

WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2014

8:00 a.m. @ Shari's Restaurant

Attendance:

Ed Ortega	Northern Wasco County PUD
Jeff McCall	Wasco County Public Works
Arthur Smith	Wasco County Public Works
Sheri Clark	NW Natural
Don Patterson	NW Natural
Jim Bailey	Wasco Electric Co-op
Scott Peters	ODOT
Mike Richardson	The Dalles Irrigation District
Brenda Huskey	City of The Dalles Public Works

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by President, Ed Ortega.

Minutes:

Minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Our beginning balance was \$2,674.48. Charter Communications paid their \$40 dues and we donated \$100.00 to the Dan Dooley Cancer Fund so our current balance is \$2,614.48.

Damage Report:

Our council had one damage reported in November by North State Telephone. Herb was not present to ask what happened so Brenda e-mailed him and he said a farmer was installing a water line with a trencher and hit the fiber drop. A locate **was not** called in and the farmer will be billed for the damage.

Old Business:

There were no other/new nominations for officers so Arthur moved to close nominations and accept those made last month. Sheri seconded Arthur's motion so our new officers for 2015 are John Walker, President; Dale McCabe, President Elect; Ed Ortega, Vice President; Arthur Smith, Treasurer and Damage Chair and Brenda Huskey, Secretary.

Officer and zone director terms were discussed. Don Patterson, who is a Zone Director for central Oregon, feels that zone directors and officers need to rotate out and those discussions are coming about because the same people are doing too much of the same thing each year. Directors and officers leave but they seem to filter back into the same positions, he said.

New Business:

Ed gave us updates from the quarterly meeting he attended at the Oregon Garden Resort. He said Luke from Pacific Marketing gave a presentation and let everyone know about the updated website store.

When you order items for an event, Kitty receives the order so if possible please let her know what event the materials are for. Kitty sends out a spread sheet each month that we fill out after we have an event so she knows how well it was attended. Luke told Ed that he can give individual council presentations, just ask if we would like one. Different colored call T-shirts are now available, not just the standard yellow or orange and there's a price break at 72 shirts so if we let them know how many we need, we may be able to combine and do a bulk order and receive the price break.

Dialer and Digby costumes are available upon request for someone to wear during events or parades.

Tom Lauer, Technical Service Manager for ODOT, gave an update of all ODOT projects using a 3-D model. He said ODOT is striving harder to work in conjunction with other utilities.

Kevin Bissell said ITIC mobile has a website that is built for the mobile platform. You can call in a locate from the job site. It is not an app but it works like one and you will need to be a registered user to use it. There is still a little heartburn associated with the app though, especially when locators need to get ahold of the "person" who called in the locate.

Scott said ODOT still has mapping issues with ITIC and Don said to let him know what those issues are.

Ed said Jarrod Morrison gave a DIRT presentation and we are moving towards reporting our damages to DIRT (Damage Information Reporting Tool). More details are needed from our reporting information though. There is a free version of DIRT that we can register to use and another version that costs \$500/year. Don said there is a way to mesh the two systems. It takes Scott Gallegos 2 to 3 hours to input all the state data that he receives, Don said. Ed said the council is still checking out DIRT to see if it is something worth using.

Crystal Hiatt did a brief overview of our tax exempt status. Call her if you have any questions.

A short round table discussion was held about what makes local councils work.

Don asked what our council's opinion was about changing the OUCC meetings from quarterly to monthly? The general feeling was that it is a waste of time, quarterly meetings are enough with our busy schedules.

Arthur said it worked well when they had half a day for the OUCC meeting and half a day for the OUNC meeting. Facilitators kept topics moving right along.

Five metal signs are supposed to be shipped to Arthur.

The 2015 OUCC officers are: Kenny Hamlin, President; Tobin Werner, Vice President/Treasurer; Bryan Baxter, Secretary; Ed Ortega, Web Master; and Dawn Hickson, P & E Chair.

Don Patterson would like to know if the crews are having any locating issues with NW Natural, whether there is damage or not, he wants it reported. If it is not located properly or on time, please report it to 503-220-2415, **not** to John, Sheri or Don.

Round Table:

Brenda Huskey – City of The Dalles Public Works

- ❖ The West 7th Street LID project bid opening has occurred and January 12th, The Dalles City Council will make a recommendation for award. Crestline Construction is the apparent low bidder.
- ❖ Still working on the design of the sanitary sewer and storm sewer on West Second Street. Should be out to bid probably in January
- ❖ The contract for the stabilization and retaining wall project on Scenic Drive will be awarded at the council meeting on January 12th also. Construction should begin the end of January or first part of February. Crestline Construction is the apparent low bidder.

- ❖ The Waste Water Treatment Plant Design/Build RFP Phase I was sent to three firms. Interviews will be conducted the end of December. Construction should be done by October 2016.
- ❖ Winter maintenance.
- ❖ Looking at putting out a concrete contract sometime in January for the replacement of the ADA ramps on 3rd Place from Trevitt to Lincoln.

Mike Richardson – The Dalles Irrigation District

- ❖ Winter maintenance.
- ❖ In-house maintenance after the first of the year.
- ❖ A 3-inch delivery line on Lambert Street north of 13th Street will be changed into seven small meters instead of one large meter. The district will try to stay out of the street on this project.

Sheri Clark – NW Natural Gas

- ❖ 20 feet of line needs to be relocated on Scenic. The job is permitted and ready to go.
- ❖ One piece of bare main still needs to be removed by October 2015.

Jeff McCall – Wasco County Public Works

- ❖ Winter road maintenance.

Jim Bailey – Wasco Electric Co-op

- ❖ In maintenance mode.
- ❖ Have two contractors working on maintenance projects from January 2014 and last month.
- ❖ Catching up on pole replacements throughout the system.

Scott Peters – ODOT

- ❖ Winter maintenance.
- ❖ Have 3 hazmat spills within 6 miles of each other in Sherman County that need to be dug.

Ed Ortega – Northern Wasco County PUD

- ❖ Customer work and pole replacements.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Put next month's meeting on your calendar: January 20th.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Huskey, Secretary