



WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2022

8:03 a.m.

Attendance:

Jennifer Lindsey – Wasco Electric Cooperative
Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works
Arthur Smith – Wasco Co. Public Works Dept.
Aaron Westfall – NW Natural Gas
Josh Smith – Northern Wasco P.U.D.
Dan Shanahan – ODOT District 9

John Amery – Aristo Networks/QLife
Jacob Gilbertson – NW Natural Gas
Brewster Whitmire – Wasco Electric Cooperative
Nikki Fimple – Northern Wasco P.U.D.
Wyatt Webber – Crestline Construction

John Amery called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. from the board room at Northern Wasco P.U.D.

Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 16th, 2022, meeting as distributed. Motion passed.

Report of Officers:

President, John Amery – Reported that he attended the OUNC meeting on September 14th and learned more about the state funding. The OUNC has funding specifically for media campaigns. Looking into 2023, we need to be proactive and start thinking of how we want to promote Dig Safety month, which is April 2023.

President-Elect, Dale McCabe – None reported.

Vice President, Jacob Gilbertson – None reported.

Treasurer, Arthur Smith reported the ending balance as of August 31st, 2022, is \$3,196.79, and includes a recent deposit in the amount of \$490.00 from annual membership dues from 10 utilities. Being noted that Tennison Engineering paid the previous dues of \$40 and not the \$50 as billed. There are no outstanding payables at this reporting. Dale McCabe did indicate that WCUCC should be receiving an invoice for the community clean-up event. At the April 19th, 2022, meeting, it was approved to partner with The City of The Dalles in the event and contribute up to \$500.00 towards radio advertising and food purchases.

Unfinished Business:

John Amery opened the discussion for the proposed WCUCC Bylaw changes and noted that this meeting would represent the second reading of the proposed changes. It was mutually agreed that in terms of voting, one paying member (utility/organization) would be granted one vote, regardless of the number of attendees at a meeting from said utility/organization, and a quorum would consist of 5 votes. A voting member would be any person from an entity that has established a membership by paying the annual dues. John will provide his suggested edits to be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

New Business:

Brewster Whitmire stated that the tariff rates for locates have increased by 8%, you will be seeing these increased rates if you have not already.

Arthur Smith discussed Oregon's dig safety month, April 2023. In previous years, WCUC has promoted this by utilizing billboard, radio, and movie theater advertising. Jennifer Lindsey will contact Meadow Outdoor Advertising regarding 2023 billboard availability from March thru May and contact Bi-coastal Media regarding radio advertising during this same period. Dale McCabe will ask Jean Corbin if she has the contact information for the movie theatre advertising and ask if she would contact them. A follow-up report will be given at the October meeting.

Aaron Westfall suggested that during April we request presence at Home Depot, set up a tent, serve hamburgers and hotdogs and remind the community of dig safety month.

Brewster Whitmire stated we have sponsored Fort Dalles Fourth concert event in the past, to bring recognition to dig safety month.

Follow Up:

None reported.

Damage Report:

Josh Smith with NWPUD reported that an impaired driver hit a utility pole on Mill Creek the week of September 12th.

Aaron Westfall with NW Natural reported that some lost service in Hood River, off Country Club Road early the week of September 12th, due to a valve that had been paved over; did repair; this locate was not the fault of the locating company, it was due to a faulty installation. Another report of loss in service was due to a neighbor cutting into a line that was previously located in February 2022.

Dale McCabe reported that a waterline off 16th St. & Pentland; workers ran into an unmarked phone line. Could not reach anyone from CenturyLink.

Arthur Smith with Wasco Co. Public Works reported that some damage has occurred to wooden bridges in areas of homelessness; appears that fires are started and then left unattended.

Round Table:

Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works

- Trevitt Street utility project – with Crestline Construction – between 9th St. & 12th St. NW Natural still has gas lines in alleyways; needs to be removed. Aaron Westfall will contact the City and work to resolve the issue that was thought previously addressed.
- City water crews – waterline project between 16th & Pentland for water line installation.

Arthur Smith – Wasco County Public Works

- General Maintenance
- Blade gravel roads
- Preparations for winter – cleaning culverts/ditches

Round Table, Continued:

Josh Smith - Northern Wasco P.U.D.

- General maintenance

Brewster Whitmire – Wasco Electric Cooperative

- Larger scale projects to begin Spring 2023 due to weather and materials
- 65 poles line rebuild between Sandlin Rd. & Cherry Heights down to Wells Rd.
- Line rebuilds from Cherry Heights over to Sorosis Park
- 12-foot underground run on Japanese Hollow Rd.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18th, 2022, and will be held in the Board Room at Northern Wasco P.U.D. on River Road in The Dalles. A link to attend via Zoom/Teleconference will also be available for those who would like to attend remotely.

As a reminder, the next scheduled OUNC Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 12th, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Medford, Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Lindsey
Recording Secretary