

WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2014

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

Attendance:

Ed Ortega	Northern Wasco County PUD
Jim Bailey	Wasco Electric Co-op
Nathan Pope	Chenoweth Water PUD
Jeff McCall	Wasco County Public Works
Herb Watts	North State Telephone/Fastercom
Troy Klein	NW Natural
Sheri Clark	NW Natural
Don Patterson	NW Natural
Scott Peters	ODOT
Dale McCabe	City of The Dalles Public Works
Brenda Huskey	City of The Dalles Public Works

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m. by President, Ed Ortega.

Minutes:

Minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

We believe our balance is currently \$2,674.48 since Arthur was absent and couldn't verify.

Damage Report:

There were two damages listed on the damage summary report for September, both by City of The Dalles. These damages occurred in August, not September. The City had zero damages in September and received 70 locate requests. NW Natural hadn't reported theirs on line yet nor had Charter, ODOT, or Century Link.

Old Business:

Jeff handed out the new standards manual and Don Patterson gave more to those who needed them.

Ed reminded everyone of the December 11th OUCC meeting at Oregon Gardens from 9 am-3pm with breakfast and lunch provided. RSVP with Kitty Davis at kitty@digsafelyoregon.com if you will be attending. He said Kenny Hamlin has urged everyone to attend.

New Business:

Scott said he was called on October 9th by a citizen in Antelope who reported someone digging in ODOT's R-O-W in front of the café. Scott had not issued any permits for the dig so he drove to Antelope to check out the work. The city of Antelope had a water leak on October 6th and had hired Back Street Construction from Culver to repair the problem. Back Street did not call in locates and neither did the City of Antelope.

Scott spoke with someone who appeared to be representing the City of Antelope and he let them know about the needed locate and permit to excavate. He did not speak with anyone from Back Street Construction, they were gone. Don said we have several options as a council. We can reach out and invite them to a meeting and let them know they were in violation or he could contact them as the area director. It was decided Ed would generate a letter on behalf of our council to both the City of Antelope and Back Street Construction. Ed will offer training and will send the new regulations manual to both.

Herb was called to a locate in The Dalles that he'd located over a month ago. As it turned out, the locate he was supposed to be at was at another location. He felt he and the Locate, Inc. man lost valuable time there because it still looked like a valid locate. Herb said he carries black paint with him and when his projects are completed, he covers up the white marks with black paint. He wanted to know why this particular locate was still there and Don told him locate marks are good for the life of the project. You may think the project is done especially if there is no visible work going on, Don actually knew of one that was over 3 years old, but....paint only your own project marks with black paint, leave other utility marks alone.

Jim said a customer digging on Sevenmile Hill damaged a conduit but not the cable and he reported the damage to Wasco Electric. Jim wanted to know if he had to report the damage on the monthly substructure damage summary and he was told yes, he did.

Round Table:

Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works

- ❖ The Dalles City Council will hold a public hearing on October 27th at which time the public can voice their objections to the West 7th Street LID. If the LID passes, the council will initiate the LID and the project will start next spring. Dale has the plans for the transit center. The transit folks are wanting to obtain all their permits.
- ❖ Still working on the design of the sanitary sewer and storm sewer on West Second Street. Should be out to bid this winter and construction to start next spring.
- ❖ The Granada project with alley vacations and utility moves is moving forward. Could be utility locates between 1st and 2nd on Washington to accommodate the development.
- ❖ The water crew and sewer crew is working on maintenance and new services. There is a leak on Kelly Avenue that the water department needs to repair.
- ❖ The street crew is working on maintenance and getting ready for winter.
- ❖ The contract documents and plans for the stabilization/retaining wall project on Scenic Drive will be going out next week. Bids close December 3rd. Construction should begin the end of January or first part of February. PUD and Century Link have poles there.
- ❖ The surge tank project at Sorosis is wrapping up. Tank startup is October 29th and 30th. The Waste Water Treatment Plant design/build contract is out. The statement of qualifications from proposers is due October 29th. After that date, interviews will be conducted and a contractor chosen for the 2-year project.

Nathan Pope – Chenoweth Water PUD

- ❖ Wrapping up the job on W Second Street.
- ❖ Finishing flushing hydrants.
- ❖ Winter maintenance.

Sheri Clark – NW Natural Gas

- ❖ The bare main removal at E 15th/I is finished.
- ❖ Lots of new services.
- ❖ NW Natural was not able to start the bare main replacement on Garrison and the alley between 7th and 8th as planned. This project won't be done this year.
- ❖ May have to remove two long couplings on Scenic because of the City project there but will wait for the asbuilt plans to make sure.

Jeff McCall – Wasco County Public Works

- ❖ General maintenance.
- ❖ Blading roads and screening rock.

Herb Watts – North State Telephone/Fastercom

- ❖ Responding to locates.
- ❖ Maintenance and installs. Construction is done for the year.

Jim Bailey – Wasco Electric Co-op

- ❖ Miscellaneous services throughout their territory.
- ❖ Installed a 5,000 foot UG tap in the Ortley area off Sevenmile. Tap came off a residential transformer. Had to accomplish this job in a short time frame because a farmer had to plant.
- ❖ Tracy Brock from the Co-op will be giving safety presentations the first part of November in Sherman County and is working with Arthur to incorporate 811 materials. She will also be giving presentations in southern and northern Wasco County.

Scott Peters – ODOT

- ❖ Maintenance crew is vactoring.
- ❖ Drilled and shot a bank below Shaniko on a curve where ODOT was having problems.
- ❖ Trees and transient camps will be cleaned out from Taco Bell to Dairy Queen in The Dalles. The area has been posted and Merle Keys and Jay Waterbury will help with spraying and evacuation.
- ❖ Maintenance crew is gearing up for winter maintenance.
- ❖ As a result of the 2014 Rowena Fire, fifteen trees have been identified that need to come down from Rowena to The Dalles.

Ed Ortega – Northern Wasco County PUD

- ❖ More direct bury replacements going in at Sun Rise Estates. A contractor will bore it and try not to tear up the asphalt.
- ❖ Pole installs, maintenance work and customer services.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Put next month's meeting on your calendar: November 18th.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Huskey, Secretary