



**Sensible Salting Committee
Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
52 Wheeler Road, Sugar Grove**

April 16, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pete Wallers, TAC Chairman; Angie Smith, EEI

Conference Call: Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Tara Neff, The Conservation Foundation; Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation; Tony Johnson, Midwest Salt; Faye Sinnott; BACOG; Mark Phipps, City of Aurora; Matt Wittum, Village of Spring Grove; Kevin Kerrigan, Lake County DOT; Beth Adler, Des Plaines River Group; Alana Bartolai, Lake County; Ashley Warren, Lake County.

Scott called the meeting to order at 2:03 P.M.

Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions: Pete (TAC) announced that Todd Hoppenstedt has resigned as co-chair due to a job change. Roll call was taken of the committee members as noted above.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Pete (MWCOG) made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Matt (VSG) All in favor minutes approved.

Scott (Chair) went over our overall effort and did a recap of the committee's focus for the Lake County folks that are joining us today. Pete (MWCOG) interjected two quick things – the NWPA also is concerned with groundwater and the Fox River. Part of our focus is also on the private parking lots as well. DOT's have put together some good information. Scott (Chair) continued with while there are some great documents out there; we want to create one document that can be shared by everyone. We also want to create a regional certification program. We're all using a guide based off of the Fortin document and it would be ideal if one document can be put together.

Faye (BACOG) questioned about a type of plants called a halophyte that eats salt and help with soil remediation. Includes grasses, trees, shrubs that can remove salt. They have the capability to accumulate the salt. Scott (Chair) their working on the landscaping at the facility and he will take a look at the halophytes and see if it's something that could be used near the sidewalks, etc. Maybe this could be part of a landscaping approach as well as we have discussed part of the impacts to landscape.

Ashley (Lake County) concurred that they've been talking about a unified program. They do a preferred providers list in Lake County and they are always looking to get more involvement in this program. Really like the idea of the certification program. Scott (Chair) stated he's received some push back regarding the preferred providers list at this time. Ashley (Lake County) stated that Lake County would be willing to help where they can. Mike Adams is the one that has spearheaded their program. Scott (Chair) one of the things that has to be decided is who implements the certification program; maybe CMAP. Cook County has not been able to meet the standards that have been set so they are getting a variance from IEPA with PCB approval for this, but they are in a position to put together a program. Will share the info when he receives it. Will need to figure out who will be responsible for implementing this certification program.



Tara (TCF) was able to get the Microsoft Word document from Fortin. Should be pretty straight forward to make the changes. Scott (Chair) also mentioned that he had sent out a copy of McHenry County Snow and Ice Control Handbook as well. Pete (MWCOG) would like to focus on the private contractors and parking lots. Tara (TCF) when we make the changes we need to give credit to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and not Connie Fortin. Scott (Chair) asked Tara to confirm how they want to be acknowledged in our guide that we are going to develop. Steve (TCF) there is also a manual from the Clear Roads Manual and he will send the links to the group. It's been adopted from a nationwide perspective and he can follow-up with the authors and make sure they are good with that. Alana (Lake County) willing to share their version that they have changed on the manual as well. Scott (Chair) McHenry County has done the same thing. As we move along the process we can certainly use these manuals as reference.

Scott (Chair) reminded the group that Turk had mentioned that he might be bringing in some private sector people as well so that we have a good cross-section to pull from. Tony (MS) stated that he's jumped on the call and he thinks it's a good idea. We need to have more participation with the larger local contractors, perhaps an endorsement from them, if possible. It will create more buy-in. Not sure how much it covers on the liquid side of things and maybe that's more of an anti-icing discussion. Tara (TCF) stated that Turk is trying to bring those people to the table. Touch on the application rates – having people in the industry provide what is more appropriate for parking lots and sidewalks. Matt (VSG) would be a good facilitator in this regard. Not only is it needed on the private side, but it is also needed on the public side. Most people are just going out there and doing what they've always been taught. The rates that we are going to give people are good rates. Stephen (TCF) commented that some of the equipment that private sector has equipment that can't even match the application rates that are suggested in the manual. Matt (VSG) commented that some of the contractors didn't even have access to this equipment. Scott (Chair) we need to be cognizant to these issues, but it needs to be based on reality. Pete (MWCOG) we may want to have different levels of certification based on this issue. Scott (VSG) maybe a basic and advanced certification program. Pete (MWCOG) get some feedback from Turk and others regarding this. Tony (MS) that is a great idea and I think it would be accepted pretty well. Scott (Chair) we will have to figure out the logistics of how we would implement that.

Tara (TCF) gave a brief overview of her discussion with the New Hampshire Certifications program. The thing that sparked this initiative there was the highway expansion that needed to take place and they were in violation of a TMDL. They had a State Senator and he had a personal investment regarding this project. He became personally involved; it's a self reporting program. The Contractor goes through the BMP training; they had different levels. They offer training throughout the state and it was \$200/person. Every two years they offered a refresher. This was as of 2016 data. Their outreach strategy was directly through insurance companies and SIMA and were using recommendations from Fortin. Scott (Chair) have looked at SIMA's website and most of the information is related to businesses and not really private contractors. SIMA does have a certification program. Tony (MS) stated that he has a call scheduled with Bill Sexton from SIMA. It would be good to have this sensible salting readily available on their home page. Tara (TCF) reported that they had 800 contractors go through their initial training program. Matt (AU) looking at their website now – 100-200 as of today. Scott (Chair) any idea what the source of funding was used. Tara (TCF) may have gone through 319 grant funding. Scott (Chair) will reach out to Holly Hudson at CMAP and see if they would have the capacity to pursue this. Stephen (TCF) gave an explanation of pursuing 319 grant funding. Tara (TCF) New Hampshire really had a champion to get this through state legislation. It took three tries in order to make this happen. Scott (Chair) if we can get MWRD to partner with us maybe they could provide some of the legal side of things. If anyone has any contact info related to MWRD please forward it to him or feel free to reach our directly. Stephen (TCF) will follow-up with Brian at MWRD to see if they would like to be involved. There is a SB2138 has passed and it's removed the liability for slip and fall to the property owners vs. the contractors. He will follow-up on the legislation and send some follow-up e-mail. Perhaps if we could incorporate this certification program into this bill



it would also give the incentive to the contractors to participate. Pete (MWCOG) would like to focus on the Manual and look into this legislation, but trying to pass legislation in the State of Illinois is a daunting task. Scott (Chair) let's look at the legislation and see what it entails and see how we can proceed if it makes sense.

Scott (Chair) we want to start working on the revisions to the manual. Pete (MWCOG) thinking we would break-up the manual into areas of strength or specialty. We would volunteer to do the edits and package it as edits are done. Suggest talking to Turk to see what he thinks he can cover. Scott (Chair) envisioning a front section that talks about the science of salting and the consequences of salting. Break homeowners, parking lots/sidewalks and then roads as subsequent sections. At this point it's unclear how to break it apart. Pete (MWCOG) there's going to be sections that will go together – policies/plans, application rates/calibration, etc. Tara (TCF) can reach out to Advocate Hospital and their contractor to see how they have implemented their program. Scott (Chair) maybe we could also use some case studies in our manual as well. Tara will reach out and report back. Stephen (TCF) will go back and look at the document. Scott (Chair) will go through the document and remove all references to Minnesota and setting it up to replace with relevant information with our area. Try to figure out how to manage the break-up of the documents. Over the next week go through the documents and break it up into logical components that can be broke up into two or three sub committees and put it out to the group for feedback.

Stephen (TCF) chloride standards and the aquatic life; there's a draft to change the standard for winter vs summer. The proposed summer is the national guidance – 234 mg/L. Will look at the document and provide the winter number and perhaps share the document.

The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2018 at 3:30 PM at Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Submitted by _____ Angie Smith, EEI