

**Environmental Issues Management Standing Committee
(EIMSC)**

**TAC Spring Technical Meetings
Ottawa, Ontario
April 14, 2011 1:00pm to 5:00pm**

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions – Bill Pacholka:

- Commencement: 1:00 pm.
- Bill welcomed everyone and a roundtable introduction was carried out.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bill Pacholka (Chair)	Saskatchewan Highways	bill.pacholka@gov.sk.ca
Rhonda Batchelor (V-Chair)	DOT/GNWT	Rhonda.batchelor@gov.nt.ca
Shelley Tapp (Secretary)	Ontario Ministry of Transp.	shelley.tapp@ontario.ca
Ian Upjohn	SNC – Lavalin Inc	ian.upjohn@snclavalin.com
Roger Pottle	NL Dept. of Transportation	pottler@gov.nl.ca
Allan Widger	Univ. of Regina	awidger@sasktel.net
Cathy Hainsworth	Transport Canada	cathy.hainsworth@tc.gc.ca
Ron Hall	Transport Canada	Ronald.hall@tc.gc.ca
Paul Kalashnikoff	AMEC Earth & Env'tl	paul.kalashnikoff@amec.com
Carol MacQuarrie	New Brunswick DOT	carol.macquarrie@gnb.ca
Elaine Aucoin	City of Moncton	Elaine.aucoin@moncton.gnb.ca
Clark Gunter	Ecoplans Ltd.	cgunter@ecoplans.com
Don Snider	AB Transportation	don.snider@gov.ab.ca
Amir Iravani	Dillon Consulting Ltd.	airavani@dillon.ca
Heather Crewe	Ont. Good Roads Association	heather@ogra.org
Ian MacCallum	NS Dept of Transportation	maccalia@gov.ns.ca
Kimber Osiowy	Manitoba Infra and Transp.	kimber.osiowy@gov.mb.ca
Jim Rockwood	City of Hamilton	james.rockwood@hamilton.ca
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Amar Chadha	Manitoba Road Authority	amar.chadha@gov.mb.ca
Scott Hanna	Hatch Ltd.	shanna@hatch.ca
Russ Smith	Transport Canada	russ.smith@tc.gc.ca
Maya Caron	Stantec Consulting	maya.caron@stantec.com

Guest:

Steve Andrie	TRB- SHRP2R	sandrie@nas.edu
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24 in attendance.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

- Ian Upjohn - motioned to accept the agenda.
- Kimber Osiowy - seconded.

- Approved by the EIMSC membership.

3. Review and Approve Fall 2011 Minutes

- Two revisions to minutes: page 3 - date change from “2010” to “2012”; page 3 - replace “redemption” with “remediation”.
- Reviewed Action items:
 - Don took the “salt vulnerable areas” issue to Maintenance and Construction Standing Committee in the fall; there was not much discussion. Will bring forward at meetings again this week.
 - Would be useful to have Environment Canada to be part of the Maintenance and Construction Sub-committee to better understand the salt issues. Still waiting for the outcomes of Environment Canada’s five year review of salt management strategies across the country.

ACTION	Take forward issue of “salt vulnerable areas” to Maintenance and Construction Standing Committee their spring 2011 meeting for further discussion.
Don	

- Scott Hanna - motioned to accept the minutes.
- Don Snider - seconded.
- Approved by the EIMSC membership.

4. Salt Management Guide Update – Clark Gunter

- Survey was sent to membership to determine what information needs to be updated.
- Presenting a proposed workplan to the project steering committee tonight as to which chapters will need to be re-written and then will begin re-writing.
- Draft scheduled for Fall 2011 review.

5. Green Guide for Roads Task Force Update – Clark Gunter

- Proposed a framework for the project steering committee which will be discussed on April 15th.
- Looking at other jurisdictional practices in terms of rating and evaluation systems (i.e., Washington State, NY State, UK, etc.).
- Focus will be on how to improve the sustainability benefit of the road, as opposed to ensuring that the road is sustainable.
- There is interest to develop some type of rating system, but the scope of work is to develop a framework across Canada – focus is to develop a tool to help evaluate the sustainability of the project/road.

6. Synthesis of Canadian Environmental Best Practices for Highway Construction, Operation and Maintenance Update – Clark Gunter

- Proposed framework was reviewed on April 13th and decisions made to allow the project to move forward.
- Two volumes will be produced – construction and maintenance.
- “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) will now be referred to as “Synthesis of Environmental Management Practices” (SEMPs).
- Survey to collect information was successful and has received over 200 documents.
- Draft document to be reviewed by the project steering committee at the fall meetings.
- Clarification sought as to whether the intention was that the SEMPS would evolve into common standards to be used when provinces/territories receiving federal funding (similar to US federal model). Response was no; the purpose of this is to compile environmental practices for comparison, development of new practices, etc.

7. Best Practices Guide for the Use of Recycled Materials – Bill Pacholka

- Soils and Materials Standing Committee have taken responsibility for this project.
- Now a sponsored project with funding and is moving forward.

8. Climate Change and Road Safety Sponsored Project

- Sponsored by the Road Safety Standing Committee.
- Are in process of securing project funds – go to TAC website to review “Sponsored Projects in Development” for more information.

9. Climate Change Task Force Update – Heather Crewe

- Report was provided by Graham Gilfillan who was unable to attend this meeting (see website for presentation).
- Environment Council has representation on the task force via Graham, Bill, Heather Crewe and Clark Gunter.
- Review of results of survey conducted in Fall 2010 to TAC all TAC committees. Purpose of the survey was to determine goals and objectives, emerging issues, etc. for the task force to focus on during the remaining year of mandate.
- Two workshops on Climate Change topics are being organized for Edmonton: Best Practices in Managing Climate Change and Economic Impacts of Climate Change.

10. Systems for Incorporating Full Environmental Costs in Decision Making – Shelley Tapp, Don Snider

- Overview of the workshop provided at the fall conference in Halifax and proposal for EIMSC to consider this as a proposal for a sponsored project for Environmental Council approval.
- Don to investigate potential of SHRP/AASHTO committee funding for this in his role on AASHTO’s Standing Committee of Environment.

- Discussed the findings from the workshop and clarification sought on scope, definitions, concepts, etc.
- Determined that a presentation should be developed to take to Environment Council to identify the issues and what is the specific recommendation to be made for consideration.

ACTION	Investigate possibility of SHRP/AASHTO funding as part of their annual call for problem statements (via SCOE role).
Don	

ACTION	Develop presentation for the Environment Council meeting for their review summarizing top issues and recommendation for action.
Shelley	

11. SHRP II Presentation - Mr. Steve Andrie, Chief Program Officer, Capacity Research, Transportation Research Board

- Research study approach and methodology on environmental issues and transportation.
- Process to determine how decisions are made, incorporating collaboration, creating an ecological framework, understanding barriers, etc.
- Develop a nine-step process that provides a guide to integration with transportation planning, cumulative effects, assessment and ecosystem crediting.
- For more information, please refer to the following websites:

www.transportationforcommunities.com
www.trb.org/SHRP2/Capacity

12. Environmental Issues Discussion

a. Salt Contamination

- PEI has issues with 2-6 contaminated wells each year due to salting of road; surface water impacts as well. Interested if other jurisdictions have same issues, claims process, etc. PEI generally spending about \$30K per year on well replacement.
- NS has a claims unit in their DOT, are self-insured and spend approximately \$150K per year on salt claims (previous years was much higher - \$600K).
- Source Water Protection Committees in Ontario are raising this as an issue; chlorides in drinking water (i.e., Kitchener-Waterloo); snow removal in urban areas – where is the soiled snow going.

ACTION	Continue to track Salt Contamination as a high priority item on the Environmental Issues Tracking List
EIMSC	

b. Invasive Plant Species

- Growing area of concern for all jurisdictions – some common species, some unique, some travelling between provinces.
- Ontario Ministry of Environment recently released a Best Management Practices guide to deal with phragmites (tall reed grass) www.ontario.ca/invasivespecies .

- Transportation business processes are a cause for spreading of species (i.e., ditching, excavation, mowing, weigh scales, etc.).
- Saskatchewan and Alberta have new Weed Acts; BC and Saskatchewan have consolidated directories of invasive plant species; Manitoba has a Weed Control Board.
- What controls do we have between provinces – does not appear to be any organized program to deal with invasive species.
- An assessment of threat to the transportation sector is required: risks, costs, hot spots, project implications, management risks, etc.
- Consideration for this topic as a TAC sponsored project, but need more information prior to scoping this – invite speaker(s) to fall conference.

ACTION	At fall meetings in Edmonton invite a guest speaker from Agriculture Canada (and others?) to discuss Invasive Plant Species and share information prior in order to determine if a sponsored project is appropriate.
Bill	

c. Environmental Issues Tracking List

- Salt contamination and Invasive Plant Species to be updated based on EIMSC discussions today.
- Add Migratory Birds – Incidental Take as a new and emerging issue; Navigable Waters to be updated based on new discussion paper.
- Review of the “Environmental Issues Tracking” spreadsheet by the committee members and forward any changes or updates to Bill and revisions and updates to be made to the spreadsheet and reviewed at fall meeting.
- All previously identified projects continue to be tracked.

ACTION	Review Environmental Issues Tracing sheet and send any updates, changes, revisions to Bill.
EIMSC - ALL	

ACTION	Update the Environmental Issues Tracking sheet with revisions as per discussion and circulate for provide for review at spring meeting.
Bill	

13. Planning for Fall Meeting - Edmonton

- Will be a joint agenda between EIMSC and EALSC committees on September 9th with an environmental tour in the afternoon coordinated by Don Snider.
- Organize presentations/updates from federal colleagues who had to cancel at the spring meetings due to the “democratic event”.
- Key Workshops: Duty to Consult; and TAC Environmental Award nomination presentations.

ACTION	Coordinate with chair of EALSC (Clark Gunter) to coordinate agenda and federal speakers/presentations for fall meeting.
Bill	

14. Other Business

- Paul Kalashnikoff volunteered to take over committee Secretary role as Shelley Tapp stepping down due to change in jobs. Will verify with employer.

ACTION Paul	To confirm ability to take on Secretary role for EIMSC.
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Meeting Adjournment: 5:00 pm