

Common Ground of Nebraska CGN
Nov.15th, 2007
Elkhorn, NE

Meeting Minutes

Chairman Dan Maschka opened the meeting at 1:18 pm. Introductions were made, and thanks expressed to Susan Greiss for hosting the meeting. The next meeting will be hosted by Grand Island Utilities, on Jan 24th 2008. Check the webpage for location.

In Attendance: Dan Maschka, NNGas; Susan Greiss, CUS, Digger's; Randy Leiser, Grand Island Electric; Doug Douglas, Source Gas; Lanna Machmuller, Source Gas; Tom Anderson, L.E.S; Bill Uitts, ELM; Shon Olson, ELM; Gary Brakhahn, ATC Comm; Lance Loschen, Lincoln Wastewater; Jerry Jacobson, Kindermorgan Pipeline; Paul Anderson, General Exc.

The industry highlight was presented by Susan Greiss, who gave an overview of Consolidated Industries, focusing on the locating side of the industry.

The meeting was closed by asking for volunteers to host and present an industry highlight for future meetings. Randy Leiser of Grand Island Utilities will host and present the industry highlight.

Old Business

1.

Susan will try to bring "tent cards" for the next meeting, as we hope to see some new members at the Grand Island meeting in January.

Dan mentioned that John Page had changed jobs, and his contact numbers and E-mail address had also changed. But John was back on line, and he will get his new contact information posted on the webpage.

Susan will be updating the pledge cards soon, in order to get the official name added. Also, John Page will be adding the pledge card to the webpage, so it can be downloaded.

If there is any interest in setting up links to the webpage for your company or if there are any questions, contact John Page.

2.

The Locate standardization task group met prior to the meeting. A discussion was held about using the suggestions from the National CGA. The CGN will follow the National CGA Best Practices 4.0.

Dan and Lance mentioned that the One-Call board will be updating the One-Call Handbook as well. CGN will follow it's suggestions as well.

The task group asked if the suggestions were agreeable to the group, to pass along to excavators, as a guide only. The group voted and agreed with the suggestions.

Thank you to the Locate task committee for putting the suggestions together.

3.

A point was expressed about the blogs on the webpage. Sometimes a written message from an employee can be viewed as policy from the company that that employee represents. Several members pointed out that we need to be careful when doing so. Remember, phone calls are still a great way to make suggestions and to communicate.

4.

Shon Olson mentioned that he would be joining a conference call next week along with the One-Call board, concerning Disaster Planning. Look for more information, possibly after the January One-Call board meeting.

New Business

1.

There was discussion regarding a new advertising campaign put on by the One-Call board to promote 811.

Jeff Richardson, a local rodeo competitor, will be driving across the state to some 70-90 different locations. His personal trailer, which he pulls wherever he goes, will be decked out with 811 logos and information. This will be above and beyond the other campaigns in place.

Should anyone know of any upcoming trade shows, public events, etc, where the one-call or CGN could benefit from the exposure, please contact the CGN webpage, CGN members or Susan Greiss.

2.

Mention was made about the work of Assistant Attorney General Milissa Johnson Wiles. Her main focus is on repeat offenders of damaged utility lines.

The Nebraska Digger's Hotline currently has a link you can use to contact the Attorney General's office. CGN plans to add this link to our webpage as well.

3.

Dig Dinner updates

On October 17th a dig dinner was held in Scottsbluff. Susan reported that there was a large turnout. We need suggestions to help us get more involvement from excavators. Please forward any ideas to members of the CGN, or make contact thru the webpage.

4.

Discussion was brought up about surveyors one-calls. The main complaint the surveyors have is that utilities often do not show up for one-call meets or tickets. Locators complain that surveyors often call in locate tickets for a very large area to be marked in a short time frame, when they won't be digging anyway.

Group discussion concluded that better communication was needed between the two parties. Also needed are surveyors as members of the CGN. Spread the word if you know of any such surveyors in your area.

5.

Talk was brought up about the DIRT (Damage Information Reporting Tool) program. DIRT is being used as a tool in order to achieve accurate damage reports and near misses. These reports should be used by utilities, locators and excavators as well.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Susan Greiss.

6.

Task groups

During the last meeting we prioritized issues that had been brought up in previous meetings. They were:

A. Better Communication – Task group: Lanna Machmuller, Paul Anderson, Lance Loschen, Doug Douglas

B. Damage prevention/White Lining -Task Group Randy Leiser, Jerry Jacobson

C. Training Standardization -Task Group Dan Maschka, Tom Anderson, Bill Uitts, Susan Greiss

These groups will meet formally prior to the next meeting on January 24th, 2008.

If anyone is at all interested in joining any or all of these groups, please contact either Dan or Susan.

Thanks again to Susan Greiss for hosting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.