



Memorandum

Date: October 12, 2021

To: HRPDC Technical Review Committee (TRC)

From: Todd Smith/Bob Sciacchitano

Subject: **July 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the HRPDC *Regional Construction Standards* TRC was held on July 13, 2021, in person at CDM Smith's Virginia Beach office and via WebEx. Those in attendance are shown at the end of these minutes.

Arnie Cuevas welcomed the attendees. He stated that Danny Poe retired at the end of May 2021, and he will be the new chairperson TRC. Arnie also stated that Bob Sciacchitano retired in June 2021 and Todd Smith is his replacement. The following discussions were conducted:

Old Business –

- **General Notes Consolidation**

Arnie Cuevas led the discussion on the consolidation of general notes. He explained that Bob Sciacchitano put together a consolidated list of General Notes used by localities throughout the region. A copy of the General Notes was distributed the meeting. It was discussed that the list of General Notes may be more valuable for the localities to use as a reference and that the notes should not be made part of Regional Construction Standards (RCS). The General Notes will be circulated to TRC and the TRC will be polled to determine if there is consensus for regional use.

- **Hydrophilic Seals**

Arnie Cuevas and Todd Smith summarized BLD's presentation at the last TRC meeting. BLD informed the TRC they tried to get the ASTM approval of their hydrophilic seal. BLD stated they felt their product was not given fair consideration by ASTM's reviewing members. The issue is that the RCS states that hydrophilic seals must meet the requirements of ASTM F 2461. BLD does not meet the requirement. Currently, only LMK, meets the RCS requirement.

The TRC agreed that the onus is upon BLD to get ASTM approval to meet the RCS requirements. Jonathan Thomas will contact BLD to obtain further clarification on the issue and report back at the next TRC meeting.

New Business –

- **On-Line Bidding**

There was discussion regarding the use of on-line bidding (electronic submission of bidding documents) throughout the region. Virginia Beach, Norfolk, James City County and HRSD use electronic bidding.



HRSD stated their process is as follows:

- A pre-bid meeting is held.
- Questions are submitted electronically to contract specialist. Contract Specialist sends questions to Project Manager. Project Manager coordinates answering questions.
- Answers to questions asked during bidding are posted on-line.
- Addenda are posted online and are available to plan holders.

Norfolk's process is as follows:

- Procure Now system is used. Bidders have username and password.
- Pre-bid meetings are held in-person at the project site or virtual through Web Ex.
- Contractors fill out questionnaire to receive bidding documents.
- Cutoff date for questions is set on-line.
- Answers to questions asked during bidding are posted on-line.
- Notifications are sent to all contractors following the project.
- Benefits noted
 - More pre-bid meeting participation
 - Bid results can be posted right away
 - If project is started in the process, it makes the process easier

The TRC did not take any action. Those localities who currently use electronic bidding will continue.

- **American Ductile Iron Pipe Provided by Foreign Companies & Country**

Todd Smith summarized a presentation given by James LeMire of American Pipe Company at the last TRC meeting. The summary was as follows:

1. A potentially inferior ductile iron pipe product flooding US markets and how localities in Hampton Roads might protect against it.
2. The company is Electro Steel USA, a subsidiary of Electro Steel. They started doing business in 2010 and their ductile iron pipe product is showing up in US markets. The pipe is made in India and is shipped to the US.
3. In Mr. Lemire's opinion, the Electro Steel USA product is inferior product because:
 - a. Salty Air Exposure: Exposure to salty air when shipping overseas can be detrimental to the pipe.
 - b. Nesting during Transport: The pipe is nested during shipping (smaller pipe is shipped inside larger pipe), which can unevenly load pipe during transport, recently showed up in the bid for a project with a local municipality.
 - c. Shifting of Ownership: Ownership is shifted from Electro Steel – India to Electro Steel USA, which could potentially create concerns if warranty issues arise.
 - d. Uniformity: The quality of the product may not be as consistent as US-made pipes. Also, water quality is critical in the production of cement mortar linings.

Localities were informed of the information shared at the last TRC. The TRC agreed that it is not a products selection committee and that localities will need to approve the use of this pipe. The TRC did not take any action.



- **Additional Topics of Discussion**

- **VDOT Initiative** – Whitney Katchmark has held discussions with VDOT regarding acceptance of the RCS. The TRC was asked if VDOT should be pursued again for acceptance of the RCS. Arnie Cuevas or Todd Smith will follow up with Ms. Katchmark. Norbert Kuhn mentioned that VDOR came released a more recent edition of their Road and Bridge Standards. The TRC will do a cursory review of the Road and Bridge Standards and compare to the RCS 6th Edition to determine if section references need to be updated.
- **Measurement & Payment into Section 109** – A few years ago, Bob Sciacchitano prepared a draft version of Section 109 moving all the measurement and payment items into that section. CDM Smith will look at this section again and forward a copy to the TRC for review.
- **Modifications to Force Main Coating** – Modifications to the force main coatings was discussed. The TRC did not take any action.
- **Moving Forward with the 7th Edition** – The TRC discussed moving forward with the 7th Edition. The TRC unanimously agreed to discuss with the Full Committee. Arnie Cuevas and Todd Smith will discuss with Whitney Katchmark.

There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING – TBD

TRC Meeting Attendees			
Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Arnie Cuevas	Chesapeake DPU	Landon Kee	Newport News Engineering
Jonathan Thomas	Tri- State Utilities	Karen Harrell	Chesapeake DPU
John Saintsing	Tri- State Utilities	Jeff Harper	Portsmouth DPW
Ann Copeland	HRSD	Norbert Kuhn	Virginia Beach DPW
Harris Darby	Norfolk DU	Phil Hubbard	HRSD
Ibrahim Karaaslan	Norfolk DU	Katie Kreuger	HRPDC
Brian Stilley	Newport News Engineering	Shawn Gordon	James City County
Todd Smith	CDM Smith		

END OF MEETING