

Date: May 27, 2021
To: HRPDC Full Committee
From: Todd Smith
Subject: **Full Committee May 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the HRPDC *Regional Construction Standards* (RCS) Full Committee was held virtually via WebEx May 24, 2021. The meeting attendance list is included at the end of this document.

A PowerPoint presentation was made and is attached to this document.

1. Welcome

Gary Hart opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and thanking them for their participation. He also noted this is last Full Committee meeting for Bob Sciacchitano and Danny Poe due to their retirement. Mr. Sciacchitano will retire at the end of June 2021 and Mr. Poe will retire at the end of May 2021. Mr. Hart thanked them for their service to the HRPDC for the Regional Construction Standards over the years. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Program Manager, also welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their participation.

2. Historical Usage/Locality Feedback

Todd Smith reviewed the historical usage of the Standards based on feedback received from regional municipalities through calendar year 2020. He noted that the method for obtaining locality data utilized a web-based format, which was well-received by the localities. Mr. Smith noted that the number of projects which used the RCS was 1,610, with 1,279 projects completed, 178 under design, and 115 projects in construction. In addition, there are 38 projects on hold for which the RCS will be used. The number of projects completed by each locality was also reviewed.

Additional information was presented which summarized the cumulative construction value of \$1.886 Billion, an increase of \$180 Million from 2019. The PowerPoint presentation provides a summary of the type of construction and the construction values. The results indicate that construction values have ranged to approximately \$22 million, with most projects being less than \$2 million. The \$100,000 to \$500,000 range continues to have the largest total number of projects.

3. Training Program Update

Todd Smith provided and update on the training program. He stated that on-site training is typically conducted 3 times per year at the HRPDC facility, but none were provided in 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. Off-site training is also offered at members facilities, as well a 1-hour inspector training at the municipality's facility. Mr. Smith noted on-site and off-site training intervals have also been available in non-COVID19 pandemic years. There have been 948 training certificates issued since 2007, with 600 being earned at HRPDC and 348 earned off-site.

Mr. Smith also reported that in September 2019, three, one-hour on-line training modules were developed. The modules include RCS Basics (Module 1), General Provisions (Module 2) and Specifications/Details (Module 3). For the online training in 2020, 72 certificates have been issued for Module 1, 61 certificates for Module 2 and 20 certificates for Module 3. This is compared to 62 certificates issued for Module 1, 53 certificates for Module 2 and 12 certificates for Module 3 in 2019.

4. TRC Activities

Danny Poe led the discussion on TRC activities which included:

- General Notes
- Foreign Ductile Iron Pipe (Electro Steel)
- Sewer Laterals' Hydrophilic Seal (BLD)
- On-Line Bidding

General Notes: Danny Poe mentioned that compiling General Notes was a request of one of the TRC members and Aaron Small is the chair of the sub-committee looking into compiling general notes so they can be used by localities throughout the region. He reported that the General Notes submitted by localities were reviewed by this committee. The committee found that many General Notes appeared to be specific to Capital Improvements projects, some focus on construction by developers and others referenced VDOT Standards. There was discussion concerning the goal of the General Note review. Mr. Small stated that the goal of the General Note review was to make the notes available to localities throughout the region. The notes would be included in an Appendix to the RCS (not part of the Contract Documents), from which localities may reference and include for projects. The notes would not be binding and available on projects for use. For the General Notes to be part of the Contract Documents, they must be included on the plans for each project. Localities may choose which notes to apply and can modify them as necessary. Consensus was that there may be too many differing General Notes and this review may not be beneficial to the region.

Foreign Ductile Iron Pipe (Electro Steel): Danny Poe highlighted the discussions held at the TRC meeting regarding the use of foreign ductile iron pipe on projects in the region. Mr. Poe stated that James LeMire of American Pipe Company made the TRC aware that foreign ductile iron pipe product from Electro Steel USA, a subsidiary of Electro Steel is showing up in US markets. Electro Steel has been around since 2010. The reasons Mr. LeMire provided for the inferiority of this product include:

- Salty Air Exposure: Exposure to salty air when shipping overseas can be detrimental to the pipe.
- Nesting during Transport: The pipe is nested during shipping (smaller pipe is shipped inside larger pipe), which can unevenly load pipe during transport, and may damage interior pipe coatings..
- Shifting of Ownership: Ownership is shifted from Electro Steel – India to Electro Steel USA, which could potentially create concerns if warranty issues arise.
- Uniformity: The quality of the product may be not be as consistent as US-made pipes. Also, water quality is critical in the production of cement mortar linings. Water quality may be a concern for potable water us applications.

- **Financial Stability:** Mr. Le Mire claims that the net worth of Electro Steel is approximately \$5 million which can jeopardize the firm's existence in the event of major legal issues.

There was further discussion which stated that regional projects which use WFIA funding require Buy American verbiage or compliance with the American Iron and Steel Act. Gary Hart recommended that the TRC contact VDOT to find out their approach to non-domestic products. The TRC will further investigate this issue.

Sewer Laterals' Hydrophilic Seal (BLD): Danny Poe briefed the Full Committee on the sewer laterals hydrophilic seals manufactured by BLD. This is a good product. Many localities throughout the region would like to see the BLD product used. Hydrophilic seals meeting the ASTM F 2561 specification is a requirement of the RCS. Currently, there is only one manufacturer that can meet the ASTM standard and that is MLK. Bob Sciacchitano contacted BLD to find out why they did not receive ASTM approval. BLD advised that they tried to get the ASTM approval of their hydrophilic seal, but they felt they were being treated unfairly by the reviewing members for the ASTM organization because they have an interest in keeping competitors from reaching approval. Mr. Sciacchitano also contacted ASTM to better understand why BLD was not considered a viable product. No written responses have been received from either BLD or ASTM as requested. The current option for localities who would like to use the BLD product is to add it to their Special Provisions. There was discussion that the TRC has done its due diligence and it is the responsibility of BLD to obtain ASTM approval and that approval must be demonstrated to the TRC to be included in the RCS. No additional action is required by the TRC.

On-Line Bidding: Todd Smith led the discussion on on-line bidding. He stated that the TRC discussed the use of on-line bidding (electronic submission of bidding documents) throughout the region. Currently, some localities use on-line bidding and others do not. This was a request of one of the TRC members and a sub-committee was developed to draft on-line bidding language for inclusion in the RCS. Scott Frechem indicated he is in favor of this bidding method, but it may be problematic to implement it because there would need to be modifications to the procurement processes to implement it. Further discussion indicated that on-line bidding would require modification to Special Provisions or the front-end documents.

5. Technical Review Committee (TRC) Chair Appointment

Gary Hart, the Full Committee Chair, noted Danny Poe would be retiring in May 2021 and that a new TRC Chairman would need to be appointed. He announced that Arnie Cuevas, Full Committee Vice Chair has agreed to chair the TRC and be Mr. Poe's replacement. Note: Full Committee vote was not necessary because the RCS by-laws (Operations and Procedures Manual) state that the TRC chair is a position appointed by the Chair of the Full Committee. Mr. Cuevas will also remain as the Vice Chair of the Full Committee.

6. New Business

No new business was discussed.

7. Adjournment

Gary Hart thanked the attendees for participating. The Committee thanked Bob Sciacchitano and Danny Poe for the many years of service. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

END OF MEETING

Meeting Attendees

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Gary Hart Full Committee Chair	HRSD	Arnes Cuevas Interim Full Committee Vice Chair	City of Chesapeake DPU
Ashley Gordon	HRPDC	Whitney Katchmark	HRPDC
Danny Poe	JCSA/TRC Chair	Aaron Small	City of Williamsburg
Daniel Horne	Department of Health	Ed West	City of Chesapeake DPU
Gary St John	CDM Smith	Harris Darby	City of Norfolk DU
Jason Trimyer	City of Chesapeake DPU	Karlyn Owens	JCSA
Larry Andrews	City of Suffolk DPU	Matt Maxwell	City of Suffolk DPU
Michael J. Elam	York County	Randy Allen	City of Virginia Beach DPU
Scott Frechem	City of Chesapeake DPW	Shawn Gordon	James City County
Stephanie Rogers	HRUHCA	Wayne Griffin	Town of Smithfield
Water Weeks	City of Norfolk DPW	Todd Smith	CDM Smith
Bob Sciacchitano	CDM Smith		