

Common Ground of Nebraska (CGN)

Executive Committee:

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 24th 2008

Time 1:00 pm

Location Grand Island City Hall

Host: Randy Leiser/ Grand Island Utilities

Executive Committee members present

Chairperson Dan Maschka Northern Nat gas

Secretary Paul Anderson General Excavating

Treasurer Lance Loschen Lincoln Wastewater Systems

Membership Director Tom Anderson Lincoln Electric System

Program Director Susan Griess Consolidated Utility Services/Diggers' Hotline

Attendees

Randy Leiser Grand Island Utilities, Doug Douglas Source Gas, Marvin Brummer Source Gas, Rod Jobman Sudbeck Construction, Phil Bentz Glenwood Telephone, Jeffrey Mead Grand Island Utilities, Bill Uitts ELM Locating, Shon Olson ELM Locating, Larry Blackstone Qwest Comm., Lanna Machmuller Source Gas, Dan Willets Source Gas, Val Synder Kinder Morgan Pipelines, Trista Newcomb Kinder Morgan Pipelines, Bob Smith Grand Island Utilities, Micheal Huffaker Van Kirk Bros. Jeff Osthus Union Pacific Railroad, Tracy Martin Grand Island Utilities, Keith Pobanz Grand Island Utilities, George Boley Grand Island Utilities, Arnie Bates State Fire Marshall-Pipelines, Darrel Stromer Stromer Land Leveling/LICA

The following task groups met prior to the meeting

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

Training Standardization Dan Maschka, Tom Anderson, Lance Loschen, Bill Uitts, Susan Griess

White Lining: Randy Leiser, Phil Bentz

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. Randy Leiser, presented by Jeff Mead Grand Island Utilities
 - b. Volunteer for next meeting – Lance Loschen – Lincoln Wastewater. April 10, 2008. Committee Meetings at Noon. Regular Session Meeting at 1:00 pm
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. Comments,
We have tent cards for the January meeting provided by Susan Greiss. Try to bring them along with you for the next meeting, as we are a non-profit organization.
Still working on getting the pledge cards added to the website.
And just a reminder, anyone interested in adding a link to the website please contact Susan or Dan.
 - b. Membership related news and website issues :
One-call board is working on getting the schedule posted for Jeff Richardson , the rodeo cowboy who is traveling Nebraska on the PRCA circuit, advertising One-Call and the 811 campaign. Remember, should you see his truck and trailer, please call 811 and report where you saw him

Also, any upcoming events where CGA could benefit from the exposure, please contact Susan at susan.griess@cusinc.com

Website issues: Task group: John Page (point person), Rod Jobman, Susan Griess and Tim Proksel. View at: www.Nebraska-cga.com should you have any additions or changes
 - d. Task Group:
 - i. Locate standard – task group:
No updates since last meeting.
 - e. Directional boring research – John Page:
John was not present, will table until next meeting.
 - f. State-wide disaster plan:
Shon Olson mentioned the article Jim Cadwaller had placed in the Winter One-Call newsletter detailing Disaster Protocol. Shon mentioned due to the many comments surrounding the article, the task group may meet again. The newsletter can also be found on the One-Call website.

6. New Business:

a. One-call board meeting update - Dan Maschka:

Dan mentioned that the next One-Call board meeting will be held March 20th. Also, 3 new members were added to the board, Cheyenne Wolford from Galaxy Cable, Dan Stack from Frontier Tele and Jim Smith with OPPD

Lance Loschen commented, the Attorney General's office is currently investigating 4 damage disputes.

Lance mentioned a second attorney may be added to help investigate. Please forward any complaints you may have, that you cannot get resolved, to Attorney Generals office, whether you are a utility owner, locator or excavator.

Lance Loschen mentioned that the meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

b. CGA best practices, locate procedures – Trista Newcomb Representative for Jerry Jacobsen Kinder Morgan Pipeline

Asked about new policies coming from their corporate offices in Canada, stating that Kinder Morgan pipeline would need to be exposed any time there was work within 15' of the pipeline. Trista was asking if anyone else had heard of this policy.

Questions were raised about who would be responsible for the excavation, if their work was outside of the 18" area either side of the pipeline, Kinder Morgan or the excavator.

c. Annual CGA meeting

Dan mentioned that the National CGA conference is set for March 25th to March 27th 2008, in Las Vegas Nevada.

He urged anyone who could attend to do so. The conference conducts a variety of sessions for everyone from first time attendees to members who have attended in the past. Also exhibits and sessions related to specific industries. Anyone interested should take a look at the conference website for more information and registration.

www.CGAconference.com .

d. DIRT / CGA

DIRT or the Damage Information Reporting Tool is in the process of gathering anonymous reports on damaged facilities as well near misses.

Dan mentioned DIRT program and CGA are considering asking for regional volunteers to help train interested parties. It is a resource we all need to start using.

e. White Lining, Certification of Locators – Phil Bentz:

Phil Bentz reported on the progress of the task group for white lining. The discussion moved into area the area of locator training and standardization. The task group is working towards training sessions lead by Locating vendors to train, help, or just refresh interested locators. And possibly inviting interested excavators as well. Discussion was

brought up about developing a curriculum such as small workshops with different types of locating units, how to locate in different areas, such as highly congested areas, with different frequencies, and different utilities. Susan mentioned that Consolidated Utilities and ELM Locating would be involved in the training. Anyone interested in helping, or attending the training should contact Susan at susan.griess@cusinc.com. At the current time the task group is still looking for ideas on where to hold the seminar, and who the vendors will be. A tentative time frame would be June or July of 2008.

f. Dig Dinner updates – Susan Griess

Susan reported on the last Dig Dinner held in Scottsbluff. She noted that usually the attendees are utility stakeholders, but we need to reach all the stakeholders, utility, and excavators as well.

g. Surveyors suggestion – Susan Griess

Nothing to report, tabled for later meeting.

h. Better Communication task group.

Lanna Machmuller reported for the better communication task group.

Some of problems identified were

1. Down time waiting for a response on damaged dead or abandoned facilities.
2. Updating tickets where two or more excavators are in the same area.
3. Identifying multiple cables or lines in the same trench or within the flagged area.

This was followed by an open discussion on locating problems, concerning depths of facilities. Should they be reported to the excavator or not. And how should information concerning a locate be related to the excavator.

A general consensus was the whole idea of a one-call ticket is to be communication between the utility owner, the locator, and the excavator.

7. Open discussion

Rod Jobman brought in a flyer he had made to inform homeowners to contact 811 or Diggers Hotline before doing any home projects

The flyer included 811 and Digger hotline logos and numbers. The flyer was for discussion purposes only for the attendees of the CGA meeting. .

Discussion was brought up about how to distribute this information. Possibly inserting them with monthly utility bills, or involving real estate agents to pass along the flyers.

A task group was initiated, with members Susan Griess, Rod Jobman, and Val Synder. Any one else interested in joining the task group should contact Susan Griess.

8. Determine the next meeting date, time and location

Lincoln Wastewater Systems, 2400 Theresa Street. Lincoln, NE

April 10th 2008

Committee Meetings at Noon.

Regular Session Meeting – 1:00 pm

The CGA meeting has usually been following the One-Call Board meetings, however the due to the National CGA Conference which will be held on March 25to 27th, it was decided to wait until April 10th to have the next CGA meeting.

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