

Common Ground of Nebraska (CGN)

February 4, 2009

1:00- 3:00 pm

*Note: Task groups – meet prior to the regular meeting from Noon – 1:00 pm.
Task group leaders will determine the need for a meeting.*

Hosted by:

Lance Loschen - Lincoln Waste Water

Meeting Location:

2400 Theresa Street. Lincoln, NE 68521

Everyone is encouraged to bring a guest!



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Agenda

- 1. Welcome, introductions and sign up sheet**
Dan Maschka welcomed all present. There were 20 folks present.
- 2. Safety and housekeeping** – Lance Loschen instructed everyone on the locations fire exits, evacuations, health concerns, restrooms, etc
- 3. General meeting etiquette reminders** - Dan Maschka asked that all present set your phones to vibrate, take calls outside of this meeting room, one conversation at a time, etc. This is simply good meeting practice .

4. Industry Highlight:

Industry Highlights was presented by Lincoln Waste Water management Manager He presented a very good program on the Waste Water system and how it is managed.

- a. Susan Lynch – Virtual DIRT
 - ✓ This Item was tabled until the next meeting.
- b. Volunteer for next meeting –

5. Old Business:

- a. Comments / Corrections from the previous minutes:
 - ✓ Minutes were approved as received via E Mail.
- b. Membership related news:
 - Pledge cards were passed around for those present to the CGN.
- c. Website issues – www.Nebraska-cga.com
 - Bill Uitts will be working with John Schell from Celeratis to get the Webpage updated. Bill Uitts is the CGN point of contact. All issues need to be directed to Bill concerning the Website.
- d. Task Groups:
 - i. **Locate/Training Standardization** There was discussion on the upcoming Locator training. The Training are set for March 10th in Omaha & March 19th in Sidney. Enrollment is down so please work at getting your folks signed up for the training. Susan is looking at a few other locations this fall.
Roy Rathgeber from Ditch Witch talked about locator training they will be having the last week of Feb. in Scottsbluff, Ne. and Grand Island, Ne. if you are unable to send folks to the other locator training in March.
 - ii. **Better Communication** - Lanna Machmuller discussed the committee's discussion on looking to extend a hand to other stakeholders to form a partnership. They are looking to work on Focus Groups. Dan Maschka discussed the meeting he attended in Kansas, with Excavators and the Insurance group being involved to share the benefits of One Calls on underground facilities. Jeremiah Johnson has joined this task group. Jeremiah is an Excavator from the Holdrege area. Welcome aboard, Jeremiah.
 - iii. **White Lining** - Randy Leister discussed the White flagging and White lining education is starting to work in some areas. After some further discussion it was decided to remove it from the agenda and find another Committee topic.

6. New Business:

- a. One-call board meeting update.
 - Dan Maschka gave a brief overview on the Diggers Ne. One Call Board meeting last week. Dan explained that most of the discussion was on LB – 272 which is an amendment to the current One Call Law.

- b. CGN elections. Open positions – Co-Chair, Treasurer, and Program/Meeting Director. Nominations for the following positions were accepted until December 31, 2008: Elections were conducted with the following results:
Co-Chair, Treasurer – Rod Jobman
Membership Director – Bill Uitts
Program/Meeting Director – Val Snyder
Treasurer – Lanna Machmuller
Congratulations to the new Officers of the Executive Board.

Chairman Dan Maschka will be checking with the current Secretary to find out if they will be continuing to participate in the CGN.

Chairman Dan Maschka stated that after reviewing our current By Laws of the CGN, we have a lot of changes that are needed. Dan will make the needed changes and bring a draft of the By laws back to the membership to review at the next meeting.

- c. Review CGN Treasury - This is to be a voluntary Public Awareness Sponsorship. If anyone would like to make a PA Sponsorship, please contact Dan or Lanna. We currently have one sponsorship from Northern Natural Gas.
- d. LB 272 – SID exemption to join the one-call center.
Susan Lynch discussed the Proposed Bill LB 272 which would exempt SID's from being members of the One Call System. There was a lot of discussion on this issue. Dan Maschka discussed the Diggers Ne. Board of Directors position against it and that they have a written statement stating their position that has been sent to Deb Fischer Chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunication Committee. This bill was introduced Senator Friend from Omaha. The bill is expected to have a Committee Hearing on Feb.10th. The word from most underground operators is that they are not in favor of this amendment to the One Call Bill as it exempts Storm Sewer and Sewers in a SID.
Dan Maschka also reminded us that none of the current Legislators understand the One Call Law as they have 2 years of experience in the NE. Legislator or less. We may need to educate them on this law.
- e. CGN and DPAP involvement.
This was tabled until the next meeting.
- f. Diggers Open House.
There will be an Open House on Feb. 26th & 27th from 8am to 4 pm each day.
- g. Excavator of the Month Award.
This item was tabled until the next meeting.
- h. Kansas City power point presentation.
Dan Maschka will be sending this out on E Mail. We will review it at one of the upcoming meetings.

7. Open discussion

- a. We need to identify another Committee item so we keep moving forward with the CGN.

8. Determine the next meeting date, time and location -

April 9th is the tentative date for the next meeting in Blue Hill, Ne. and be hosted by Glenwood Communications.

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