



Vancouver Regional Construction Association
Manufacturers & Suppliers Division Meeting MINUTES

Date: 3:30 – 5pm, March 24, 2024

Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Attendee	Company	Attendee	Company
Jeff Adams - TC Division Chair	Fuelex	Amy Hadikin	Domcor Traffic Control International Inc.
Sam Brezden	Fort Modular	Marco Pastore	Peri Formwork Systems Inc.
Scott Foran	505-Junk	Thomas Locatelli	Ulma Construction Systems Canada Inc.
Chad Blondin	Foam Mods	Paul Berry	NRB Modular Solutions, Dexterra Group
John Andersen	Kryton International Inc.	Scott Rust	Erv Parent Co. Ltd.
Brodie Muench	Gear Equipment Inc.	Gurmit Jaswal	Crown Building Supplies
Doug Suddaby	Resolution Reprographics Ltd.		

Guests

Chris Atchison	BC Construction Association	
Bill Ferreira	Buildex	

VRCA Staff

Cecile Lopez, Director of Operations

Erin Wormald, Member Experience Specialist

Action Items

Item #	Owner	Action	Timeline
MS240306-1	VRCA	Share Buildforce presentation and contact info	Completed
MS240306-2	VRCA	Invite speaker to expand on integrating newcomers	May



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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
1. Welcome & Introductions	Roundtable introductions of attendees.
2. Buildforce Update	<p>Bill Ferreira presented the Buildforce Industry Outlook – The Road Ahead, Demand Drivers of Construction Activity: 2024-2033 (see Attachment 1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• B Muench: where do you get large-scale project data from? A: We put it together working with the industry, owners, look at a variety of government sources and infrastructure investments and validate construction timelines with the industry• Q: for anything not NDA-related, is that list available to VRCA members / A: not normally published but can make it available to you; Action: share presentation + contact info
3. VRCA/BCCA/CCA Updates	<p>BCCA Update Chris Atchison provided an overview of what BCCA does, its mandate to work on workforce development within the industry, and recent efforts on advocacy and prompt payment (see Attachment 2).</p> <p>VRCA Update Cecile provided the VRCA update on behalf of Jeannine. On advocacy, VRCA hosted several panels at Buildex to help raise the profile of VRCA and the construction industry and Jeannine is working on building relationships at the municipal and local government level for the Lower Mainland so we can influence outcomes for construction. On the education side, we piloted the Bringing Trades to Schools program a few weeks ago in conjunction with BCIT & Burnaby Board of Trade and had some member firms (PCL, WPE, Division 15 Mechanical, etc) facilitate hands-on training in different trades and are looking at ways we can scale this program. For events, we have a half-day conference for women in construction called LEAP on March 8, a mixer coming up on March 14 in Abbotsford. Registration for the CLF conference on May 2-4 is open and more than 50% sold, asked guests to get their tickets if interested. April is Construction month and VRCA will host a breakfast on April 15, more info to come. Finally, we are accepting project nominations for the Awards of Excellence until March 31st. Manufacturers and Suppliers are encouraged to participate and submit projects to the 35th VRCA AOE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• J Andersen: Do you have information on the CLF agenda? /A: It's coming soon. Some of the topics are continual evolution of collaborative contract models from the contractors perspective, the future of construction both with AI and off-site construction and then there will be a leadership development track. There will be some real tools that people will come out of those three days.• J Adams on the March 14 member mixer - We have a lot of members out in the valley area and requested to bring some events out that way. We've started with Surrey, we're heading to Abbotsford and likely the next one will be in Langley. So, we hope to see you there, take advantage of it if it's in your neighborhood. We would love to see you there.



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4. Open Forum	<p>Construction Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• G Jaswal: What are your thoughts on the construction market right now, are you seeing a slowdown?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ J Adams: From the fuel supply side, we have not seen any slowdowns in demand for lubricants or fuels in the construction industry.○ J Andersen: From the design side, interacting with architects and engineers also with general contractors, I am certainly seeing the first half of the year being softer than the last half of the year in our business. And a lot of that's been blamed on interest rates. <p>Speaker suggestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Someone from BCCA Integrating Newcomers to expand on what they're doing to support companies because people don't really know where to start with that. Whether it's ESL programs or something to make it more welcoming and bit more seamless to bring on workforce from that avenue, that would be helpful. (Action) <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• J Andersen: We're seeing cities and communities change some of their engineering requirements to be more sustainable, and they're also taking a closer look at the materials being used in the buildings. So I'm wondering, from a M&S standpoint, if we're getting the information in real time, is there a communication disconnect between what the cities are asking for and what's been communicated through the designs of buildings and then from the GC side of it. If there is anything we can do to increase our knowledge base, that would be very helpful.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ P Berry: We see interest in net zero buildings and low footprint. It's encouraged but there's friction with people actually purchasing because it's not inexpensive to go that route. We do build that zero building here or there; but really, the majority of what we do is based on real world demand. Most equipment are off the shelf now, there's nothing new being engineered or designed, I don't see a limit that way.
5. Other/New Business	No new business. The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Attachments:

1 – Buildforce Industry Outlook

2 – BCCA Update

Buildforce Contact Information

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