VDOT ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF ENGINEER

Reprinted from VDOT Website

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) announced today that Garrett W. Moore, P.E., will be the agency’s new chief engineer. Moore has a lifetime of experience in the engineering field, including leading VDOT’s Northern Virginia and Staunton districts. “Garrett brings incredible knowledge, experience and sound judgment to a very challenging role in the agency,” said VDOT Commissioner Greg Whirley. “Garrett has what it takes to lead VDOT’s construction and maintenance program, making it better for the millions of people who drive Virginia’s roads every day.” Moore will be accountable for the quality, cost and timeliness of all engineering plans associated with VDOT construction projects. He will also be in charge of the maintenance and operations program of the third-largest state-maintained highway system in the country.

APA Launches New Website

The Asphalt Pavement Alliance kicks off its Asphalt FACTS campaign to help raise public awareness about the many benefits of asphalt pavements. The Asphalt FACTS campaign is centered on a new web site, www.AsphaltFACTS.com, which highlights the truth about all the benefits of asphalt pavements. The site offers a wealth of links to other asphalt resources. The new site will be promoted through print advertising in trade magazines, social media campaigns, and other education efforts.

2013 REGIONAL VDOT ASPHALT SEMINARS BEGIN

Since 2010, VAA and VDOT have hosted a series of asphalt seminars across the Commonwealth. Initially developed to educate VDOT, Contractor, Municipal and Consultant personnel on the changes to the asphalt program which resulted from the Blueprint, they have evolved into a forum for various asphalt-related topics.

The first seminar will be held in Richmond on February 21, 2013. Registration begins at 8:30. The program runs from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm and includes lunch and breaks. During the five hour period, the following topics will be discussed:

- 2013 General Specification Changes
- 2013 Asphalt Related Specification Changes

In addition to these topics, FHWA Area Engineers will discuss topics such as the new federal transportation bill (MAP-21) and their observations on federally funded construction and maintenance projects.

To make attendance easy for everyone, two more seminars are scheduled in Fredericksburg (February 28) and Blacksburg (March 7).

To register for the seminar’s (for non-VDOT personnel) visit the VAA website at www.vaasphalt.org, VDOT personnel register using VDOTU.
VAA Annual Meeting Approaches

For the 62nd year, the VAA will be holding its spring Annual Meeting. This year, the VAA will be visiting the beautiful Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst NC. The meeting will begin on Thursday, March 21, and conclude at noon on Saturday, March 23.

Pinehurst Resort, one of the premier golf resorts in the world, will be hosting the 2014 US Open on the famed Course #2. Take advantage of coming to the meeting early or staying an extra day to enjoy this course as well as the others. If you are not a golfer, the resort has numerous activities including horseback riding, lawn games, and a spa. Nearby in the village are numerous quaint shops and museums. The meeting begins with a welcome reception, to be held on Thursday evening. On Friday morning, current VAA President Monty Gatewood will welcome the delegates and VDOT guests to the meeting. VAA Executive Vice President Richard Schreck will review the past year for the VAA as well as future initiatives. The remainder of the morning will be spent discussing various transportation topics with VDOT Senior Management. On Friday evening, a reception and banquet dinner will be held at Centennial #8 Dining Room.

Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton and others will join us on Saturday morning. They will be discussing the results of the 2013 General Assembly Session and the impacts on transportation. Concluding the Saturday morning session will be the VAA Members Only Meeting.

For late evening relaxing, the VAA will host a hospitality suite in the Villa Suite from 9:00 pm to midnight on Thursday & Friday.

To sign-up for the Annual Meeting, visit the VAA website www.vaasphalt.org or contact the VAA office. Meeting registration ends February 13, 2013.

Governor’s Conference

If attendance is any indication of success, then the 2012 Governor’s Transportation Conference was extremely successful. Over 1,000 attendees and numerous exhibitors crowded the Sheraton Premiere Hotel in Tysons Corner to hear from Governor Bob McDonnell, Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton and other leaders in the transportation industry.

Gov. McDonnell opened the conference on Wednesday afternoon December 5th. In his speech, he cited many transportation accomplishments during his administration including the Dulles Metrorail, truck climbing lanes on I-81, and HOT lanes projects. In addition, he stated the need for additional dedicated transportation funding. In the coming weeks, he will begin to outline his proposals.

After the Governor’s speech, the remainder of Wednesday afternoon was focused on transportation agency initiatives and funding from the industry’s perspective. Thursday and Friday morning sessions covered a wide variety of topics ranging from economics and funding to retooling the transportation message and research. Finally, the conference concluded with a presentation and discussion on the upcoming General Assembly Session.

No dates or location for the 2013 Governor’s Conference have been decided.

NCAT Visit

For the first time in the life of the NCAT Test Track, VDOT participated in a track status meeting as a track sponsor. Held December 18th and 19th at the NCAT facility located in Auburn, Alabama, NCAT researchers reviewed the construction of the track test sections, provided an overview of each section, and displayed some initial testing results.

During the Summer of 2012, NCAT built 5 test sections for VDOT—2 quiet asphalt surfaces and 3 structural sections, based on VDOT specifications and requirements. Once constructed, these and other sections of
NAPA’s 58th Annual Meeting

NAPA has set the theme for its 2013 Annual Meeting: “The New Now: Your Solutions. Your Decisions. Your Future.” In today’s world, big forces are causing rapid shifts that no one can predict or control. The New Now is characterized by dynamic environments in which leaders must develop new approaches and new ways of thinking. Let NAPA guide you and your business through today’s unstable landscape.

The 2013 Annual Meeting will be held at The Phoenician, in Scottsdale, Arizona, February 9-13. Nestled under Camelback Mountain, the Phoenician offers breath-taking views, nine relaxing pools, 27-hole championship golf course and one of the country’s premier resort spas. Take advantage of this learning and networking opportunity by joining other NAPA members and industry personnel at the NAPA Annual Meeting.

www.asphaltpavement.org

(VAASPHALT)  (Information provided by NAPA)

Virginia Cold Pavement Recycling Conference

What is one of the hottest trends in pavement construction—cold pavement recycling! Cold pavement recycling reuses existing materials to form a new pavement structure. VDOT, like many other transportation agencies in the United States and around the World, have embraced cold recycling methods to conserve natural resources and in many cases reduce construction costs.

On November 26 - 27, VDOT and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute hosted the Virginia Cold Pavement Recycling Conference in Richmond. This conference was the first step in a multi-step plan to educate VDOT employees and contractors regarding cold recycling.

Day 1 of the conference focused on the bigger picture of cold pavement recycling and research underway. Several nationally and internationally recognized experts spoke including Mr. John Bukowski of FHWA, Dr. Stephen Cross of the Pavement Recycling and Reclaiming Center, and Dr. Buzz Powell of NCAT.

Day 2 dealt with the “nuts and bolts” of cold pavement recycling. Several different speakers presented on various topics. In the morning sessions, three notable presentations were given. Ms. Sohila Bemanian, formerly of the Nevada Department of Transportation, described the NDOT’s pavement recycling program and their experiences. Mr. Tim Aschenbrener described the procedure for choosing the right process to meet the agency’s needs. Finally, Ms. Stephanie Drain of S. Drain Engineering of Illinois described what to expect during construction and how to inspect the projects.

During the afternoon session, Mr. Andy Babish—VDOT State Materials Engineer, reviewed the VDOT specifications and guidelines regarding recycling. Mr. Trenton Clark—VAA Director of Engineering, covered lessons learned from the industry on VDOT recycling projects. Mr. Mike Wells—VDOT Pavement Engineer, reviewed the VDOT lessons learned on the same projects. Finally, Chief Engineer Mal Kerley moderated a panel discussion where various questions were posed.

The next training steps for the recycling initiative are detailed project review and targeted training.

VAA Annual Meeting Golf Tournament

Do you like playing where golf champions have played? The Pinehurst Resort offers that opportunity. This year’s tournament will be held on Course #8 at Pinehurst Resort, March 22, 2013. Each team has the opportunity to select their own players or you can let the VAA staff place you in a foursome. The VAA has reserved 12 tee-times for 48 golfers. This will be a straight-up golf tournament with no handicapping or other equalization provisions. The winning team will be featured in the next VAA Asphalt News and on the VAA website.

To join in the fun, sign-up through the VAA website: www.vaasphalt.org or by contacting the VAA office. The cost per player is $250.

If one day of golf just isn’t enough, the VAA has reserved 16 additional tee times for play on Course #7. These tee times are on Saturday, March 23rd, and begin at 1:33pm. Each will be assigned on a first come, first served basis, so don’t wait to register!
Open Burning

Responsibility for obtaining approvals for construction site open burning of debris will be transferred completely over to localities. DEQ will develop a model open burning ordinance for use by localities. Additionally, DEQ will be working with VDOT to develop a memo of understanding regarding road work open burning in ozone non-attainment areas. It is expected to take several years to implement all of the changes.

AST & UST Financial Responsibility

The Virginia Water Control Board has approved a DEQ staff recommendation that facilities with above ground and underground storage tanks have the ability to certify their financial responsibility (ensuring they have the necessary resources) to clean up oil spills by using a certificate of deposit. This eliminates the need to obtain a letter of credit (LOC) from financial institutions to satisfy the requirement. The measure is not expected to be controversial when put out to public notice. The action gives oil storage tank operators and owners more flexibility to meet the requirement and eliminates the need for an LOC which may have fees associated with it. The financial responsibility requirement can be found at 9VAC 25-590. Members can find a summary of the current financial responsibility requirements by contacting VAA.

NCAT Visit  

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EPA Lowers PM 2.5 Standard

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has imposed a 20% lower PM 2.5 ambient air standard to provide additional health benefits for the public. The new standard is 12 µg/M³ and replaces the old standard of 15 µg/M³. Virginia’s air monitoring data for PM 2.5 is still below the new standard in all parts of the state.

Northern Virginia’s data when combined with the rest of metropolitan Washington D.C. has had numbers in the past above the standard and the state is petitioning EPA to remove the non-attainment designation as recent data demonstrates compliance with the standard. The new ruling is not expected to impact Virginia industry, at least in the short term.

Pink Power Paving

Reprint from Asphalt Pro, Article by John Ball

Of the more than 1000 trucks that Lane Construction Corp. owns, this one that Virginia Paving Company ordered at the beginning of 2012 is special. It represents the divisions open commitment to helping raise awareness of breast cancer and the general health of all employees. Driver Kendra Speller takes good care of her vehicle. Regular maintenance is as important for machinery as it is for healthy employees. As the date draws near, Virginia Paving crews put a sign on the truck advertising the 2012 Komen Tidewater Race for the Cure.

www.vaasphalt.org
Air Permit Guidance

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has issued new guidance and boilerplate procedures for permit writers to use for hot mix asphalt plants. The procedures were released in November, 2012. The only significant change is the inclusion of a new PCB detection limit of 2 ppm for waste oil that will now be included in any new or modified air permits. Existing permits will not be modified but it is recommended that members receive a certification from waste oil suppliers stipulating that the product is below the new detection level.

Contact VAA for the new procedures on boilerplate.

Other News and Notes

Lisa Jackson, the EPA Administrator will be leaving her post in January. She has been very aggressive in pursuing green energy and has been particularly hard on the coal industry. Industry representatives are hopeful that President Obama will fill the vacant position with a more business-friendly Administrator. Bob Perciasepe, the Deputy Administrator, will run the agency until a new appointee is named.

Blake Banks, recent graduate of Auburn University with a BS degree in Business Admin and Supply Chain Management is looking for employment in the asphalt industry. He has experience working for both Mobile Asphalt Company and Banks Construction Company. For a copy of his resume, contact Caroline Fahed at cfahed@vaasphalt.com

Virginia Paving Company’s Alexandria plant, the first VEEP member from the paving industry, was recognized for its recent E3 acceptance. Virginia Paving is currently featured on the DEQ website.

Member News

The law firms of Kasimer & Annino, P.C. and Rees Broome, P.C. are pleased to announce that the firms have combined effective January 1, 2013 and will continue membership in the VAA under the name of Rees Broome, P.C. Joseph H. Kasimer, Esq. will continue to be the representative of Rees Broome, P.C. and will maintain his active involvement in VAA. Rees Broome, P.C. has offices in Tysons Corner and Gainesville, Virginia and Bethesda, Maryland and will become part of the Kasimer & Annino, P.C.’s Loudoun County location. Rees Broome, P.C. has a wide ranging business law practice which includes corporate, transactional, tax, estate planning, real estate and bankruptcy representation, in addition to a substantial construction law practice which will combine all of the attorneys presently at Kasimer & Annino, P.C. with Rees Broome, P.C.’s construction attorneys. The new address is 1900 Gallows Road, Suite 700, Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182, telephone 703-790-1911, facsimile 703-848-2530. Traffic Safety Supplies, Inc., a sister company of Payne’s Parking Designs, Inc., is offering VDOT Work Zone Traffic Control Training Certification (both basic and intermediate) and ATSSA Flagger training and Certification. These classes are being held at the TSS Training office, 5313 Ritchie Rd, Bealeton, VA 22712. Various training dates are available for each class starting in January and running through May of 2013. For more information: (540)439-6595, www.tssincva.com/traffic-control or info@tssincva.com

A Little Bit of Humor

A bit of humor makes life much easier. Help VAA celebrate the lighter side of things...watch the VAA Asphalt News for upcoming information on our new photo contest and the launch of the new VAA website!
Retirements
Over the last three months of 2012, VDOT lost over 110 years of experience through the retirement of three individuals who have worked closely with VAA and the asphalt industry.

Malcolm Kerley retired from VDOT on December 31. Mal served as VDOT’s Chief Engineer from 2004 until his retirement. During his tenure as Chief Engineer, several major advancements with asphalt were made including: competitive industry designs, increased RAP percentages, and implementation of warm mix asphalt. Mal had over 41 years with VDOT.

Connie Sorrell retired from VDOT in late October. Connie served as VDOT’s Chief of Systems Operations since 2004. Prior to that role, she served in various capacities for VDOT over a 30 year career.

Welford King retired from VDOT in late December. Welford was VDOT’s specification engineer in the Scheduling and Contracts Division. Welford retired after 43 years.

2013 Plant Mix Schedules
After several years of record plant mix schedules, VDOT’s 2013 plant mix lettings have been reduced. VDOT anticipates the maintenance schedules (plant mix, surface treatment and slurry seal) to be valued between $300 and $350 million—$100 to $150 million less than the previous two years. The reduction in funding reflects the lack of state and federal funding to address the pavement needs. Many of the interstate and primary routes are at or above the overall performance threshold; however, many of the secondary routes are in deficient condition.

The majority of plant mix schedule bids are due on two dates—January 23 and 30. However, NOVA District will have plant mix bids on February 27 as well.

While the 2013 schedules are a reduction, they are still higher than years 2010 and prior. VDOT hopes to realize savings from winter maintenance activities and receive additional federal funds in order to advertise more schedules later in the Spring.

Quality Assurance Workshop
The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host the 46th Annual Quality Assurance Workshop in Williamsburg February 5—7. QAW sessions will cover topics ranging from asphalt materials and maintenance to soils and metals.

On February 6th, there will be a day long breakout session related to asphalt. Presentations in this session will cover asphalt binder testing, mixture testing, and production/placement. Dr. Randy West—NCAT Director, will be discussing the results of the High RAP/RAS research. Mr. David White—Superior Paving, and Mr. David Shiells—NOVA VDOT, will review the successful I-66 rehabilitation project. Mr. Trenton Clark—VAA Director of Engineering, will discuss the MEPDG.

On Call Paving and Patching Contracts
In 2013 VDOT will be advertising two new contracts: on-call paving and on-call patching, for use by the VDOT Districts and Residencies. These contracts will be advertised by the Construction Division in the early spring.

Unlike emergency patching and hired equipment contracts advertised through the Administrative Service Division, contractors responding to the advertisement must be prequalified and bonded. These contracts will be similar to maintenance schedule contracts with a Volume 1 and Volume 2. Volume 1 will contain district/residency specific information; Volume 2 will contain the relevant special provisions and copied notes.

On-call paving contracts will be used to address roads not on an existing paving schedule and is in need of repair, primarily due to winter break-up. On-call paving will be used where the paving limits exceed 500 feet and a minimum of one lane width. These contracts will include other items such as guardrail repair and pavement marking as well. For each activity, quantities will be established for bidding purposes. Paving will be bid by the ton for different categories of tonnage.

On-call patching contracts will be used for mechanized and “throw and roll” patching. The type of patching will depend on the size of the failure. Mechanized patches will be performed with an asphalt paver and appropriately sized roller for compaction per specification. “Throw and roll” patching may be completed with various materials from VDOT’s approved products list. The residency or area headquarters will specify what material is used to repair the pot-holes.

It is anticipated these contracts will be the primary mechanism for districts to make emergency repairs and higher quality repairs.