During the two day period of October 3 and 4, more than 300 people descended on the Jefferson Hotel for the 24th Annual Fall Asphalt Conference. This conference co-sponsored by the VAA and VDOT served as a review of the 2011 paving season and a springboard for the 2012 season.

To kick off the conference, Virginia’s Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton outlined the future for transportation and the challenges. Following the Secretary, Commissioner Greg Whirley discussed various aspects of moving the transportation initiatives forward. Finally, Chief Deputy Commissioner Charlie Kilpatrick spoke about the steps necessary to implement the transportation plan.

New for the 2011 meeting was the District Administrator’s Panel. All nine districts were represented on the panel either by the DA or another administrator from the district. This panel provided the opportunity for the districts to outline their paving plans for 2012 and any concerns they had. The panel discussion allowed for meeting participants to ask questions as well. Numerous meeting attendees expressed their gratitude for the DA’s participation and hoped this panel would become part of future conferences.

Day 1 of the conference concluded with the presentation of the VDOT and VAA paving awards (see page 2) and recognition of Richard Schreck’s 30 years of service to the VAA. Day 2 was filled with technical presentations including an update on asphalt pavement research presented by Jose Gomez, Ph.D., P.E., Director, Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation & Research. All presentations can be found on the VAA website: vaasphalt.org.

Secretary of Transportation

Commissioner Greg Whirley

District Administrators Panel
Superior Paving, Inc. Takes Home VDOT Paving Awards

The 2011 Virginia’s Best Paving Award Winners

The 2010 Annual Fall Asphalt Conference saw three companies take top honors as “Virginia’s Best” non-VDOT Paving Award winners.

The 2010 Municipal Paving Award went to Branscome, Inc. for their work at the new Glen Allen High School. The Commercial Paving Award was presented to S.L. Williamson for the paving at Martha Jefferson Hospital. Finally, the inaugural Non-Traditional Paving Award was given to Chemung Contracting for pavement rehabilitation at the Manassas Regional Airport.

Two award categories—Best Municipal Project, and Best Commercial Project, have been staples for many years. A third category—Best Non Traditional Project, was added to capture those projects not covered in the traditional categories or the VDOT paving awards. These projects may be located in a National Park, on a toll road, a military facility or on an airfield.

In all, twenty-one projects were submitted for consideration. Each project was initially evaluated based on the submittal information—project description, pictures, and overall presentation. From this evaluation, a shortlist of candidate projects were selected for site inspection. Look forward to an additional new category in 2012—Green Paving. This new award was announced at this year’s Fall Asphalt Conference. Watch for future Asphalt News articles on this category.

Congratulations to all the winners and all the nominees for some great paving award submissions.
The VAA Invitational Golf Tournament was held on Wednesday, October 5, at Mattaponi Springs Golf Club. Mattaponi Springs is one of the premier upscale public golf courses, in Virginia, located approximately 30 minutes north of Richmond off of I-95. It was ranked the #1 golf course on the East Coast and #2 in the United States by Golf Digest when it was opened.

The October weather could not have been more beautiful. After a few days of rain and overcast skies, it was sunny with temperatures in the low 70’s and a slight breeze. Thanks to the 26 sponsors supporting VAA and the many golfers in attendance, the tournament was one of the most successful in years. Ninety-nine golfers were in carts for the shotgun start at 12:30 pm. Being a top course in the state, challenges were present on every hole. Some challenges started at the tee box. Foursomes that were playing extremely well got to experience the course from the black tees. For those golfers having fun with little shot of winning, the moving tee, modified stableford scoring format had them seeing lots of red – red tees that is!

In the end, the winning foursome was prearranged by ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC. and consisted of Galli, Myers, Barker, and Wirt. The 2nd place team, which was not a prearranged foursome, consisted of Maine, Hancock, Wertheim and Gross. Following the tournament, everyone had a great time at the barbecue where over $2,300 in cash and prizes were raffled off to lucky ticket holders. Everyone who attended the tournament had an opportunity to win and those golfers who purchased mulligans and red tees received additional raffle tickets. New this year was a raffle for a free foursome at the 2012 tournament. A $5 chance resulted in Nicole McGowan of Spivey Pavement Marking winning the first Foursome Raffle. She will be able to bring a prearranged foursome to next year’s tournament, at Independence Golf Club, FREE!

Congratulations to all the tournament winners and the raffle winners!

Next year’s VAA Invitational Tournament will be held at Independence Golf Club on October 3, 2012. VAA hopes everyone will return for another great day of golf.
The Voice of VAA  30 Years of Service

Do you remember September 1981? The cost for a gallon of gas was $1.38 and a ton of liquid asphalt was no where near $550! For a bright-eyed twenty-nine year old, he was starting with the Virginia Asphalt Association as their Executive Vice President.

Fast forward 30 years and Richard Schreck is the longest tenured State Asphalt Association Executive in the United States. At the Annual Fall Asphalt Conference on October 3rd, Richard was recognized for his years of service. Comments on Richard’s service were provided by David Branscome, current President of the VAA & Vice President of Branscome Paving Company; Mal Kerley, VDOT’s Chief Engineer; and Ron White, Vice Chairman, Superior Paving Corp. Edmund Pendleton, President of the VAA in 1981 & retired President of Pendleton Construction Company, recalled the challenges facing the asphalt industry and the leadership Richard provided. Finally, Stirling Williamson, President of VAA in 1977 & 1994 and Chairman & CEO of S.L. Williamson Company, one of the driving forces to hire Richard in 1981, presented Richard a commemorative pen.

In his brief remarks, Richard spoke of how quickly time had gone by and what a pleasure it has been working in Virginia.

Ron White, Recognition Well Deserved

Congratulations to Ron White of Superior Paving Corp. for receiving a lifetime achievement award from the Heavy Construction Contractors Alliance (HCCA). Ron was recognized at a special program and dinner held at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel on September 21, 2011. Jim Mitchell, President of Superior Paving presided over the ceremonies where numerous fans and admirers spoke at length about Ron’s many achievements on behalf of the asphalt industry during his career. Among the guest speakers present to congratulate Ron were: Delegate Tom Rust; Charlie Luck, Luck Stone; Mike Post, Shirley Contracting; Bob Surface, Superior Paving; Ron’s son David, also from Superior Paving and the award presenter, Doug Coleman, HCCA President. A congratulatory letter from Senator Mark Warner was also presented to Ron as part of the ceremonies. Ron’s many achievements serving the asphalt industry and his company are too numerous to list here but have been summarized in an excellent biographical booklet that was put together for the occasion. Numerous pictures of Ron at various stages of his career as well as his family are included along with congratulations from many companies that had the privilege of knowing and working with Ron over the years.
Spec Change and Policy Highlights for 2012

A new paving season will include several new special provisions or changes to existing special provisions. Many of these changes were highlighted at the Fall Asphalt Conference. The VAA has been working with VDOT since the Spring on numerous changes to special provisions and policies.

The Materials related changes were presented by Mr. Tommy Schinkel, P.E.—VDOT’s Asphalt Program Manager. New or changes for 2012 include:

♦ SM-4.75 special provision
♦ Updates to Table II-14A
♦ Modifications to the gradation table for SMA
♦ Requirements for minimum two coarse aggregates for SMA
♦ Inclusion of RAS/RAP binder bumping tables
♦ High-Modulus High Binder mix design clarification
♦ Density testing frequency for asphalt patching
♦ Clarification of VST core process
♦ Non-Tracking Tack Coat use dates
♦ Revisions to the Type B, Class VI Tape, and
♦ Incorporation of Polyurea as Type B, Class VII material.

Mr. Don Silies outlined the non-materials related specification changes for 2012. Many of these changes are a result of cooperative, productive meetings between VDOT and VAA. These changes include:

♦ Increase in performance milling distance
♦ Allowance for full-width performance milling
♦ Language to eliminate run-on situations for high-speed roads
♦ Option to install loops in final or milled surface with 96 hours
♦ Payment and details for temporary pavement markings
♦ Removal of fixed Notice to Proceed date(s), and
♦ Application of ACOT-1 for plant mix schedules

Finally, Mr. Ray Khoury, P.E.—State Traffic Engineer, outlined the changes to the pavement marking policy. Most notably was the provision to allow the districts to use durable pavement marking materials for the edge lines on interstates. All presentations can be found on the VAA website: vaasphalt.org

VAA PRESENTS PAPERS at WMA CONFERENCE

The International WMA Conference was held October 11-13 in St. Louis, Missouri with over 550 attendees from 45 states. 45 Papers were presented covering topics from Health, Environment & Performance to RAP & WMA. Richard Schreck (VAA Executive VP), co-presented a paper with Brian Prowell (Advanced Materials Services, Inc), on Lab Evaluation of Foamed Asphalt. Trenton Clark, (VAA Director of Engineering), presented a paper on VDOT’s Rapid Implementation of WMA. One key point of the conference was that WMA is the future of asphalt, providing both construction benefits and enhanced working conditions. Implementation is rapidly occurring in the U.S. and interest in other countries is growing.

Member News and Notes

Welcome to our newest VAA members: Epoplex, headquartered in Maple Shade, NJ provides pavement marking materials. Landsaver Environmental located in Richmond installs various geosynthetic products. Asphalt Emulsions, Inc., headquartered in Richmond with terminals in Richmond, Manassas, Newport News, Dumfries, Dunn (NC) and Morehead City (NC) provides various asphalt products. Dunn Company, located in Decatur, Illinois, provides pavement rehabilitation/recycling services.

Asphalt Field and Plant School Registration is now open. The class schedule can be found at www.virginia dot.org/business/matschools.asp. Participants can enroll at https://Virtualcampus.vdot.virginia.gov/external. Enroll now before all classes are filled.

VAA Environmental Workshop will be held on December 1st, 2011, for producer, milling & placement members. The workshop location is the Jefferson Hotel, in Richmond VA. John Ro- land, VAA’s Director of Environmental Affairs, will discuss policies and the impacts on the asphalt industry. Contact the VAA Office to register or go to our website at vaasphalt.org.

Mark Your Calendar

♦ SEAUPG Annual Meeting Savannah, GA November 14-17
♦ VAA Environmental Work shop Richmond, VA December 1
♦ Governor ’s Transportation Conference Norfolk, VA December 7-9
♦ NAPA Annual Meeting Palm Desert, CA January 21-25, 2012
♦ TRB Annual Meeting Washington DC January 22–26, 2012
♦ VDOT Asphalt Seminar Joint VAA/VDOT Seminar Fredericksburg, VA February 21, 2012
♦ VDOT Asphalt Seminar Joint VAA/VDOT Seminar Richmond, VA March 1, 2012
♦ VDOT Asphalt Seminar Joint VAA/VDOT Seminar Blacksburg, VA March 6, 2012
♦ VAA Annual Meeting White Sulphur Springs, WV April 12–14, 2012
♦ VAA Fall Asphalt Conference Richmond, VA October 1-3, 2012
♦ VAA Invitational Golf Tournament Richmond, VA. October 3, 2012

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Ozone Rule Delayed

The Obama administration, under pressure from congress and industry, has directed EPA to put off its decision on lowering the ozone standard. Reducing the standard, which is currently set at 75 ppb, would have major cost implications for industry as much of Virginia would have been put into a non-attainment status and additional pollution controls might have to be implemented from many sources including asphalt plants. A number of environmental and health related groups have sued EPA over the decision. The new ozone standard will be revisited in two years and a recommendation on how low the standard will go will be made at that time. There are new hourly standards for several precursors of ozone that may in practice cause industry to deal with the ozone issue sooner. Monitoring stations have been set up in high traffic areas to determine if there are local hourly standard violations.

New EPA Standards

The EPA has opened a public comment period on new secondary air standards for nitrogen and sulfur oxides. Secondary standards for air are designed to protect the environment and are in addition to primary air standards which protect the public health. A final rule is expected to be announced by March, 2012.

Petition Denied

The Virginia Air Pollution Control Board (VAPCB) denied a petition filed earlier this summer that would have required the Virginia to implement greenhouse gas emissions controls under a specific timeline. The vote was 5-2 against the petitioners. Whether an appeal of the decision will be pursued is unknown at this time.

“Coffee, Cell Phones & Asphalt”

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has issued a final ruling on the exposure risks of asphalt fumes. The decision comes after over 15 years of research. The IARC monograph process lists 5 possible outcomes for substances they review. The breakdown is as follows: 1) carcinogenic to humans; 2a) probably carcinogenic to humans; 2b) possibly carcinogenic to humans; 3) non-classifiable; 4) probably doesn’t cause cancer in humans. Paving asphalt falls into one of the lower risk exposure classifications—“2b) possibly carcinogenic to humans”. Many low risk items such as coffee and cell phones are lumped into this category. The IARC was unable to link any cancers from asphalt fumes to paving crew members. This is very good news for asphalt paving personnel.

US House vs. EPA

The House of Representatives recently passed a bill that would delay or scrap EPA’s implementation of a number of air pollution rules. The bill requires President Obama to set up a cabinet level committee to evaluate a number of recent EPA regulations to determine their cost to industry and the economy. Regulations that would be impacted include greenhouse gas emissions; NOx standards and controls on power plants; and toxic air emissions. The bill now moves to the Senate where it is expected to be challenged by democrats. The President has also threatened to veto the legislation.

Waste Oil Sulfur

DEQ has begun to include a new limitation in some air permits that restricts the amount of sulfur in waste oil to 0.2%. The previous max was 0.5%. The rationale being employed by DEQ is that as more and more of the low sulfur content fuels are being recycled, the percent sulfur should decline as well. A quick check of waste oil certifications from suppliers indicates that the used oil does not always meet the 0.2% limitation. Waste Oil Suppliers and/or asphalt producers obtaining new air permits should check to see whether this potential new restriction is a problem.

SPCC Reminder

The EPA has not extended the deadline for updating Spill Prevention Control Countermeasure (SPCC) plans. After a number of years of delay during which negotiations with industry took place, EPA finalized the deadline of November 10, 2011. Companies must now proceed with any required changes to their plans. DEQ’s oil pollution rules are still similar to the SPCC plan.

GHG Controls

EPA has determined that greenhouse gases (GHG) are subject to permitting and as a result, DEQ will have to incorporate best available control technologies (BACT) into permits. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is beginning its planning process for the implementation of greenhouse gas emission control rules. It will take at least several years for the agency to gear up for a rather significant permitting process to add carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to air permits across the state. Since CO2 emission reductions will be difficult to achieve with add on pollution controls, emphasis is likely to be placed on energy efficiency as the primary method to lower GHG levels. The VAA will be monitoring the progress of the GHG implementation process as it is being developed to determine its impact on the asphalt industry.