the meeting or workshop to contact S. Majkic at the Secretariat.

Action 9: Council Members

16. Other Business

S. Majkic reported that the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) is seeking review of and input to a draft National Guideline on Rainfall IDF Values. The IDF Guideline, titled "*Development, Interpretation and Use of Rainfall Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) Information: Guideline for Canadian Water Resources Practitioners*," was produced in first edition by a national working group of engineers, climatologists and meteorologists.

The Working Group would like to receive input on the First Edition of the IDF Guideline, in order to develop a second edition that is further honed and more user-friendly.

S. Majkic noted that an invitation to provide input received from CSA will be forwarded to the Council members shortly after the meetings.

Action 10: S. Majkic

17. Summation & Closing Remarks

T. Trépanier thanked all members and guests for participating in this meeting and sharing their expertise and experience. She also thanked Council members who are organizing events for the TAC 2010 Conference in Halifax. Mme Trépanier noted that the next Environment Council meeting will take place in April in Ottawa.

Mme Trépanier concluded the meeting by emphasizing the importance of the Council and standing committees' work done through TAC. She remarked that the Council's work is important and useful for the transportation community and expressed her pride and honour to be part of it. She saluted the expertise and generosity of the members and wished them all the best.

The members acknowledged Mme Trépanier's contribution and leadership as the Chair with a round of applause and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

(Note: TAC Spring Technical Meetings will be held in Ottawa, April 14-18, 2011)