

Maine Winter Maintenance Roundtable Feedback Form

September 10, 2015 – Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center, Hallowell, Maine

Total evaluation forms returned = 54 forms

- **How would you rate the value you obtained by attending this event?
(n=50)**

1 (Very Low)	0	0%	
2	0	0%	
3	9	18%	
4	30	60%	
5 (Very High)	11	22%	High/very high = 82%

- **How would you rate the knowledge you gained from the speakers?
(n=54)**

1 (Very Low)	0	0%	
2	0	0%	
3	13	24%	
4	30	56%	
5 (Very High)	11	20%	High/very high = 76%

- **How would you specifically rate the session on the BMP Manual?
(n=54)**

1 (Very Low)	0	0%	
2	0	0%	
3	12	22%	
4	29	54%	
5 (Very High)	13	24%	High/very high = 78%

- **How would you specifically rate the case studies session?
(n=51)**

1 (Very Low)	0	0%	
2	1	2%	
3	13	25%	
4	30	59%	
5 (Very High)	7	14%	High/very high = 73%

- **How would you specifically rate the interactive discussion session?
(n=50)**

1 (Very Low)	0	0%	
2	2	4%	
3	4	8%	
4	34	68%	
5 (Very High)	7	14%	High/very high = 82%

- **What is at least one thing you plan to do differently over the next year as a result of what you learned at this roundtable?
(n=31 responses)**

Overall Planning (4)

- Be more involved in winter operation to help that division consider this a priority
- Promote use of matrix as part of work with towns on stream issues
- Take a close look at BMP list and do my best to implement a few
- Assess current ice mitigation practices and implement more of this BMP

Prewetting (5)

- Explore prewetting options
- Use prewetting
- Pre-wet more often
- Look at more effective pre-wetting
- Look into getting better pumps for pre-wetting equipment

Less/More Salt (5)

- Will try to use less salt and less salt in stream areas
- Less salt on sidewalks
- More salt
- Know what our rate of salt per ton per lane mile
- Look at how sand and salt are applied

Level of Service (LOS) Plan (4)

- Begin a level of service system
- Develop an LOS plan and put it on municipal website
- Create a level of service plan
- Try to develop a LOS policy

Pre/Post-storm Meetings (4)

- Pre/post storm discussions
- Pre- and post-storm meetings
- Pre- and post-storm meetings

Brine/Pre-Treatment (4)

- Looking into using brine
- Make salt brine
- Try to pre-treat
- Re-enforce pre-treatment

Calibration (3)

- Calibration
- Check calibration of equipment
- Better equipment calibration

Less sand (2)

- Encourage a shift away from sand
- Less sand
- Look at how sand and salt are applied

Temperature Sensors (1)

- Measure pavement temperatures

AVL (1)

- Try AVL/GPS

Public Education (1)

- Educate public on chloride impacts

No actions planned (1)

- Nothing

- **How important do you think it is to update the manual with the information we discussed here today/for contractors?**

(n=54)

1 (Not at all)	2	4%	
2	2	4%	
3	11	21%	
4	17	33%	
5 (Very)	20	38%	Important/Very Important = 71%

Comment: hould provide a municipal manual for municipalities and their contractors; private side should be separate

- **Would you be willing to participate in the updating of the manual (in some way such as planning, review, etc.)?**

Yes	16	32%
Not Sure	20	40%
No	14	28%

- **How important is it to develop a voluntary certification program in the State of Maine?**

1 (Not at all)	0	0%	
2	6	12%	
3	5	10%	
4	25	49%	
5 (Very)	15	29%	Important/Very Important = 78%

Comment: Should be a certification program for municipalities, municipal contractors and contractors

- **Would you be willing to participate in the development of a new voluntary certification program in the State of Maine (in some way, such as planning, review, etc.)?**

Yes	14	27%
Not Sure	14	27%
No	23	45%

Participants who volunteered to assist with the voluntary certification development effort: Al Pregraves, Kevin Doyle, Eric Dudley, DLessard, Brewer Public Works, David Ladd

- **What needs to change in order for your municipality/company/entity to adopt new (or updated) winter maintenance BMPs?**

Securing Buy-in

- Crews
 - Public works buy-in
 - Operator/driver buy-in
 - Staff perceptions
 - The decision to do so, commitment to seeing through and buy-in from crews on the road
- Council
 - Council buy-in
 - Selling it to councilors
- Participation

Reducing Resistance

- Come into this century and get everyone onboard
- Many employees are resistive to change
- The mindset of employees
- Change the mentality of the long-time employees who are unwilling to change

Documenting Cost Savings and Securing Funds

- Budget
- Washdown BMPs could be expensive
- Information/cost/decision-makers
- More money in budget
- Prove financial savings or service improvements

Training

- Training
- Education for the crew
- Better training and buy-in from entire crew

Education/Outreach

- More awareness about savings and legislative action
- Employee awareness
- Perception
- Public education

Liability

- Address liability

Leadership

- Leadership/culture needs to move this forward
- New management
- Talk to director and let him know your plan
- (Our organization is very receptive to progressive winter maintenance BMPs)

Other

- Easy access to materials
 - Time to work on implementation
 - Contractors need to not have a conflict of interest (My town contractor plows, but also supplies the town with sand. Which should he use?)
 - Salt priority and prewetting
 - Nothing (5)
 - TBD (1)
- **What other issues/efforts should partners working on winter maintenance focus efforts and resources on over the next 3 years?**

Voluntary Certification Program/Liability Protections

- Promoting legislation similar to NH
- Legislation involving stakeholders
- Make certification law
- Training/certification of contractors doing the sanding/salting/plowing or parking lots, especially near streams

Best Practices

- BMPs for private contractors
- Greater focus on conversion and awareness of BMPs
- Collaboration (compilation?) of ideas and techniques – good/bad
- Getting buy-in for BMPs

Other Training/Education

- Training
- Education of the public
- Expand/increase education on what is worse for environment – sand or salt?
- Training (e.g. snow fighter college for municipalities)

Measurements/Data

- Good data
- Chloride measurements in surface waters over time
- Measurement and costing

Product Use

- Reducing overall salt application
- Salt calibration – use what you need
- Less sand use
- Reduce salt use through implementation of BMPs. Also, start thinking about lowering level of service which will reduce sand/salt use too.
- Salt priority
- *Municipal use of salt, establish realistic LOS*

Planning

- Snow storage and plowing issues during project development

Technology

- GPS

- **How would you rate this facility (Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center)?**

(n=48)

1 (Poor)	0	0%	
2	0	0%	
3	2	4%	
4	12	25%	
6 5 (Excellent)	34	71%	Good/Excellent = 98%

- **What did you like best about this event?**

Interaction/Roundtable format

- Roundtable format
- Roundtable session (2)
- Talking roundtable
- Open discussion format
- Question and answers opportunities
- Good discussions
- Interactive roundtable (although it got sidetracked a bit)

- learning from the participants
- Interaction and the number of municipal groups attending
- The interaction
- Networking
- The clickers

Speakers

- Speakers and discussion
- Informative speakers
- Speakers were very good
- Hearing from the practitioners
- Hearing from people who have implemented new BMPs
- Hearing from the people who do the work!
- Speakers
- Interesting speakers and comfortable seating arrangements
- The speakers
- Presenters and lunch

Content

- Excellent overview of the issues
- Morning session
- Discussing BMPs
- The BMP book and roundtable
- Presentation and discussion of the BMPs; well prepared BMPs
- The BMP Manual

Organization

- Well-organized
- The right audience
- Participation by the operations people
- Location (2)
- Length

Case Studies

- The case studies

Certification Discussion

- Certification discussion

- **What did you like least about this event?**

Roundtable Content

- Discussing private contractor certification
- The length of the roundtable discussion
- Roundtable discussion – a bit misdirected to municipalities
- Rushed at times
- The length – afternoon discussion dragged on too long
- Uncomfortable conversation about funding the next steps

Facility Conditions

- Seats were too hard
- The room was a little cool

General Positive

- Nothing (6)
- Not applicable (3)
- No complaints
- All was great

- **What suggestions would you make to improve this event?**

Audience

- Open it up to not just managers
- Rework the program to the crew level
- Get contactors involved
- Cater to the audience

BMP Manual

- More detail about the BMP Manual
- Go through BMP manual more
- Make it short and add more demonstrations/presentations
- Information/materials about the equipment used in the BMPs

Roundtable

- Keep the roundtable more on point

Other

- Might want to revisit legislative work on limiting liability for private road associations in the past. Some lawyer groups are in opposition.

- Hold 2-3 times per year – a pre-post winter event for continuous improvement
- Would have liked introductions so knew who was in the room
- Keep it at Maple Hill Farm Inn

General Positive

- No suggestions, all was good
- None (4)

- **Please share any additional comments or ideas:**

Roundtable

- Private contractors should be involved in any discussions
- Robyn did a nice job of moderating to keep it from going downhill to DEP discussion on streams
- Robyn Saunders did a great job of keeping the group focused and moving along

Facility Conditions

- Arrange speakers so that all participants face the speakers

General Positive

- Nice job by all...
- Great job everyone!
- Thoroughly enjoyed it
- Well done!
- Thanks!