

WPC NEWSCAST



A Newsletter of the Wisconsin Precast Concrete Association

2830 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718 • (608) 441-1436

Spring 2015

Photos from WPCA Crane Training

April 20-24, 2015 • Huffcutt Concrete • Chippewa Falls, WI

A total of 13 operators participated in the training. They spent three+ days in the class room followed by practice time each evening at the Huffcutt Plant. Thank you to Steve Olson and Huffcutt Concrete for planning and hosting the training as well as submitting the photos below.



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PLEASE NOTE:

The mailing address and fax number have changed. See page 8.

President's Letter: Paul Miller



Greetings,

Well the first quarter of 2015 is in the past and we have a lot to discuss. First off I'd like to personally and on behalf of all of us in the WPCA, send my condolences to all of Charlie Weiser's family. I'm quite sure he'll be sadly missed by all that were close to him.

Secondly it's been an interesting and busy winter through the current with the WPCA. Most of you know Katie from KPAS has resigned from the association management duties. George remains as Executive Director and head of WPCA Government Affairs. We interviewed three firms and came up with Morgan Data Solutions. John Meade took control of the interviewing due to my absence. Thanks

John for all of your help!! The interviewing was held in conjunction with WLWCA and WOWRA. All of the organizations agreed this to be the one to go with. Lastly on that, the three were priced reasonably close together. So now we have two new faces to help us with planning, organizing, and book keeping. These two are Heather and Alison. I have met with them personally last week. They both seem to be a good fit for the WPCA.

Moving on, we have had our initial WPCA crane training. Thanks Steve and all those at Huffcut for all of your help in both planning and hosting the event. We sent two drivers up and they both agreed that the class was very informative but also thought it was beyond levels of operating precast booms. Much talk of crane jibs, track cranes and the booms we all actually run weren't even allowed to be used for testing (USTC PC 16-20).

It was a true learning curve that all got a lot out of. Fortunately one passed and the other hasn't received his test results as of today. So it wasn't completely vain. It sounds like it is the consensus of all who sent operators, not all did pass. Age may be a factor too, as a lot of these guys haven't been in a classroom setting for likely 25+ years. I'm quite certain we will be discussing this in detail at the summer conference.

The WPCA Summer Conference is just two short months away. Registration is open for the event, which will be held July 10-11 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This will also include a plant tour at Weiser's Plant in Portage.

Currently we are seeking sponsors for holes at the Saturday golf outing. All hole sponsorships go directly to the WPCA Scholarship Fund. Interested in sponsoring a hole or two?

George's hard work for us has paid off and here's what he had to offer us:

"POWTS transfer from DSPS to DNR was repealed by a 12-4 vote and JFC maintained the POWTS/WI Fund. On a 16-0 vote, JFC maintained primary funding for the 2015-16 portion of the biennium and approximately 50% of the funding for the 2016-17 portion of the biennium. The JFC did not in any way vote to repeal or sunset the POWTS Fund at a specific date (that means 1.5 years from now we will have to lobby to ensure primary funding is in the Governor's original budget proposal). The funding for both years of the biennium will come from program revenue - not GPR"

On that note, I'm quite certain George will fill us in completely at the summer conference.

Well spring is turning to summer and things seem to be getting quite busy, so long as the rain stays away. Hopefully you're all doing well.

See you at the summer conference.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Miller".

Confined Spaces in Construction: Sewer Systems

Standard Effective August 3, 2015.

Confined spaces can present conditions that are immediately dangerous to workers when such conditions are not properly identified, evaluated, tested, and controlled. This fact sheet highlights many of the confined space hazards associated with sewer systems and how employers can protect workers in these environments.

OSHA has developed a new construction standard for Confined Spaces (29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA)—any space that meets the following three criteria:

- Is large enough for an employee to enter it;
- Has limited means of entry or exit; and
- Is not designed for continuous occupancy.

A space may also be a **permit-required** confined space if it has a hazardous atmosphere, the potential for engulfment or suffocation, a layout that might trap a worker through converging walls or a sloped floor, or any other serious safety or health hazard.

Fatal Incidents

Confined space hazards in sewer systems have led to worker deaths. Several tragic incidents in sewers have included:

- A worker who lost consciousness and died when he climbed into a sewer vault to retrieve a tool. His co-worker also died when he attempted a rescue.
- While repairing a natural gas leak, a worker entered a drainage pipe to retrieve survey equipment. The natural gas ignited, killing the worker.

Training

The new Confined Spaces standard requires employers to ensure that their workers know about the existence, location, and danger posed by each permit-required confined space, and that they may not enter such spaces without authorization.

Employers must train workers involved in permit-required confined space operations so that they can perform their duties safely and understand the hazards in permit spaces and the methods used to isolate, control or protect workers. Workers not authorized to perform entry rescues must be trained on the dangers of attempting such rescues.

Safe Entry Requirements

The new Confined Spaces standard includes several requirements for safe entry.

Preparation: Before workers can enter a confined space, employers must conduct pre-entry planning. This includes:

- Having a competent person evaluate the work site for the presence of confined spaces, including permit-required confined spaces.
- Once the space is classified as a permit-required confined space, identifying the means of entry and exit, proper ventilation methods, and elimination or control of all potential hazards in the space.
- Ensuring that the air in a confined space is tested, before workers enter, for oxygen levels, flammable and toxic substances, and stratified atmospheres.
- If a permit is required for the space, removing or controlling hazards in the space and determining rescue procedures and necessary equipment.
- If the air in a space is not safe for workers, ventilating or using whatever controls or protections are necessary so that workers can safely perform work in the space.

Ongoing practices: After pre-entry planning, employers must ensure that the space is monitored for hazards, especially atmospheric hazards. Effective communication is important because there can be multiple contractors operating on a site, each with its own workers needing to enter the confined space. Attendants outside confined spaces must make sure that unauthorized workers do not enter them. Rescue attempts by untrained personnel can lead to multiple deaths.

Confined Spaces in Sewer Systems

Types of sewer systems include sanitary (domestic sewage), storm (runoff), and combined (domestic sewage and runoff). Sewer systems are extensive

and include many different components that are considered confined spaces, including pipelines, manholes, wet wells, dry well vaults, and lift/pump stations. Therefore, employers conducting work in sewer systems will likely have workers who will encounter confined spaces.

Sewer systems also consist of wastewater treatment plants, where confined spaces include digestion and sedimentation tanks, floating covers over tanks, sodium hypochlorite tanks, and wastewater holding tanks, among others.

Many of these components may also qualify as permit-required confined spaces.

Employers must take all necessary steps to keep workers safe in confined spaces, including following the OSHA Construction Confined Spaces standard. This standard applies to both new construction within an existing sewer and alterations and/or upgrades. For example:

- Installing or upgrading a manhole.
- Altering or upgrading sewer lines.
- Making nonstructural upgrades to joints, pipes, or manholes.
- Demolition work.
- Installing new or upgraded pump equipment, cables, wires, or junction boxes.

Construction work can create confined spaces, even if there are none at the start of the project. Changes to the entry/exit, the ease of exit, and air flow could cause a space to become confined or permit-required.

Hazards Associated with Sewer Systems

Sewer systems can present a host of confined space hazards, including:

- Atmospheric hazards (low oxygen, toxic or flammable gases).
- Chemicals in piping and from roadway runoff (may harm lungs, skin, or eyes).
- Engulfment and drowning.

- Electrocution (e.g., using electrical equipment in wet working conditions).
- Slips, trips, and falls.
- Falling objects.
- High noise levels, low visibility, limits to communication, and long distances to exits.

Personal protective equipment: Employers should assess the work site to determine what personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed to protect workers. Employers should provide workers with the required PPE and proper training on its use and about any related hazards before the work starts.

How to Contact OSHA

For questions or to get information or advice, to find out how to contact OSHA's free onsite consultation program, order publications, report a fatality or severe injury, or to file a confidential complaint, visit www.osha.gov or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

Additional Information

[OSHA's Confined Spaces in Construction standard \(29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA\)](#)

[Confined Spaces: OSHA Construction Industry Topics by Standard](#)

[OSHA Fact Sheet: Procedures for Atmospheric Testing in Confined Spaces](#)

[Confined Spaces: NIOSH Workplace Safety and Health Topics Page](#)

[State Plan Guidance:](#) States with OSHA-approved state plans may have additional requirements for confined space safety.

[Help for Small and Medium-Sized Employers:](#) OSHA's On-site Consultation Program offers free and confidential advice to businesses nationwide.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: 1-877-889-5627.

For assistance, contact us. We can help. It's confidential.



www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)



U.S. Department of Labor

Legislative Update: Executive Director, George Klaetsch



Major Victories for Septic Trades in 2015-17 Biennial Budget!

In early February the WPCA Board of Directors and full time staff were faced with a very significant task – defeat not one, but two budget proposals included in Governor Walker’s 2015-17 Biennial Budget proposal.

The first proposal was to eliminate the Walker proposal to move all staffing, oversight and responsibility of the POWTS program from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This was significant because traditionally if the political party that controls the majority of the legislature is the same as the Governor, the legislature almost always approves the Governor’s proposal to reorganize state government responsibilities.

The second proposal came with a hefty price tag and given the fiscally conservative approach of the current legislative majority, associations would be hard-pressed to have one dollar reappropriated to the WI Fund, let alone over \$4 million. But that was the second challenge, convince the Legislative Joint Finance Committee to reject the Governor’s proposal to eliminate all funding for the WI Fund and re-invest the traditional \$4 million.

Shortly after the budget was introduced in early February, the WOWRA, WLWCA and WPCA board’s met individually with full-time staff to devise a strategy and tactics to overcome and defeat the POWTS program transition from DSPS to DNR and elimination of the entire WI Fund Budget. The result was a winning strategy that combined membership education and mobilization, coalition development and engagement, grassroots advocacy and boots on the ground lobbying.

I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT YOUR ASSOCIATION WAS RESPONSIBLE IN ENSURING THE POWTS PROGRAM WILL REMAIN UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE DSPS AND THE WI FUND WILL RECEIVE A MAJORITY OF ITS TRADITIONAL FUNDING! CONGRATULATIONS!

Each component mentioned above was an asset to our success and made an impression with the targeted members of the legislature’s joint finance committee. It was also rewarding and reassuring to hear multiple legislators exclaim, “I actually was contacted by a member of yours from my district requesting that I oppose the DSPS to DNR transition of the POWTS program.” or, “requesting to not eliminate funding of the current POWTS program.” For that level of engagement from our members I can only say, THANK YOU!!

I would also be remiss if I didn’t thank our coalition partners for their effectiveness in following our direction and leadership. The following were participants in the coalition we created – WI Realtors Association, WI Builders Association, WI Water Well Association, Plumbing Heating and Cooling Contractors Association, WI Counties Association, WI Towns Association and WI County Code Administrators Association.

While there are many battles that remain during the remainder of this legislative session, it is nice to be able to reflect on the two most significant budget/legislative victories achieved during my four year tenure as Executive Director. Thanks again to the entire membership for their confidence and support of our legislative efforts. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure many more legislative victories in the years to come.

Association Management News

MDS Association Management came on board April 1, 2015 to run the day-to-day activities of WPCA. George Klaetsch will continue as Executive Director and handling the lobbying activities of the association.

We are excited to meet and work with the board of directors and the association members. Heather Dyer, CAE and Alison Huber, CMP will be your account contacts.



Heather L. Dyer, CAE is the Managing Partner of MDS Association Management/Morgan Data Solutions, LLC, a consulting firm providing data and web solutions for associations, not for profit and small business. Before starting her own firm in 2001, Heather spent eight years in the association field providing technology assistance. Over 30 Wisconsin associations have utilized her services to plan and implement their data infrastructure. This includes work process flow, training of employees, report writing and infrastructure support. In today's market technology, resources and people are ever changing. Morgan Data Solutions, LLC provides stability in the process. Heather holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science with an Accounting Minor from Western Illinois University.

How I give back and keep in touch with being a volunteer:

- Village of Cottage Grove - Finance and Personnel Committee Member
- Village of Cottage Grove Police Commissioner
- Legend Lake Channel Cruisers Snowmobile Club Treasurer
- Monona Grove High School Show Choir Treasurer
- Madison Breakfast Rotary Club - Board Member



Alison Huber, CMP is the Account Manager for WPCA, as well as WOWRA and WLWCA. She brings a strong background in meeting and event management as well as board service to the group. Prior to joining MDS in April 2015, Alison worked for the Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau as a sales manager. She also worked for the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and the State Bar of Wisconsin planning meetings, events and conferences before joining the Bureau.

How I give back and keep in touch with being a volunteer:

- Meeting Professionals International, Wisconsin Chapter - Immediate Past President
- Madison College - Meeting and Event Management Program
 - Part-Time Instructor and Advisory Board Member
- Pioneer Athletic Booster Club - Treasurer
- Pioneer Youth Club - Volunteer Basketball and Volleyball Coach

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South Region	Deke Mader Crest Concrete Products
Associate	Darryl Cloud Concrete Sealants

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Calendar of Events

Summer Conference

July 10-11, 2015

Kalahari Resort

Wisconsin Dells

Winter Conference

January 12-13, 2016

Madison Marriott West

Middleton, WI



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