

**Common Ground of Nebraska
November 17, 2009
Bremer Center
1604 "L" Street
Aurora, NE
Hosted by Cully Sila, Black Hills Energy**

Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2009

Attendance: Dan Maschka, Northern Natural Gas; Dan Willets, SourceGas; Marvin Brummer, SourceGas; Phil Bentz, Glenwood Telephone; Bill Hartman, Hartman Constr.; Jeremiah Johnson, Valley Irrigation; Monty Vonasek, Valley Irrigation; John Barber, Snyder and Associates; Randy Leiser, Grand Island Utilities; Mike Broshous, Consolidated Utility Services; Susan Lynch, Digger's Hotline of NE; Justin Spady, City of Aurora; DJ Frauendorfer, City of Aurora; Darrell Eggle, City of Aurora; Cully Sila, Black Hills Energy; Curt Olstad, Kinder Morgan; Kenny Morris, Kinder Morgan; Lanna Machmuller, SourceGas; Mike Huffaker, Van Kirk Bros.; Craig Bykerk, Kinder Morgan; Eric Melcher, City of Aurora.

Task Groups: Better Communications and Strategic Planning Sessions met prior to the General Meeting

- 1. Co-Chair, Dan Maschka opened the meeting at 1:00 pm with Introductions, Safety and General Meeting Etiquette reminders.**
- 2. The meeting host, Cully Sila with Black Hills Energy gave a brief historical overview of Black Hills Corporation and the various name changes.**
- 3. Old Business:**
 - a. Membership Related News/Website: Bill Uitts was unable to attend due to a last minute issue. He requested Dan or Val send him an updated email distribution list so he could send out the Electronic Pledge Cards to all individuals that are currently associated with the Common Ground of Nebraska.**

Dan provided a brief overview of the CGN and the Common Ground Alliance National Organization

- b. Task Groups**
 - i. Strategy Planning Sessions and Goals: Susan Lynch, Dan Willets, Phil Bentz. Susan explained the grant submission and the projects submitted for 2010 to include additional Locate Workshops, Annual Safety Summit and several Outreach/Communication opportunities. The amount of grant**

money received, if any, will dictate the direction of these activities.

- ii. **Better Communications:** Lanna Machmuller, Jeremiah Johnson, Marvin Brummer. Lanna passed around the completed CGN Color Coded Cards and described their relevance to recruitment efforts for the CGN. Brief discussion followed regarding the creation of more targeted publications for specific industries...i.e. Agricultural.
 - iii. **Ad Hoc –** Susan provided brief description of the State Damage Prevention Grant and the submission method via the State Fire Marshal's office. Award announcements are scheduled for December.
 - iv. **Bill Hartman** asked if CGN had sought partnership with the One Call Board. Dan provided a membership comparison of the two organizations.
- c. **Progressive Agriculture Foundation (PAF) –** Kenny Morris presented his experiences with the Farm Safety Events he attended. He worked with approximately 900 students and said the program was a huge success for keeping the students engaged while being educated on underground damage prevention. He encouraged others to seek out the Farm Safety events Statewide and volunteer to participate.
- d. **Susan** delivered promotional items to United Rentals for their trench safety trainings per the suggestion of Todd Carson with the City of Omaha. Craig Bykerk initiated discussion regarding all Rental companies involving excavation and how we can educate through those means.
- 4. New Business**
- a. **One Call Board Meeting –** Dan provided a summary of the most recent Board meeting held in November and provided an overview of the Attorney General's role in enforcement.
 - b. **Review CGN Treasury –** Lanna distributed the balance sheet of the treasury.
 - c. **Duration of a locate ticket:** Mike Huffaker with Van Kirk requested clarification on the update ticket, duration of a locate request and what the accepted process was. Lengthy discussion followed.
 - d. **Phil Bentz** discussed working with manufacturers of Heavy Equipment and having the 811 message installed at the Manufacturers.
- 5. Representatives from the Common Ground of Iowa, Mike Broshous – Consolidated Utility Services and John Barber – Snyder and Associates** gave a presentation of the very successful first Annual Safety Summit held in Ankeny, Iowa in September. They shared information regarding processes for putting the summit together, suggested agendas and guest speakers. They are already making plans for the 2nd Summit to be held August 11, 2010 in Iowa.

- 6. Open Discussion: Recruiting and maintaining active participants in the CGN with emphasis on a variety of stakeholders to include a large representation from the excavating community. It was determined that the timing is good to host a roundtable event – evening venue to encourage attendance from all industries. Similar to the inaugural meeting of the CGN held in October 2006. The agenda for the next CGN meeting will be planning this event for an estimated Spring 2010 date.**

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 in Holdrege. 1:00 pm. Hosted by Valley Irrigation – more information to come.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15 pm

Minutes submitted by: Susan Lynch