

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 Greiss

Meeting Minutes
Date: June 5th 2008
Time: 1:00 pm
Location : Glenwood Telephone
510 West Gage Street
Blue Hill Ne.

Executive Committee members present,

Dan Maschka
Susan Greiss
Tom Anderson

Attendees:

Susan Griess – Consolidated Utility Services, Inc./Digger’s Hotline
Rod Jobman – Sudbeck Construction
Val Snyder – Kinder Morgan
Dan Maschka – Northern Natural Gas
Travis Beren – Subsurface Solutions
Bill Uitts – ELM Locating
Marvin Brummer – Source Gas
Phil Bentz – Glenwood Telephone
Randy Leiser – Grand Island Utilities
Tom Anderson – Lincoln Electric Systems
Jerry Jacobsen – Platte Pipelines

The following task groups met prior to the meeting:
Locate standards

- 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. Phil Bentz / Glenwood Telephone

b. Volunteer for next meeting –

Rod Jobman – Sudbeck Construction

September 4, 2008. Papio Greens Golf Course, Omaha, NE.

Task Groups: 12:00 Noon

General Meeting: 1:00 pm

Golf following the meeting

5. Old Business:

a. Comments / Corrections from the previous minutes

Previous minutes were read aloud to group – no discussion

b. Membership related news:

i. New members and pledge cards: Tom Anderson– Need update to members currently listed on the web. Discuss pledge cards via the web

Tom Anderson will view the website and provide updated list to Bill Uitts for posting to website.

May start to seek replacement for John Page on Executive Committee.

Dan will attempt to reconnect with John and will discuss at next meeting.

c. Website issues: Task group: John Page (point person), Rod Jobman, Susan Griess and Tim Proksel. View at: www.Nebraska-cga.com
Proposed changes: Link to Best Practices 5.0, Remove Blog and add Homeowner Flyer, add link to CGA Dirt Report.
Solicit for new point person to handle website updates

Bill Uitts has volunteered to be the point person for website updates and additions – please send any items to be posted to the website to Bill: bill.uitts@elmlocating.com

d. Task Groups:

i. **Locate/Training Standardization** – Lance Loschen, Susan Griess, Bill Uitts, Shon Olson, Gary Brakhahn, Phil Bentz, Dan Willets, and Randy Leiser:

Plans are being confirmed for July locator training scheduled for July 31 – at LES Training facility.

ii. **Better Communication** - Paul Anderson, Lanna Machmuller, Rod Jobman, Doug Douglas, Marvin Brummer, Larry Blackstone. **No Report**

iii. **White Lining** - Randy Leiser, Gary Brakhahn

Discussion on educating and promoting the White Line process focusing on how white lining improves the whole process for all involved. A letter

was read to the group written by Shon Olson with ELM, this letter had been mailed to contractors they frequently work with. The message of the letter and discussion of the group will be reworded and included in the next DHON newsletter.

- e. Directional boring research – John Page: **This item will be temporarily removed from the agenda due to repeated absence of John Page.**

- f. State-wide disaster plan: Shon Olson will be CGN liaison with the One-Call Board **Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the recent storm damage in the Kearney/Aurora areas. The process appeared to work much smoother in comparison to Spring Ice Storms. The Power Companies are recognized and commended for the initiative they took in contacting and scheduling with major point of contacts with the affected utilities in a manner that reflected the State-wide disaster plan that was developed late last Fall. Susan will follow-up with the power companies post storm repair to discuss the processes they used to organize their repairs/locate requests.**

6. New Business:

- a. One-call board meeting update - Dan Maschka
Dan explained several initiatives currently underway with the CGA: National Safe Digging Month and 811 School Promotions. The CGA Mascot costume is available to any organization hosting an 811 or Damage Prevention event. The cost for the mascot is \$200 to cover shipping and cleaning. Also discussed was the promotional opportunity centered around August 11 (8-11). CGA is currently running another round of Nationwide Summits, this year's focus will be upon 811 and DIRT. Nebraska may look into hosting a summit late this Fall. Susan will contact UP to measure their level of interest in co-hosting. Susan passed around copies of the new Digger's Children Book. She requested everyone hand them out at Dr's offices, daycares, schools etc.

- b. July training session: **Final agenda was set following a brief overview of the training by Travis Beran. Will reissue invite with additional information to include: Hard hats/safety vests, updated agenda.**

7. Open discussion;

Priority Locates – Platte Pipeline rotating schedule

8. Determine the next meeting date, time and location

Rod Jobman – Sudbeck Construction

September 4, 2008. Papio Greens Golf Course, Omaha, NE.

Task Groups: 12:00 Noon

General Meeting: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Golf following the meeting

Thank you to Phil Bentz and Glenwood Telephone for Hosting!

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