

WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2013

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

Attendance:

Arthur Smith	Wasco County Public Works
Brenda Huskey	City of The Dalles
Nathan Pope	Chenoweth Water PUD
Shari Clark	NW Natural
Troy Klein	NW Natural
Herb Watts	North State Telephone
Ed Ortega	Northern Wasco County PUD

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by President, Herb Watts.

Minutes:

Minutes of the September 17th meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

There is \$3,477.85 in our checking account after receiving the \$1,000 support check from the OUCC.

Damage Report:

There were 2 damages reported in September. Both were the City's. Arthur mentioned the county crew just knicked a 50-pair line of Century Link's on Mill Creek Road that had been located and potholed. Century Link came out and shrink wrapped the knick so Arthur feels more training is needed on how to protect facilities. Troy said the county is held responsible not the employee so training might be the issue and should be handled internally.

Shari told about a contractor who was working for a county that hit a NW Natural line 3 times. Gary Hyatt filed an RA against that contractor and because Shari had taken such fastidious notes at each meeting she had had with that contractor, her notes were used in the hearing and NW Natural won their case. It pays to take notes!

Ed said PUD was setting a pole and primary line on West Second Street and found a sewer lateral that was not marked. The City had to use the aqua tech and ended up finding another unmarked sewer line and still was unable to find out where all the water was coming from.

Old Business:

The first part of December was deemed the best time for the utility owner training. A firm date was not set so we will try for that next month when more members are present. Everyone felt a half day training (8 a.m. to noon) would be enough with lunch provided. Art said he had checked with the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and the classroom downstairs holds 50 and rents for \$75 for half a day and \$125 for a full day. The City should have from 25 to 30 people attending so the Murdock Theater at the Center would be the better option since it holds 150 people and rents for \$225. The Basalt Rock Café can provide a sandwich bar or taco bar or soup and salad bar for \$12/person with drinks included. Mid-week is the best time to use the Discovery Center. Since Yogi and John were not present, Shari will check with them to see if they can line up their presenters for

the first part of December even though a “firm” date has not been set yet. Members want the presenters to have quality/get-their-attention presentations so interest don’t wane and it becomes just another boring training session.

Jim Bailey couldn’t be present today but he wanted to thank Kenny Hamlin and everyone who responded to him regarding his issues with Dish Network. He visited with a Dish Network supervisor who told him he would make sure his crew gave a valid contact number.

New Business:

Herb noticed some communities paint their initials on the ground by their locates using a 3 letter code. Shari said the code system came about because in some cities there are several different companies who operate the same type of utility. NW Natural just writes “GAS”. Arthur has seen a stencil used by a locator. Herb says he’s going to use NST and would like to make a list of all the logos and initials used in the county. Arthur looked this up in the standards manual and it says you **shall use** the name, initials or logo of the UG facilities and the width of the facility if greater than 2 inches. So we’d better be paying attention to how we mark.

Round Table:

Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works

- ❖ NW Kodiak is on Webber Street by the RR tracks working on the City’s water line project.
- ❖ Crestline Construction is the apparent low bidder for the surge tank at the Sorosis Pump Station.
- ❖ Crews are flushing hydrants and cleaning catch basins before winter.
- ❖ More investigation and property easements need to be obtained before the 4th street grade sewer project moves forward, hopefully next spring.
- ❖ The water crew’s installing a new fire hydrant plus water service lines on East 12th between Kelly Avenue and F Streets.

Nathan Pope – Chenoweth Water PUD

- ❖ Starting the second phase (500’) of Murray Street.
- ❖ Repairs/maintenance.

Shari Clark – NW Natural Gas

- ❖ The last phase of Laughlin Street will be finished in two weeks.
- ❖ Finished Bridge and 16th, Kelly Avenue and 9th & 10th at F Street.

Jim Bailey

- ❖ Putting a tap on a pump for Kahneetah on the Deschutes River.
- ❖ Putting a tap on Pine Creek, east of Clarno.
- ❖ Putting in a tap on Fivemile.
- ❖ Miscellaneous service work.

Herb Watts – North State Telephone

- ❖ Most of the overhead lines have been removed in Dufur. Poles will be removed next.
- ❖ Responding to locates.

Arthur Smith – Wasco County Public Works

- ❖ Entering winter maintenance mode and cleaning catch basins.
- ❖ Culvert on Mill Creek is installed.

Ed Ortega – Northern Wasco County PUD

- ❖ Replacing pole on Old Dufur Road.
- ❖ The Marriott/Fairfield Inn has service.
- ❖ West 6th in front of Goodwill has the primary in but PUD still needs to finish secondary. Goodwill has power.
- ❖ Pole inspections and maintenance.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Next month's meeting: November 19th.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Huskey, Secretary