



League of Minnesota Cities Building  
145 University Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55103-2044  
651-281-1200 • 800-925-1122 • fax: 651-281-1299

## **Committee Reports**

CITY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

2010 Winter Business Meeting

January 29, 2010

Earle Brown Heritage Center / Brooklyn Center, MN

### **President's Report**

In 2009, the Executive Committee met seven times to discuss and conduct CEAM business.

February - The committee met to setup the calendar year, discuss officer's duties and future agenda items.

April - The committee met and discussed:

- University of Minnesota Conference Planning Services Agreement for the Annual Meeting of CEAM for January 27-29, 2010
- Website budget
- How to solicit candidates for CEAM officers
- Ham Lake Issue with Screening Board concerning MSA Fund Allocation
- Agenda for the Summer Business meeting
- Complete Streets presentation and discussion/input
- America 2050-A Prospectus, MPWA is organizing a discussion on this

April - the committee also held a joint meeting with MNDOT staff and discussed:

- Deb Ledvina, the MNDOT Ombudsman
- America 2050-A Prospectus, MPWA is organizing a discussion on this
- Federal Recovery Act and stimulus projects
- Complete Streets Initiative
- Legislative update

May - The committee met at the municipal screening board meeting:

- Website budget
- Agenda for the Summer Business meeting
- Complete Streets presentation and discussion/input
- America 2050-A Prospectus, MPWA is organizing a discussion on this update from May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of multiple agencies
- LMC Conference, Booth staffing update

June - The committee met and discussed:

- Approval of Scholarship Recipients
- Review agenda for the Summer Business Meeting
- LMC Conference, booth staffing update
- Summer Business Meeting, August 7, 2009
- 10:45 a.m.- Randy Newton, President of NCITE, addressed the Committee. Their association would like to partner with CEAM and have an annual presentation at the Winter Conference to assist in serving the CEAM members with continuing education.

August - The summer business meeting and networking event took place:

- The minutes are attached in the agenda material

October - The committee met at the municipal screening board meeting:

- Website Committee requests that the duties of updating the Website be placed under one of the CEAM officer's duties.
- POY – EOY, officer nominations update
- Appoint an out state alternate City Engineer from CEAM to the Design Build Advisory Committee
- Dave Sonnenberg has nominated Richard Freese to serve as the alternate City Engineer representative on the Design Build Advisory Committee
- Appoint a City Engineer from CEAM to the MNDOT Technical Certification Advisory Committee, a replacement for Craig Gray.

December - The committee met to discuss:

- Secretary/Treasurer Items
- Election of officers for 2010
  - Nominating Committee Report
    - Secretary/Treasurer and Associate Member
  - Review of Draft Conference Meeting Agenda
- Review of Project of the Year and Engineer of the Year nominations
- President's Report
  - 2010 Committee on Complete Streets 2 metro reps and 2 out state reps
  - Updated Committee List
  - Committee Chair year-end summaries prior to winter conference
  - Legislative Position Statement: Legislative Update - Dave Sonnenberg provided an update. He stated that the League of MN Cities (LMC) just sent out a link to their draft policies and asked for comment. The CEAM Legislative Committee will be meeting to discuss these early in 2010.

The LMC and CEAM are bringing forward several items for additional discussion:

- Looking at private underground utility responsibilities – recommend that if contractors directional drill, that they expose all sewer, water, and storm utilities. If records are not adequate enough to do a good job of locating private services, that responsibility should fall to the contractor.
- Mn/DOT Design Build requirement that Cities relocate all City utilities at City expense.
- Grant local authorization to use photo enforcement technologies

- Impaired waters – clean water revenue source
- Urban forest management – state matching grant program
- Statutory approval time line - repeal of the 60 day rule or at least increase 60 day time limit to 90 days.
- Grant local authority to create a transportation utility
- Right of way management – private companies want a response by a certain time or they can just go in.
- Adequate Funding for Transportation – Need MVST split of 60% roads and 40% transit to become permanent.
- Storm water funding that Cities have to contribute to State projects.
- Sales tax exemption for local project construction
- Development impact fees
- No County turnback can occur without equivalent turnback funds or transfer of authority to tax for that roadway.
- Mn/DOT maintenance of Trunk Highways – mowing and trash cleanup
- Local road and transit funding for Cities less than 5,000 population.

## **CEAM Standing Committee Reports**

### **Summer Business Meeting 2010:**

Pebble Creek Golf Club, Becker MN on August 6, 2010

### **Standards and Specifications Committee:**

This Committee did not meet in 2009

### **Scholarship Program Committee (Bret Weis, Chair):**

The City Engineering Scholarship Committee currently consists of Bret Weiss, WSB & Associates, Inc.; John Sachi, City of South St. Paul, and the two most recent past presidents which this year consisted of Mel Odens, City of Willmar and Chuck Ahl of the City of Maplewood.

The 2010 committee will add Shelly Pederson, City of Bloomington and remove Chuck Ahl of the City of Maplewood. The scholarship program has been consistent over the last several years with a program to provide two \$2,000 scholarships to Minnesota State University, Mankato students, two \$2,000 scholarships to the University of Minnesota students and two \$1,000 scholarships to St. Cloud Technical College students.

Each university uses their own application form and then sends 10-15 applications to the scholarship chair for review by the scholarship committee. While the committee doesn't meet in person, we each make recommendations for top candidates for each university and then a consensus is reached on the scholarship award winners. This program has worked very well with the exception of the technical scholarships. There has been some discussion that if finances are available we should consider a scholarship to North Dakota State University and/or Iowa State University. It would be a way for us to attract the best and brightest engineering students from the region back to the state of Minnesota.

The universities complete their program in the spring semester and St. Cloud Tech in the fall of the year, which coincides with each of their existing scholarship programs. Two years ago we only received scholarship applications from St. Cloud Technical College after much work to try to get scholarship applications from other organizations. This year it was decided by the board to only offer scholarships to St. Cloud Technical College. Unfortunately, we again only received two scholarships which are the two recipients for this year. It was my recommendation previously and continues to be my recommendation to take the funds from the technical college scholarship program and apply it to either North Dakota State University or Iowa State University or find a way to add at least one scholarship for both of those universities.

The 2009-2010 scholarship award winners were:

- BriAnna Simon and Brian Sarff of Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Michael Machacek and Tracy Lindgren of University of Minnesota
- Richard Thompson and Zachary Theisen of St. Cloud Technical College

**Water Resources Committee (Bob Moberg, Chair):**

The Water Resources Committee of CEAM met in Plymouth City Hall at 2:00 p.m. on December 15, 2009, to discuss the Minimal Impact Design Standards project (MIDS) that has been initiated by MPCA, at the direction of the State Legislature. The MIDS project is anticipated to have multiple phases and is expected to take several years to complete. It is also expected to have a significant impact on how storm water management is conducted in the future. Last fall, MPCA conducted a series of stakeholder meetings to gather input for the project and to develop requirements for inclusion with a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP is currently being drafted by MPCA.

As part of the project, MPCA is proposing to create a work group that will meet regularly to assist in providing guidance and direction throughout the process. It is anticipated the work group will meet 8-12 times per year (beginning in February 2010) and the project duration could last up to 3 years. The work group is expected to consist of representatives from state agencies, watersheds, environmental groups, engineering associations, and the building industry.

The Water Resources Committee has drafted a letter of interest (copy attached) for inclusion of CEAM with the MIDS work group. The Committee proposes the letter of interest be considered for approval at CEAM's annual business meeting. CEAM may also want to consider appointing a representative to the work group, in the event MPCA accepts the request.

**LMC Policy Committees:**

The Policy Committee has been meeting with the League and assisting with the development of their legislative positions and talking points for the up-coming session.

## Other Committee and Appointment Reports / Updates

### **Minimum Impact Design Standards (MIDS) Committee Liaisons (Kristin Asher & Klayton Eckles):**

Work group members were determined by a nomination and voting process at the first official MIDS work group meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Work group members will need to commit to sending a member or alternate to at least 8 to 12 meetings per year. Technical advisors and nonvoting members will be invited to participate in work group discussions. Some of those that will be invited to participate include metro watershed districts, Met Council, SWCD's (metro) DNR, NEMO, BAM/BATC, MNDOT, BWSR, MPCA, various environmental groups (FMR, MEI) Engineering Association members (ASCE, ACEC, CEAM), and MASLA.

The MPCA MIDS project team will consist of Bruce Wilson – project manager, Anne Gelbmann and Mike Findorff. Meetings will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The location will be announced prior to the meetings.

The “purpose” of the work group is stated as: “Provide guidance and direction to the MPCA on the Minimal Impact Design Standards Project”. The “scope” of the group’s work was laid out and how the MIDS group will interact with the LID group was discussed. The decision making process will be consensus based. Only designated work group members or alternates will be allowed to participate in the consensus decision making process. The “deliverables” of the work group will be based on the work plan, which has not been finalized as of yet. The project could take up to three years to complete meeting once a month for approximately 2.5 hours per meeting.

### **MnDOT Speed Limit Task Force (Dave Berkowitz, John Maczko):**

The Speed Limit Task Force (MnDot, City Engineers and County Engineers) met 9 times between Dec. 2007 and November 2008. The two main items discussed were urban speed limit (30 vs. 25) and rural residential speed limit (55 vs. a lower speed limit). MnDot concluded their report in early 2009 with the following recommendations:

- Do not change the urban speed limit. MnDot concluded that “Efforts today should be aimed at achieving compliance with the existing 30 MPH statutory speed limit. Though the topic could be revisited in the future if additional resources can be devoted to improve enforcement of and education regarding the existing speed limit”.
- Allow a change in the rural residential speed limit. The revised recommended speed limit was 35 MPH. With support of MnDot a bill was passed at the 2009 Session allowing cities to change speed limits in areas that meet the definition of “Rural Residential District”. The City must post/erect signs at the entrance of such district for the speed limit to be enforced. If the district is not posted the speed limit is 55 MPH.