Notes From The Director

My apologies for the May issue getting out so late but I decided to take a little vacation this month, which put me somewhat behind schedule.

PCANY held it’s Spring 2015 meeting in Albany on April 23 and I am proud to announce our new slate of officers for the 2015-2016 term:

Immediate Past President — Todd Clarke, Lakelands Concrete Products
President— Bob Willis, LHV Precast
Vice President—Kevin Balachick, Binghamton Precast & Supply Corp.
Secretary—George Schramm, Oldcastle Precast
Associate Member Director—Jim Valent, A. L. Patterson
Professional Member Director—Kim Kvassay, Delta Engineers, Architects, and land Surveyors, PC
Septic Tank Producer Member Director—Michael Kistner, Kistner Concrete Products

For the afternoon session we welcomed NYSDOT representatives from Materials, Structures, and Geotech bureaus for discussions on a variety of topics related to quality control, design, and production.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Mertensia Road Culvert Replacement

Submitted by Ginal Latham of Lakelands Concrete Products

This project is located on Mertensia Road in the town of Farmington and consisted of fifteen (15) sections of 3-sided precast rigid frame bridge units that replaced a 15’ diameter structural plate pipe culvert original constructed in the 1930’s. The frame units were installed on cast-in-place footings that were anchored to bedrock some 20’ below grade. Construction began with a road closure in August 2014 and was completed in just three months thanks to the use of quality prefabricated concrete elements from Lakelands Concrete Products in Lima, NY. Traffic was detoured through Route 96, Route 332, and County Rd 41 during construction.

Much of the funding for this $700,000 project was provided by CHIPS (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program). Other sources include the VLT (Video Lottery Terminal) Impact Aid Program and the town’s highway budget.

3-Sided elements such as this are typically shipped on their sides then rotated at the project site for installation. This process requires meticulous attention to rigging and the placement of lift anchors during the design process.

Project Credits:
Owner: Town of Farmington, NY Division of Highways and Parks
Engineer: MRB Group, Rochester, NY
Contractor: Economy Paving Co., Inc., Cortland, NY
Precast Manufacturer: Lakelands Concrete Products, Lima, NY
ASTM Issues New Standard for Fabricated Metal Hatches

Fabricated metal hatches are used in many precast applications such as pump stations, valve and meter vaults, electrical, and other utility manhole structures. Hatches come in a variety of sizes and are typically made of either aluminum alloy or structural steel elements. Hatches are also subject to a wide variety of load bearing applications from light pedestrian to vehicular traffic to aircraft.

ASTM C1802-14 “Standard Specification for The Design, Testing, Manufacture, Selection, and Installation of Fabricated Metal Access Hatches for Utility, Water, and Wastewater Structures” is a new standard that attempts to sort through the complexities of selecting the proper hatch for any given application and provide a uniform standard for design, material properties, fabrication, testing and quality control. This ASTM standard also contains a long list of over 40 optional features to consider when specifying a fabricated hatch.

Several diagrams are included to assist designers in selecting the selecting the appropriate design load. For instance, is the hatch located in an area where it will be subject to repeated traffic loads or do you just need to ensure that it holds up should it see an occasional wheel? While the wheel load resistance may be the same between the two products, the design for repeated traffic loads will require considerations for impact loading and fatigue and will also come at a greater cost.

This standard was developed under the jurisdiction of ASTM Subcommittee C27.10, Precast Concrete Utility Structures and will be included in the next Book of Standards Volume 04.05. Designers are encouraged to obtain this standard and update their specifications accordingly.
New York Water Environment Association...
Will hold its Spring 2015 Technical Conference, June 1-3 at the Sagamore Hotel, Bolton Landing, Lake George, NY. (Information)

ACI CNY Announces Design and Installation Awards
The Central New York Chapter of ACI congratulated its award winners at a banquet last month but you can view them on their website (2014 Awards)

PCA Campaigning for Stricter Fire Codes
In the wake of the tragic Avalon Bay Edgewater Fire in New Jersey last year, the Portland Cement Association is leading the charge for the use of passive firewalls for Type 3 and Type 5 construction in NJ. Anyone interested in more information on this issue can contact Lizette Strait at lstrait@cement.org

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