

National Capital Heavy Construction Association (NCHCA) / City of Ottawa

NOTES

Date: Friday, April 21, 2023
Time: 10:00 am to 10:40 am
Place: Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Bruce Kenny, Luc Marineau, Chris Malloy, Renjit Varghese, Rebecca Belrango, Everett Paulin, Patrick Franey, Danny Palermo, Elsa La Corte, Joanne Graham, Sandra Majkic

Kathy Sutherland, Madison Johnson, Nick Gianetto, Geoff Falls, Dale Downey, Earlane Lavergne, Jude Tremblay, Ryan Donnelly, Brian Lane, Steve McEachen, Edson Donnelly, Debbie Mohr Caldwell

1. Review Notes of Previous Meeting

Employment and Social Services Showcase – Jennifer McCade shared with Kathy what the City is doing in regards to social procurement. Kathy to share with the Industry.

Action - Kathy

Bidder guidance materials - Part of Supply's 2023 work plan is to update bidder guidance material. The Industry agreed to review and provide comments on the draft document. Supply has completed all the factual corrections to the guidance material. Supply will be reaching out to the Industry to get their feedback on helpful corrections to the document.

Follow-up – Supply to follow up.

Excess Soils – The Industry was cautioned to watch tender documents for project specific requirements.

Follow-up – The NCHCA sent out a survey to the Excess Soils Committee. They will also engage their membership for comments.

Pre-payment for materials and storage - The City has been getting more requests for pre-payment of materials. Space and security at City facilities is limited. In order to ensure that the materials are available when needed, the City will have conditions for pre-payment. The Industry noted that Contractors have

insurance for material stored on site. They also suggested that January/February is a good time to work on a framework for this issue. Supply noted that pre-payment is an exception to City Policy and will provide some additional clarification to the industry on pre-payment of materials. More discussion is needed. The City will work with the Industry; this may require changes to contract specifications.

[Follow-up – Bruce to discuss with NCHCA reps at their monthly meeting and loop in Supply if necessary.](#)

Pre-populated unit rates - The Industry provided examples of rates that are out of date. The City suggested that the Industry send over a list of the rates they would like increases on to the spec committee. A breakdown of co-ordination, third party costs, etc will be provided for Paid Duty Officer item. NCHCA to send information. City is open to change.

[Action – NCHCA will provide information to the City. City to review along with the fuel price index. It was clarified that VPM score are frozen the day prior to postings.](#)

Paid Duty Officers - Continues to be an issue and the City is looking at options to address it. After the Educational Series, and before construction season starts, a meeting will be set up with NCHCA/City/Locates/OPS representatives to discuss. This will be a topic at the Educational Series. Sgt. Nethercott gave a presentation at the Educational Series. He noted that OPS prioritizes the City's Infrastructure work. The City has set up a meeting with the OPS and NCHCA to discuss.

[Follow-up – Meeting with OPS has taken place. They will continue to work with us on issues. There is a new liaison at the OPS, Sgt. Brownrigg.](#)

Holdback release – MTO does a partial annual release. Would the City consider doing the same? The City is willing to consider this on large, multi-year contracts but ideally this would be built into the original contract documents. DCM has been working with legal. Need to build into original contracts.

[Follow-up – IS will work with Legal and Supply to build into future, large scale projects. This will not apply to existing contracts.](#)

New Enbridge Locate Fees - Enbridge recently announced new locates fees of \$200 per locate. Bruce touched base with other municipalities. Everyone was caught off guard by these new fees. The Industry noted that they have been working with stakeholders including the City to mitigate non-compliance by the utilities. Industry feels these fees are working in the opposite direction. One core and immediate issue is the lack of notice, as these costs would not have been accounted for in submitted bid prices for upcoming work. The City is concerned with cost escalations and costs implications as the issues will flow down to the project owners. The City is working on the issues but the Industry may need to escalate the issue directly to the Ministry and ON1Call (the City is willing to be in the room with NCHCA), rather than discussing directly with Enbridge. The City is open to working with the NCHCA and meeting to determine the industry lobby strategy.

[Follow-up – Enbridge has withdrawn the locate fees for now but has an application before the Energy Board regarding the fees.](#)

Action – Industry to send Bruce metrics of anticipated costs if all utilities started charging \$200. Bruce to bring the cost implications on our capital projects to senior management.

2. Roundtable

City's Annual Spec Review – It was suggested that the spec review changes be issued in the Fall instead of the Spring. The City noted that in order to do this they would need to have the spec review committee start in the summer months. The City will look at the possibility of moving up the release date by a month.

Liaison Committee meetings – The Industry noted that it appreciated the option of hybrid meetings. All meetings going forward will have the option of in person or online.

NCHCA Executive Update – Brian Lane is the new NCHCA President. Darrin Alberty's term on the NCHCA Board has ended. Nick Regalbuto has joined the NCHCA Executive as Treasurer. .

Restricted Loads – Debbie noted that half loads have already been lifted in some municipalities. Bruce with check with Asset Management but typically they are not lifted until sometime in May.

Action - Bruce

NEXT MEETING

Friday, May 19, 2023
10:00 – 12:00 pm
Microsoft Teams