

GLS Tech Team Meeting – Minutes
WisDOT, WEMA, Industry and Partners
Wednesday, October 16, 2024 - 1:00 - 4:00 PM
{Hybrid Meeting: WisDOT Truax Building – Antigo Silt Loam Conference Room/Teams Virtual Meeting}

Meeting Attendees:

Truax Building (In-Person): Erik Lyngdal- WisDOT BTS, Dave Staab – WisDOT- BTS, Jake David – WEMA, Josh Wade – Arbor Green, Mark Polega – WisDOT BHM, Andy Luehmann - HNTB

Virtual Attendees (TEAMS): Brian DuPont - WisDOT BPD, Steven Maxwell - WisDOT SE Region, Jesse Hansen WisDOT NE Region, Shawn Hoffman – Hoffman Construction Comp., Jonathon Engerson – WisDOT SE Region, Tadd Owens - Corre, Hans Hallanger – WisDOT, Steve Doocy – WisDOT, Nathaniel Schumaker – WisDOT, Erik Emerson – WisDOT BPD, Nick Perna-FHWA, Mark Zander – WisDOT, Steven Popke – WisDOT, Ed Lilla – WisDOT, Chad Hayes-WisDOT, Tim Peterson – Peterson Construction, Brian Boothby – WisDOT BPD

Introduction/Welcome – Dave Staab

- Membership updates:
 - **Added:** Brian Boothby, WisDOT BPD Construction Oversight and Automation Chief; Jennifer Schaff, County Materials
 - **Departed:** Scott Lawry removed from *ad hoc* list due to promotion to SO office. (membership list attached)
- Meeting Notes: Brian DuPont/Dave Staab
- Meeting will be recorded for note keeping purposes.
- Approval of previous meeting minutes (03-20-2024 Minutes attached)

Updated GLS (Tech Team) Process

Dave Staab described the following steps for reviewing issues by Tech Teams and stated that the semi annual GLS meetings will be opportunities for the Tech Teams to report out to the GLS Committee.

- Prioritization – Tech Team (WisDOT, Industry, others)
- Department review
- Taskforce (or Subcommittee)
 - Industry group
 - BTS, BPD, Region PDS, TSS, other SMEs
 - Studies topic and drafts deliverable
- PDS Review (At least one person from each region has been identified)
- May be iterative process to get finalized deliverable.

Erik Lyngdal emphasized that Tech Team members do not have to be members of the GLS Committee, but any person that would have direct knowledge of the issue.

Recurring & Previous Meeting Carryover Topics:

GLS Priority Initiatives – Dave Staab/Jake David

- EBS and EBS Backfill
- Excavation Waste Bid Item
- Separate items for asphalt and concrete pavement removal, not included in common

excavation. - Discussion on this item concerned the adjustment to a blended price when the quantities change and the uncertainty in estimating for WisDOT is even harder for contractors that have less time to calculate during the bidding period. Also mentioned was the use of drones to get intermediate volumes as work progresses.

- WEMA has drafted SPVs that WisDOT is reviewing.
- Will follow the Tech Team process described previously.
- **Update:** Task force (WisDOT, WEMA) being formed; kickoff meeting soon.

Grass Seed Mixes & Seed and Sod Specification Updates – Mark Polega

- Updated seed rates for 2025:
 - #10 mix is increasing from 1.5 to 3lbs per 1000sf
 - #20 mix is increasing from 3 to 5lbs per 1000sf
 - #30 mix is increasing from 2 to 5lbs per 1000sf
 - #40 mix is increasing from 2 to 5lbs per 1000sf

Temporary seed mixes should not be used unless there are erosion control issues.

Discussion about specialty seed mixes and how the SE Region Special #30 mix is working well.

- Landscaping subcommittee to be formed by Mark Polega to discuss grass seed and related landscaping topics. **Update:** Mark actively working on forming subcommittee and structure.
- Discussion regarding pH level of existing topsoil requirements.
 - Contractors do not have ability to obtain the pH levels of existing topsoil before bid.
 - Explanation that SE Freeways projects have an SPV for topsoil special because the soil along the freeways has been heavily salted by winter snow operations.

Environmental Topics - Hans Hallanger

- TCGP Implementation Update
 - Final details being finalized with WDNR.
 - Select sites discussion ongoing.
- Trans 401 Rulemaking Update
 - Under review; there is Oct. 29 stakeholder meeting
- New ECIP Form Development Update
 - In development to streamline, but project delayed - new ECIP form will not be available in 2025.
- STSP for TCGP
 - Hans provided explanation of requirements for sites above and below one acre in size.
 - If less than an acre there are less permitting requirements.
 - Proposed STSP was provided with comments requested by Nov. 1.

Update on Construction Data Packets for State Highway projects – Steve Popke

- Steve provided information on the construction data packets (CDPs) and mentioned that he is planning on reaching out to contractors to solicit feedback on them. There is a link on the website to provide feedback.

- Contractor feedback has generally been positive.

Rock Excavation at Inlets, Manholes and Catch Basins (SS611)– Dave Staab

- According to the Std. Spec. 611, excavation for these storm sewer structures is per Excavation for Structures (Std. Spec. 206) that does not include a rock excavation provision (“excavate material of whatever nature encountered”). However, the Std. Spec. 608 (Storm Sewer) includes rock excavation provisions (classification, measurement and bid item).
- Discussed at recent monthly design-construction meeting. Have there been occurrences when rock excavation was required at the structures (slightly deeper elevation) and not below the pipe, and how this situation was handled?
- The NER region has had three projects this year where this occurred. Rock excavation for storm sewer in their region is typically paid center of structure to center of structure. No additional payment is provided for rock excavation at structures beyond storm sewer pipe.
- Ed Lilla suggested we canvas other regions for consistency but felt most of the issue is covered by paying for the sewer trench to center of structure.
- **Update:** Dave S. sent email to region contacts on 10/17/2024 to determine how this is handled statewide. Responses being compiled.

Contractors would really like DOT to provide road centerline data on all projects, including local program projects – BPD, Dave Staab

- Discussions continue with various stakeholders.
- No significant updates currently.

Updates to Std. Spec. 614 – Erik Emerson, Brian Boothby

- Updated for 2025 - Site grading prior to barrier/post installation.
- Possible conflict with SS 104.6.1.2.4(2) under review.
- Discussion of how the requirement for grading to be finished before installation of the guard rail may conflict with the requirements to limit the amount of time that guard rail is able to be down. This issue is going to be discussed at CCAW, and Brian Boothby indicated that they will be looking for contractor input to formulate a solution.

New Topics:

Other/Additional Topics -All

- Shawn Hoffman brought up an item regarding the limits of salvaged topsoil.
 - Std. Spec. reads that the contractor needs to strip topsoil from the roadway or inside the foundation of the roadway enough for salvaged topsoil. Everything else is considered EBS.
 - The NE Region included an SPV on a couple IH41 projects indicating that the contractor needed to strip everything regardless of depth and that all topsoil removal is incidental to the salvaged topsoil. On IH41 project, estimated topsoil thickness was twice as much as needed for salvaged topsoil. Contractors are not in favor of this SPV language as it presents a risk of potentially having to move excess topsoil without clear means of compensation.
 - **Update:** Jesse H. is reviewing this inquiry. This SPV was used on two IH41 projects and is not being used more broadly. Additional review is being

completed.

- Steve Doocy brought up an item regarding overhead sign structures and the orientation of structures and anchor rods. If these are not installed correctly the repair can be so complicated that the contractor just removes and repours the base, which is quite costly. Need to have better coordination regarding base orientation and shop drawings.

Action items:

- Landscape task force - Mark Polega
- Review of STSP for TCGP should get comments to Jeremy Ashauer by November 1, 2024 - All
- Rock Excavation- Dave Staab will reach out to other 4 regions.
- Guardrail issues regarding 614 – referred to CCAW.
- Topsoil stripping specs - Jesse Hansen (NE Region) will investigate the new special provision. Dave will contact Shawn Hoffman to get additional info on this item.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2025 - 1-4 PM (Virtual/In-person TBD)

(There is a let on March 11, 2025.)

Attachments:

- Tech Team PDS Process

GLS 10-16-2024 Minutes.docx
BD/DS