



AORS

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE. PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING June 26, 2020, Held by videoconference

For AORS Update at Local Association Meetings

1. Meeting Attendance – The Board of Directors meeting was held on Friday, June 26, 2020. Due to restrictions on group gatherings as a result of COVID-19, the meeting was held as a videoconference, with 19 Directors and 5 staff in attendance. The Board had also met, once by a special email ballot on March 5, and again by teleconference on March 23, to address urgent matters arising from the pandemic. The decisions made at those special meetings were ratified at the June 26 meeting. A Local Association Workshop that had been scheduled for June 25 was cancelled.

2. Passing of Past President, Terry Reid – The Board paid respects to Past President Terry Reid who passed away on May 27, 2020. Terry represented the former Kent County Road Superintendents Association, now the Chatham Kent Road Association. He served two consecutive terms as AORS President, in 1986 and 1987.

3. Traffic Safety on Municipal Roads – The Board endorsed the formation of a new standing committee, yet to be named, to provide a forum for sharing information and addressing issues common to municipal roads departments. A topic that was proposed was the issue of traffic safety, and a request from one Director for sample Terms of Reference for a Traffic Safety Working Group that their municipality was implementing. Any members who have a ToR they would be willing to share, or who would be interested in serving on the new standing committee, please contact John Maheu.

4. Marketing & Communications – The Board also endorsed the formation of a new standing committee to provide direction on marketing and communications. Its purpose will be to promote the Association, our products and services, and strengthen our communications. It will encompass the existing Booth & Promotions Committee, but with a broader mandate. Again, any member who would be interested in serving on the Marketing & Communications Committee is asked to contact John Maheu. As might be expected, most of the trade shows, conferences and other events where AORS would normally have a presence have been cancelled, so some different tactics are needed to keep AORS top of mind among our members and stakeholders.

5. Joint AORS / DSAO Task Group – An exploratory meeting was held between members of AORS and the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario (DSAO) to discuss the formation of a Joint Task Group to discuss common issues and opportunities to work together and cross-promote the two organizations.

6. Local Association Meetings and Events – Local Associations were forced to cancel most in-person meetings and other events since the pandemic struck. Some are exploring virtual meetings and other ways for members to continue to meet and network. AORS has purchased a Zoom license that allows for extended meetings of larger groups, and is willing to work with any LAs that might need assistance to host a virtual meeting.

7. AORS 60th Anniversary – AORS will be marking its 60th Anniversary in 2021. A working group has been formed to plan the celebrations. Members are invited to sit on the working group, or to contribute any historical artifacts or information they feel would be of interest.

8. AORS Municipal Public Works Trade Show – As previously reported, the Board decided to cancel the 2020 Trade Show, and that the 2020, 2021 and 2022 shows would each be postponed by one year so the planning committees could continue working on their respective event, albeit one year later. The Board also authorized staff to explore the viability a Virtual Trade Show to replace the in-person event this year. Work is underway, and if feasible, it will be launched this fall.

9. Spotlight Directory – The Spotlight Committee got an early start on the 2021 edition. With no trade show or other events to promote the directory, and many companies struggling as a result of the pandemic, it will be a challenging year to secure new ads and renewals. All members are encouraged to promote ads to any supplier they deal with, and any member who secures a new ad for 2021 will be entered into a draw for a \$1000 gift card.

10. Education Committee – All spring training sessions scheduled since mid-March were either cancelled or rescheduled to the fall. Several training programs offered by Groundforce have been shifted to an online format. Traffic Control and the Public Works Leadership Development Program will also be shifted to live webinars for delivery in the fall. The cancellation of the spring PWLDP sessions as well as the Guelph Road School by OGRA resulted in a significant drop in applications for CRS certification.

11. Advance Newsletter – With few spring events to report on, and to control costs, the spring edition of the Advance Newsletter was cancelled. Plans are to proceed with a fall edition. Members and Local Associations are encouraged to share any news or events that would be of interest to your fellow members. A survey will be issued to solicit information on how municipal public works departments have coped with the pandemic. All members are encouraged to participate.

12. AORS Provincial Safety Truck Rodeo – Since most if not all Local Associations cancelled their local rodeos, it was decided to cancel the Provincial Championship that was scheduled for September 16. District 8, who would have hosted, will now host the 2021 Provincial Rodeo in Napanee.

13. Finances – With the cancellation of the Trade Show and most spring training sessions, revenues have been significantly impacted. While the Association should have sufficient reserves to survive the pandemic, cost control measures are being implemented and alternate revenue sources are being explored (e.g. Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy, Canadian Emergency Bank Account, Online Training, Virtual Trade Show) to mitigate the impact. In spite of these fiscal constraints, AORS is adapting and innovating to ensure we can continue to deliver quality services and meet the needs of our members.

14. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is currently scheduled for October 2, 2020, tentatively to be held in Grand Bend. The annual Directors – Suppliers meeting and golf are usually held the day before. A decision is pending on whether they can proceed, or if only the meetings will be held, and if in person or by videoconference.