

North East Asphalt User Producer Group NEAUPG

April 19, 2011 NEAUPG Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was WEBCAST, thanks to ConnDOT and the streaming video of this meeting is currently available at <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1617&q=477572> to view select presentations.

AWARDS- NEAUPG Leaders Alan Rawson and Ron Corun presented awards to both Frank Fee and Jeff Pochily in recognition of their years of dedication, leadership, and commitment to NEAUPG.

Dr. Walaa Mogawer (UMASS, Dartmouth) presented an update on the Pooled Fund Study (TPF-5(230)) entitled, The Evaluation of Plant Produced High RAP. NH, MD, NJ, NY, PA, RI, & VA are contributing members of the study, and UNH & Rutgers University are co-investigators on this project. The project is scheduled to run for three years and is focused on a number of key elements associated with High RAP content:

- Evaluating Performance of High RAP mixes in Lab and field
- Establish Guidelines for when to bump PG binder grades
- Develop a more comprehensive understanding of RAP Blending and RAP-Binder contribution to Virgin Binder given different plant types, mix temperatures, silo storage times, etc.

Alan Rawson – Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) NEAUPG Task Force Update

Alan presented this as a lead in the next two presentations on WMA. He outlined the genesis of this Task Force with a set of objectives that the team was to address:

- Define what is Warm Mix Asphalt
- Develop Warm Mix Asphalt Technology Qualification Procedure
- Develop a WMA Mix Design Guideline
- Develop a permissive WMA Construction Specification

The team at this point is ready to present their findings on the first two items and make recommendations that NEAUPG approve these recommendations. The Task Force has consciously decided to not pursue the development of WMA Construction Specifications, based upon the diversity of each independent State DOT's Specification, and is awaiting national findings of NCHRP 9-43 study and the proposed amendments to AASHTO R35 as the WMA Mix Design Guideline.

Sideline Discussion: Colin Franco (RI) stated that there is a new NCHRP Study dealing with WMA Moisture Susceptibility and Long Term Performance that is just starting up and he highly recommended that the review panel needs representation from the Northeastern States and Industry. **ACTION:** Colin to email Alan NCHRP Project details. Alan will then solicit NEAUPG members for volunteer participation, via email, looking for one representative from State DOT and one from Industry.

Ravi Chandran – NEAUPG's Definition of Warm Mix Asphalt

Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) is an asphalt mixture made of using a wide range of enabling technologies that allow for the production and placement at lower mix temperatures than Hot Mix Asphalt. The temperature of WMA at the time of production has to be below (HMA Tmax-50 degrees F), where HMA Tmax is the max allowable production temperature of HMA. WMA technologies can also be used as compaction aids to extend the paving season in colder climates when produced at a range of temperatures up to and including Hot Mix Asphalt temperatures.

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Motion to Adopt the Definition of WMA as written- Quorum verified, Seconded, Vote = 10 Yes Motion PASSES.

Russ Thielke – NEAUPG WMA Technology Qualification Procedure

Russ outlined the proposed “Qualification” process (see attached PDF File), that is intended as a means to standardize the qualification process for WMA Technologies. This process is intended somewhat mimic the AASHTO NETPEP program; whereby, any NEAUPG Member State DOT may qualify a WMA Technology using the NEAUPG WMA Technology Qualification Procedure and add it to the NEAUPG’s Qualified Product List of WMA Technologies that will be posted on its website. [NOTE/**ACTION**: NEAUPG Binder Task Group item- develop a written process of where this Qualification data will reside] Should State DOT’s have subsequent issues with individual WMA technologies or family groupings of these WMA technologies, then they are free to exclude these in their own specifications. Adoption of this process will reduce redundant qualification processes in each of the member states for upwards of 20 plus variations of WMA Technologies currently on the market.

It should be clearly noted, this is a Qualification Procedure for WMA Technologies, where State specific Production and/or Construction Specifications can make reference to (i.e., “...producers shall use NEAUPG Qualified WMA Technologies...”). The Qualification Procedure for WMA Technologies also does not preclude the requirement for Project level WMA Mix Design Approval.

Motion to accept the proposed NEAUPG WMA Technology Qualification Procedure, Seconded, VOTE = 13, PASSES

By Passing the NEAUPG WMA Technology Qualification Procedure, which was crafted from NYSDOT’s WMA Technology Approval Process, NYSDOT already has six (6) WMA Technologies on its Qualified Products List and ready for NEAUPG Member States to use. Linkage to NYSDOT Approved List can be found at:

<https://www.nysdot.gov/divisions/engineering/technical-services/technical-services-repository/alme/pages/71210-1.html>

The following WMA Technologies are Qualified: Sonawarm [Organic/Wax]; Evotherm WMA and Low Emission Asphalt-Lite (LEA-Lite)[Chemical Additives]; Low Emission Asphalt (LEA), Maxam AquaBlack and Terex [Foaming Processes].

Motion for the proposed adoption of those WMA technologies previously approved by NYSDOT for use by NEAUPG Member States. Seconded VOTE = 12 PASSES

Sideline discussion:

- We need to insure that when posting Qualified WMA Technologies that we clearly define both parent and specific sibling technologies included in the qualification status, e.g, Evotherm 3G versus DAT.
- We need to get the word out to WMA Technology providers; this is procedure in which NEAUPG Member States will qualify their products.
- Tim Ramirez from PennDOT was not present at the meeting; however, on-line via the webcast link provided some data on their WMA Qualification Process. In 2008, PennDOT allowed 7 WMA Technologies to be utilized on their projects with little up-front evaluations and with an emphasis on tracking field performance. In 2009, 4 additional WMA technologies were added using the same post construction evaluation procedures. In 2010, PennDOT started using pre-

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qualification evaluation procedures for approval of WMA technologies and in 2011 will be able to meet the NYSDOT/NEAUPG WMA Technology Approval Process.

Russ Thielke – Asphalt Binder - Bill of Lading (BOL)

Focus of this centers around receipt of terminally blended products at Asphalt Production Plants and assisting end-users in defining what's in the delivery tank. Russ annotated key differences between Modifiers (which modify the PG grade) and additives (PG Binder with additive), the latter of which most terminally blended capable WMA Technologies fall into. Ideally, somehow, end-users would like to see on the BOL some description of "Additive", what technology and in what dosage is being supplied. The NEAUPG members felt comfortable not wanting to be too prescriptive on how this is to be accomplished, and will leave it up to each shipper to decide for themselves how this will be accomplished. Those present representing industry stated that it can be a \$5,000 item to bring in a programmer to add another field or drop-down selection window in their current BOL programs. Many stated that they would just add text to the item description field, such as PG64-22 w/0.5% Evotherm as a means of satisfying this request.

Ron Corun – Establishment of NEAUPG Asphalt Binder & Asphalt Mix Subcommittees

Motion to establish a NEAUPG Asphalt Binder Committee, with proposed co-chairmen of Greg Harder (AI) and Carl Zipf (DELDOT). Seconded, VOTE = 13, PASSES

Possible goals and objectives:

- Standardization of Supplier QC Plans
- Round Robin Testing of MSCR Samples

Motion to establish Asphalt Mix Subcommittee, with proposed co-chairman of Bruce Barkevich (NY Construction Materials Association) and Ed Naras (MassDOT).

Possible goals and objectives:

- High RAP Mix implementation
- WMA implementation

Ron Corun – New NEAUPG AMPT Users Group

Ron stated that Tom Bennert from Rutgers University is willing to chair a new AMPT User Group based on the recent purchase of AMPT equipment by many (if not all) NEAUPG State members. This would provide a forum for any additional technician training needs, become a conduit for sharing and networking with other states, provide round robin evaluation of new equipment that will aid in establishing precision and bias evaluation on this equipment and would provide the ability to explore and implement new testing standards (Continuum Damage Fatigue-push-pull testing and Dynamic Modulus in IDT Mode testing). Most AMPT equipment (purchased through FHWA Pooled Fund Study) will ship to NEAUPG states later this year, so it may be the Fall of 2011 when this gets going. Those states interested should contact Tom Bennert directly at [732-445-5376] or email him at bennert@eden.rutgers.edu

Frank Fee – MSCR Round Robin Testing Report-out

Frank outlined the need for MSCR testing, which is a means of characterizing High Temperature Binders that is essentially blind to the type of polymer modification used. In this Inter-Laboratory Study 27 labs participated [10 producers/11 users/ 6 generalist] tested 4 PG Grades plus one RTFO sample. Data was independently analyzed by the Asphalt Institute and results are due this week. The test results will help to provide test standard precision and bias statements on various grades of asphalt. The test

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accomplishes two results; it helped end-users become familiar with the MSCR test requirements (for many this was the first time running these tests), and secondly with the data collected we can now help to identify problem areas. The next phase, to be executed this year will be to ask a handful of State Labs to run shadow tests on some Polymer Modified Asphalts (PMA), collect the data and fine-tune the test standard, equipment and/or calculations. The ultimate goal is to standardize on this test and get away from "Plus-Spec" testing requirements enforced on suppliers. It looks very promising for the full range of current and future asphalt modifiers.

Jim Mahoney – CAPLAB Pooled Fund Binder Equipment Purchase Status

Jim outlined to intent of the Pooled Fund project is to allow participating state members to purchase Laboratory Binder Rheology Test Equipment, since much of the equipment is approaching their terminal life after 13 years of usage. All six New England States plus NY State is participating in this Pool Fund approach. A Laboratory Binder Rheology equipment rodeo was hosted by CAPLAB in early February where equipment vendors were invited in to give a complete show & tell of their equipment. Included in the evaluation were Dynamic Shear Rheometer (DSR), Pressure Aging Vessels (PAV), Vacuum degassing ovens, Rotational Viscometers, and Bending Beam Rheometer (BBR). A Request for Quote when out for four pieces of equipment and bids were opened on 4/18/11, with the following vendor selections being made:

- Degassing Ovens – Prentex
- Pressure Aging Vessel – Prentex
- BBR- Cannon Instruments
- DSR – RFQ was challenged and will need to go again.

Jim outlined that they will go out again with RFP for the DSR; states will again technically rate the equipment, and another RFQ for the DSR will go out. He anticipates that this should only take a few months to complete.

Jim stated that he will be in-touch with each state as to the final bid-price on each piece of equipment and the equipment is ready for purchase. Will need to push funding through the Pooled Fund process to acquire, and this take time, so now is the time to move forward, so they can cut the Purchase Orders. At the current time, it is uncertain of specific purchase delivery times.

Alan Rawson & Jim Dunne – Management of NESMEA finances

Due to State DOT's restrictions on the ability to collect registration fees for technical workshops, collect booth rental fees and manage Vendor display areas, and to make commitments to Hotels to book events has been a problem in the past. NEAUPG is a registered non-profit organization, and over the past 8 years or more, we have piggy-backed off of NESMEA's annual meeting with our own meeting. Traditionally, prior to that time period, proceeds collected by the host state from NESMEA Annual Meeting registration fees would be passed over to the next host state; another point of potential bureaucratic flashpoint.

To resolve these issues, the NEAUPG Manager (Jim Dunne) has stepped in to help manage NESMEA finances, event planning and securing meeting venues. NESMEA is offering to compensate NEAUPG for the NEAUPG Managers time with an annual contribution of \$5,000. NESMEA would like to retain these services to manage the Associations Finances, seek to establish non-profit organizational status, assist with event planning, securing meeting venues, and work with event registrations & vendor display areas. Technical agenda development and ancillary meeting agenda development would be handled by NESMEA and the host state.

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The NEAUPG Manager (Jim Dunne) also assists with the Mid-Atlantic Quality Assurance Workshop (QAW) meeting. The Asphalt Session functions as a second NEAUPG Meeting. The Managers current salary is \$17,000 per annum. The question to NEAUPG is: are we willing to share this Managers Position with NESMEA ?

Motion: NEAUPG will accept \$5,000 per year from NESMEA for the administrative duties of the NEAUPG Manager, inclusive of all NESMEA administrative duties with the exception of developing technical agendas. Jim and Alan have been working on a set of By-Laws for NESMEA. Alan will send the latest version out to State Materials Engineers for their review shortly. Seconded, VOTE = 13 PASSES

Ron Corun – Establish Annual Meeting Technical Agenda Committee

Proposed Chairman – Ron Corun

Alan Rawson, Frank Fee and member from Host State – member

Motion to form Committee, Seconded, VOTE =13 PASSED

Jim Dunne – Continuation of Student Research Projects at Annual Meeting

At last years' Annual Meeting, NEAUPG invited graduate student who had conducted research in asphalt related fields to come and conduct a poster-board type session during the meeting sessions. From the 10 colleges that invitations went out to, 8 students from 5 universities came and had an excellent exposure to practitioners. Registration fees were significantly reduced for these students to just cover lunch expenses.

Mid-Atlantic States Quality Assurance Workshop is going to try this also this coming year.

Ad hoc vote: should NEAUPG continue to extend this invitation this year---YES

Collin Franco – Host State for Annual Meeting

Collin reminded the group that the next Annual Meeting is being held in Providence, RI at the beautiful Biltmore Hotel. The NESMEA meeting is scheduled from Oct.3-5th, with NEAUPG meeting Oct. 5-6th, 2011. Collin reminded everyone to book early! Meeting Announcement, Trade Show Application and Registration information have been posted on the UCONN and PASTATE websites.

Note: 2012 NESMEA/NEAUPG Meeting will be in Pennsylvania

Sideline Discussion: on pushing the meeting date for these meetings back to third or fourth week in October to get away from first week of Federal Fiscal Year which can restrict federal employees travel during this time period. Having the meeting later should boost Federal participation.

Jim Dunne – Fiscal Review

Jim handed out details...bottom line (as of 4/19/11) is NESMEA has a balance of \$20,296.79 in the account, and NEAUPG has balance of \$31,750.33.

Meeting Adjourned –

Minutes take by
Timothy J. LaCoss

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FHWA-NY Division