

Common Ground of Nebraska

Executive Committee:

Chairperson Dan Maschka
Co-Chair John Page
Secretary Paul Anderson
Treasurer Lance Loschen
Membership Director Tom Anderson
Program Director Susan Greiss

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 10th 2008

Time 1:00pm

Location: Lincoln Waste Water Plant

Host Lance Loschen

Executive Committee members present.

Dan Maschka, Northern Nat. Gas
Susan Greiss, Diggers Hotline
Paul Anderson, General Excavating
Lance Loschen, Lincoln Waste Water

Attendees,

Bill Uitts, Elm, Terri Dier, L.E.S., Travis Beran Subsurface Solutions, Randy Leiser
Grand Island Utilities, Larry Blackstone, Qwest Comm.

The following task groups met prior to the meeting.

White Lining Task group
Locate Standard Task group

1. **Welcome, introductions and sign up sheet**
2. **Safety and housekeeping** – fire exits, evacuations, health concerns, restrooms, etc
3. **General meeting etiquette reminders** - set your phones to vibrate, take calls outside of this meeting room, one conversation at a time, etc.
4. **Industry Highlight:**

- a. Paul Anderson – General Excavating
Randy McDonald Business Director with General Excavating presented the industry highlight (rmcdonald@generalexavating.com).
- b. Volunteer for next meeting – Phil Bentz, (Glenwood Telephone) who was unable to attend, volunteered to host the next CGA meeting. Tentative date is June 5th in Blue Hill Nebraska. Watch NCGA webpage for confirmation date.

5. **Old Business:**

- a. Comments / Corrections from the previous minutes
Any changes or corrections, feel free to contact Paul (panderson@generalexavating.com) or Dan, at (Dan.Maschka@nngco.com)

WebPages needs some updates, if anyone is interested in helping to manage The webpage, please contact Susan at (Susan.greiss@cusinc.com)

- b. Membership related news: new members and pledge cards –
Members currently listed on the web. Pledge cards not on the webpage yet,

No recent updates to the webpage, should anyone need pledge cards, contact Susan.

- c. Website issues: Task group: John Page (point person), Rod Jobman, Susan Griess and Tim Proksel. View at: www.Nebraska-cga.com Discuss additions or changes

- d. Task Group notes:

- i. **Locate standard (training?)** – Lance Loschen, Susan Griess, Bill Uitts, Paul Anderson, Randy Leiser Dan Mashka Randy Leiser

There was a discussion prior to the general meeting, which carried over to the discussion during the general meeting.

- ii. **Better Communication** - Paul Anderson, Lanna Machmuller, Rod Jobman, Doug Douglas, Marvin Brummer, Larry Blackstone.

Larry Blackstone mentioned he had visited with Rex Wilshire of OPPD about concerns of white lining as apposed to requesting too large of an area or over locating the dig site. That white lining affects sides, utility owner and excavator. Randy Leiser showed examples of other states such as Missouri and South Dakota that require white lining or flagging.

A general consensus was thought that better communication was key. That the contact numbers on the ticket can be used for that purpose. Any communication is better than none.

e. Directional boring research – John Page:

Tabled

f. State-wide disaster plan: Shon Olson will be CGN liaison with the One-Call Board

Tabled due to lack of time.

New Business:

a. One-call board meeting update - Dan Maschka

Dan Maschka commented on the recent One-Call Board meeting. Reminded everyone that the meetings are open to the public. Dan also mentioned that Rod Jobman and Val Snyder attended the One-Call meeting.

One note of interest, a surveyor representative attended, and voiced his concerns about surveying tickets not receiving the 48-hour timeline as excavation tickets do. Asst Attorney. General Melissa Johnson-Wiles explained that the one-call ticket was not designed for non-excavators, therefore did not attract the attention as other tickets. And in the future any dig tickets that are submitted by surveyors that specify depth, in order to get a quicker response, should be forwarded to the one-call system so these offenders can be warned, or fined.

Dan mentioned that some changes might be coming on the larger excavation or land leveling projects. That the utility operators may be required to produce hard copy prints to the excavator. And that as good business practices, hard copy prints can and have been given to surveyors or engineering companies.

b. CGA best practices review – Susan Griess

A new program Susan Griess has been promoting is Utility safety for children. Susan has been giving presentations geared to 8 and 10 year olds. Included are such things as coloring books, illustrations, booklets and a certification that can be filled out by the children. This literature can be used by anyone, and be copied from CD. Any interest in looking at the literature or looking into scheduling a presentation should contact Susan at Susan.griess@cusinc.com

c. Annual CGA meeting update –

Brief discussion on the recent National CGA conference. It was attended by Susan Griess , Dan Maschka, Lance Loschen, Lanna Machmuller.

Can review more at later meetings.

d. PIPES Act, elements discussion – Susan Griess

Tabled for later meeting. Maybe a task group could be formed.
Any interest in joining the task group should contact Susan.
You may also go the Common Ground National Web site, and click on the
EDPI link for more information.

b. DIRT – update –

Tabled for later updates

c. Statewide outreach program update – Susan Griess:

i. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEMBER
COMPANIES/ASSOCIATIONS DAMAGE PREVENTION
WORKSHOPS

Travis Beran (Subsurface Solutions) was invited to attend the April meeting to give an overview of locate training seminars. He reviewed seminars in Iowa and Nebraska he had attended and organized.

The main focus of the April meeting was to decide on a date and a location. A date was set for July 31st, a Thursday, 2008. Location has been set at Lincoln Electric's facility at 6th and Fairfield Street.

Various sites in Lincoln and Omaha were discussed. Terri Dier of Lincoln Electric volunteered Lincoln Electric's training site located at 26th and Fairfield in Lincoln.

Travis Beran mentioned he could put together an agenda for the CGA to review. Some of the agenda ideas were, locating theory, induction, direct ring clamps, levels of confirmation, depth confirmations, and how one can miss-locate, An idea was brought up about allowing current locators to bring their own equipment with questions or concerns they are having with day to day locates.

It was thought that the training would be 2 –2hours training sessions with a provided lunch. And, that the training was for information and hands on help, rather than to certify or change any current training utility owners already have in place.

There was also discussion on trench safety. United Rentals has offered to present trench safety demonstrations.

The group decided that this first seminar put on by the NCGA would focus on locating. The possibility of adding trench safety in the future. United rentals would still be invited to attend if they wish.

Along that note the CGA would be asking for any business sponscers for donations for expenses, such as the lunch and any rental items we may incur.

This not only would be great exposure to new locators but a great for refresher to veteran locators as well.

It discussed that the One-Call board would be invited to be represented at the seminar as well.

e. Open discussion

Dan mentioned that some One-Call centers in other areas of the country were experimenting with an emergency one call number. Brief discussion followed, why the need for a separate number and the possible miss-use.

Always looking for ways to promote 811 campaign as well the Nebraska Common Ground Association. If anyone is interested in any 811, logo's, merchandise, bumper stickers, etc. It can be seen and ordered by visiting www.call811.com

Also a reminder that May is National DIG SAFE MONTH. Dan mentioned that some special advertising might be coming out on August the 11th, August the 11th date being 8/11

Dan also mentioned that the IRTH program (on-line locate tickets) is growing and becoming very popular with regular one-call users.

f. Determine the next meeting date, time and location

Phil Bentz of the Glenwood Telephone Company volunteered to host the next meeting. Location is Blue Hill Nebraska With a tentative date of June the 5th 2008.

Any task groups wishing to meet prior to the general meeting should RSVP Susan Susan.greiss@cusinc.com

Identified Issues

On October 18, 2006 the first "meeting of interest" was held to determine if Nebraska should form a regional CGA partnership. Over the course of the next few meetings, each stakeholder was asked to identify a damage prevention related issue. The list below was gathered and will continually be adjusted as needs dictate.

At the September 20, 2007 meeting the top three items were chosen and are listed in **bold** below. The remainder of the list has not been prioritized:

- 1. Better communication between utility owner and contractor**
- 2. Damage prevention - reducing or eliminating damages**
- 3. Training standardization**
4. Excavator and Locator: Standardization of markings and more involvement with Excavators
5. White Lining
6. Surveying Industry – requests go unmarked.
7. Standardized process for At Faults and Responsibility
8. Need for Information Exchange among all Stakeholders
9. Locate areas more precise and the use of GPS/GIS/Mapping Technologies
10. Private Utilities vs. Utility Owned

11. Include mid/western Nebraska in all future initiatives
12. Positive Response
13. Public Awareness/Homeowner
14. Industry turnover/more training
15. Standard Depth Enforcement
16. Private Lines