



Minutes
CISCO Legislative Committee
Monday, January 9, 2012
Concrete Contractors Association Office, Oak Brook, IL.
Start Time 7:30AM

CISCO Executive Director John Brining welcomed everyone to the meeting. Evan Williams asked for a review of the Minutes from the November 7, 2011 Legislative Committee Meeting. Being that no changes were necessary, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

Discussion Items

HB1955/Amends Public Utility Act - Tim Leahy began discussion of the first item and distributed a copy of HB1955 - proposed legislation that amends the Public Utility Act. This legislation will provide clarity to the valuation and rate making process when a private water utility acquires a public or private water system. It removes roadblocks which deter water and wastewater utilities, with proven expertise, from acquiring and improving other water and wastewater utilities. This legislation provides needed alternatives to communities who desperately need to upgrade their water and wastewater systems.

Of significant importance to the group was inclusion of language regarding project labor agreements to address the interests of union construction. In section (L) of the bill, it states “Any new water or sewer facilities built as a result of the acquisition shall require the contractor to enter into a project labor agreement.”

As a result, a motion was made by SJ Peters that the CISCO Legislative Committee support HB1955. The motion was seconded by Tom Villanova and unanimously approved. A copy of the proposed legislation will be sent to the CISCO Board for their approval during the upcoming CISCO Board meeting on January 27, noting the Legislative Committee’s recommendation.

Gaming Expansion – Tom Villanova updated the group by saying that Governor Quinn’s objection to including slot machines at the racetracks in Illinois is the major stumbling block to this legislation. Although the Governor favors the addition of a Chicago casino, which Mayor Rahm Emanuel wants badly, the bill would lose support of many legislators who are in favor of the slots at the tracks.

The loss of support would jeopardize, Tom said, \$500 million in construction at race tracks that would also be covered under PLAs. Tom stated that two of the track owners have gone on record as saying that their tracks would close in 12 to 18 months if they don’t get slot machines.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SERVICE CORPORATION

III-FFC Constitutional Amendment – No further information was available on the efforts of III-FFC to create a construction fund “lock-box” as a result of this proposed constitutional amendment.

Public Act 96-1416 (CCDD)– Scott Dworschak stated that no changes had occurred since the last meeting regarding this issue. The monitoring and testing of dirt and materials as they leave construction sites is adding costs, as the loads are then tested again as they enter landfills. The Pollution Control Board has had 18 months to write the rules adding to the frustration.

Cypress Creek – Evan Williams began the discussion on the effort that is underway to overturn the Illinois Supreme Court ruling which effectively changed a 100-year statute. In the event of a foreclosure, the old Mechanics Lien Act provided compensation to the lenders/banks on the value of the property *before* improvements were made and to contractors on the value of the project *after* improvements were made. The new ruling, called Cypress Creek, gives the lenders/banks the lion’s share of all of the funds and very little is left for the contractors.

HB 3636 is focused on returning the Act to where it was prior to the Cypress Creek ruling. SJ distributed brochures that are aimed at educating legislators to the devastating impacts of the new ruling. The information is being used to build proponents. As a result, a motion was made by Jim McGlynn to support the proposed legislation to overturn the ruling. The motion was seconded by Tom Villanova and was unanimously approved. A pdf of the brochure and an electronic file of the bill will be sent to CISCO Board members for their approval at the next meeting on Jan. 27th. John mentioned that the pdf of the brochure should also be sent to other building trades throughout the state to educate them on the effort involving HB 3636.

IMSCA Priorities – Evan followed up with a listing of their 2012 Legislative Priorities. In addition to the Cypress Creek plan, he mentioned monitoring a bill that would extend lien rights from 3 to 5 years on commercial projects, as well as watching SB 51, the new procurement code bill that is having extreme consequences on the ability of contractors to bid on Capital Development Board projects.

Workers Comp Insurance – A brief discussion occurred surrounding the CBWC pilot program that clarified the fact that the new Workers Comp Reform bill called for the Illinois Department of Labor to choose two labor organizations to participate in the pilot program. The Operator’s Engineers and the Ironworkers are on board already. An initiative is underway to try to expand it by allowing other building trades and contractor associations to be included in one of those previously approved pilot organizations. The CBWC pilot program is a work in progress, and the goal is for many of the building trades to participate in the pilot program.

Fisk & Crawford – Tom Villanova restated Chicago Alderman Joe Moore’s plan to close down both power plants. Tom said that a compromise is in the works that would only close Fisk in 2014 and allow Crawford to convert to gas by 2014 and remain operational.

Good of the Committee

John Brining mentioned that the approval of the 15-year, \$12 billion Tollway Capital Plan was a big coup for construction work as the plan will generate 120,000 permanent jobs and add \$21 billion to the economy. Along the same vein, he said that work continues in order to secure \$300 million in a federal transportation bill toward the Western Access to O’Hare road construction project. John said that the work would mean a large number of construction jobs, and millions in economic development for the region. He is participating in the Elgin O’Hare Western Bypass Finance Committee, which consists of regional mayors, city managers, county board chairmen, regional planning executives and representative from various local transportation organizations.

The next meeting date was scheduled for Monday, February 13th. There being no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Karafiat, Public Relations Director, CISCO

In Attendance: CISCO, Legislative Committee Meeting – Monday, November 7, 2011

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| 1. John Brining | Executive Director, CISCO |
| 2. Gary Karafiat | Public Relations Director, CISCO |
| 3. Evan Williams | Mechanical Contractors Association |
| 4. Tom Villanova | Chicago and Cook County Building Trades |
| 5. William Habel | IBEW, Local 701 |
| 6. Tim Leahy | American Water |
| 7. Tim Taylor | ECA |
| 8. Bob Morreale | CCAC |
| 9. S. J. Peters | PAMCANI |
| 10. Steve Schurch | Carpenters |
| 11. Marvin Jendro | IPTAP |
| 12. Jim McGlynn | McWilliams Electric Co., Inc./CISCO Board |
| 13. Scott Dworschak | UCA |
| 14. Sam Tipton | Chicago Decking, Inc. |