

Meeting Minutes

October 14th, 2009

Meeting Site: Wichita City Hall, 10th Floor

President Slade Engstrom called the meeting to order at 12:01 am. He introduced the Wichita Branch board members. Past President Jessica Rhein reminded members of the Trash Pick-up, scheduled the following evening, October 15th.

Jake Borchers introduced the speaker, Mr. Mark Chinery, from the Missouri-Kansas Concrete Pipe Association (MKCPA) to discuss the topic “Comparing Concrete, Metal and Plastic Storm Sewer Pipe”. Mark provided a special focus on the differences of selecting rigid or flexible pipe in the design process and how KDOT’s new Pipe Policy affects design and construction. Mark described the mission of MKCPA is “to increase educational and technical awareness of concrete products in the engineering community in Missouri and Kansas.

Then, Mark provided some background on changing pipe policies that are occurring across the U.S. that are driven by the passage of the “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users” (SAFETEA-LU) transportation program. SAFETEA-LU was signed in 2005. One purpose identified was “manage cost through improved competition”. SAFETEA-LU is administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). One new rule included in SAFETEA-LU requires “that when alternative products are judged to be of satisfactory quality and equally acceptable on the basis of engineering and economic analysis, alternative bidding practices must be used”. Mark stated that while the basis was provided for the comparison of materials considering engineering and economic analysis, no criteria were given for implementation of what constituted an engineering and economic analysis. Therefore, State Departments of Transportation (DOT’s) were left to determine for themselves what guidelines would meet the new requirement, and the DOT’s policies were then subject to review and approval by the FHWA. Mark stated that State DOT’s adopted policies that provided “little restriction on Alternate Products to not jeopardize federal funding”.

For buried pipe installations, Mark cited four areas that define engineering and economic analysis of a given material:

1. Service Life
2. Strength / Durability
3. Hydraulic Efficiency
4. Safety

Mark cited a Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) study comparing corrugated metal pipe (CMP) and reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) installations that was conducted in 2000. According to the study, 45.6% of the corrugated steel pipe installations were in need of replacement, and only 0.3% of the RCP installations surveyed were in need of replacement. Mark stated that the strength of RCP will increase with time, while this is not true for CMP or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe.

Mark reviewed some of the differences in material testing standards that are used for RCP installations versus CMP and HDPE installations. Mark further noted that, given the right set of circumstances, HDPE will float since its specific gravity is less than that of water. HDPE pipe is also flammable.

Mark concluded that there are some issues that should be worked through in order to more accurately compare buried pipe materials, explicitly RCP, HDPE, and CMP installations. He communicated a sincere hope that future FHWA and DOT policies on buried pipe installations will provide a fair comparison of the different materials' service life, strength, hydraulic efficiency, and safety which will ultimately serve the good of the travelling public and the owners of the land or right-of-way where buried pipe installations are located.

The following individuals attended:

Armour	Jim
Baalman	Gregory
Bailey	Michael
Bernhardt	Scott
Borchers	Jake
Carmichael	Lee
Carrier	Chris
Costley	Colin
Davidson	Tim
Eby	Martin
Edmundson	Joe
Ehss	Michael
Engstrom	Slade
Francis	Ted
Gish	Duane
Greenwood	Gregg
Grote	Terry
Haas	Carl
Hamada	Abdul
Hart	Andrew
Heinz	John
Herlocker	Jeff
Jacobs	Mike
Kallman	Julianne
Keltner	Bill
Lackey	Steve
Letkowski	Brett
Leung	Kevin
Linde	Harold
Lindebak	Mike
Lindebak	Scott
McKinley	Bill
Millican	Derick
Morton	Larry
Nuessen	Ron
Packer	Lynn

Powell	Larry
Rhein	Jessica
Rhein	Talitha
Rottinghaus	Damian
Schwieger	Kent
Shores	Brad
Skibba	Elisabeth
Taylor	Paul
Weber	Jim
Williams	Deb
Winkelmann	Michelle

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm by President Slade Engstrom.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Derick Millican at 2:25 pm on Thursday, October 22, 2009.