

WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2013

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

Attendance:

Arthur Smith	Wasco County Public Works
Brenda Huskey	City of The Dalles
Dale McCabe	City of The Dalles
Steve Byers	City of the Dalles
Jim Bailey	Wasco Electric Co-op
Yogi Rattay	NW Natural
Greg Bronson	NW Natural
Troy Klein	NW Natural
Sheri Clark	NW Natural
Ed Ortega	Northern Wasco County PUD
Mike Richardson	The Dalles Irrigation District
Greg Jensen	Crestline Construction

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m. by President Elect, Ed Ortega. Greg Bronson was new to our council meetings so we had a round of introductions. He will be taking Sheri's place while she is out on medical leave. His phone number is 541-974-3941 if you need to contact him.

Minutes:

Minutes of the June 18, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

As of June 30th our account balance is still \$2,477.85 with no outstanding invoices or anticipated revenue.

Damage Report:

No reported damages for June. Sheri said the dig law update had been in effect for 6 months in Washington and she asked if anyone had any suggestions for improvements that she could pass on to the appropriate people. Greg Jensen mentioned you get 25% off your bill when you hit a NW Natural line **IF** you've had a scheduled training session.

Old Business:

Dale wanted to continue the discussion we had last month regarding a PUD service line that wasn't located because it was a homeowner's service line and Steve Byers, Waste Water Collection Supervisor from Public Works is attending this meeting to hear and be apart of this discussion. Paul Titus had Joy send us a 1998 memorandum from Jack Dent of the Public Utility Commission who spoke about laterals that are in the right-of-way being the responsibility of utilities to locate. Dale feels this should also apply to the gas company and the power company.

If the sewer crew that was in the trench, which had live sewer water running in it, had hit that unlocated power line, they would have been in real trouble. Hitting a sewer service lateral is an inconvenience but hitting a power line could be deadly.

Steve has visited with Paul Titus of PUD about this situation and Paul felt that all utilities on the other side of the street up to the utility should be marked but PUD doesn't locate beyond their meter. Ed mentioned that Coburn Electric will locate on private property for a fee. Paul will discuss this homeowner/private services issue more with his crew and let us know what they decide. All utility companies present at the meeting felt it would be very advantageous to have all these type of services on everyone's mapping systems or to have some type of designation so we'd know to start looking for something out of the ordinary.

Jim Bailey said most rural folks go to a meter pole but from there Wasco Electric and the property owner may not know where the lines run or from where they originate. Ed mentioned there is a 200 foot PUD stretch by Dale's place that won't get located because it is also private. Arthur suggested we make a concentrated effort to focus on these property owners to educate them and invite them to our Contractor Night Dinners!

Steve explained that the Public Work's service person does not locate every sewer lateral because it is not realistic, since most of the city's system is 100 years old with no tracer wire and his department does not have the budget to pay someone to locate them. If a sewer line is hit, it is his policy to fix it or give the parts to the general contractor and not charge for damages. Any time the City installs a new service or main, they run tracer wire on the lateral to the back of the walk and they always install a clean out. If there is no tracer wire on the main, it will not be put on the lateral, and you have to remember, laterals do not run perpendicular to the main. Steve said the City is making a concentrated effort to put all new laterals on maps. It would be nice to be able to hire an intern to map all the 60's through 80's asbuilts but it is just not in the budget.

Sheri asked if NW Natural could have access to the City's maps and Dale said he could PDF her a map for any project they might have.

Brenda received a quote for a banner from one company in The Dalles but the other one was not in when she tried to contact him. Total cost for a 4' x 18' banner with all the required cable attachments is \$1,130. Council members present asked her to submit this banner request and the funds to purchase it to Kenny Hamlin so he can forward it onto the state council.

New Business:

Several issues with locates were discussed. Jim Bailey said he received a phone call informing him there was an emergency locate for Wasco Electric. He kept checking his fax machine and 20 minutes later it still had not arrived so he called the one call center and asked them to resend it. 36 minutes later he received it. Not a good turn-around time for an emergency locate!

Dale McCabe told the council about a discussion he had with Vince Cobb, the service person for Public Works. Because of his workload, Vince is not able to complete a locate for a pre-survey in 48 hours, especially if it is a large one. Vince feels it is an unreasonable request and surveyors need to give him at least 10 days for this type of locate. When this happens a call to the surveyor or contractor is necessary.

Dale mentioned Public Works had some racks taken out of one of their buildings and footings were to be put in, so Steve Johnson, Street Department Lead, called the One Call Center for a locate on July 10th. He was told by someone there (he didn't get her name) that "we don't do locates on private property, the One Call Center is only for work being done in the R-O-W" but they did issue locate 13144565. Since it is drilled into all of us to call for a locate anytime we plan to dig, Steve was confused as to why he was told this. The council feels it was inappropriate for her to make this statement, and it needs to **STOP**. Council members would like Herb to pass this information on at the next quarterly meeting.

Round Table:

Sheri Clark – NW Natural

- ❖ Working on services.
- ❖ Finishing up on Bridge Street the end of next week.
- ❖ After Bridge Street Kelly Avenue is their next project where they will tie into F Street.
- ❖ W. 8th, Liberty to Pentland is in dispatch.
- ❖ Finished Phase 2 on Laughlin and Phase 4 has been permitted but still sitting there. Dale said Public Works is paving 10th Street in March so NW Natural needs to complete their work on Laughlin.
- ❖ 360 feet of bare main at Union/13th is in the design phase.

Arthur Smith – Wasco County Public Works

- ❖ Finishing up the first phase of the paving season this week. The second phase will start August 20 and 21st after cherry harvest and wheat harvest.

Dale McCabe - City of The Dalles Public Works

- ❖ The City will be zipping and paving the north lane of Second Street from Madison to Court on Sunday, July 28th as well as Lincoln Street from 2nd to 3rd.
- ❖ Bridge Street from 14th to 18th will be paved the first week of August and also 16th Street from Bridge to Trevitt.
- ❖ Dry Hollow from 9th to 19th and Mt. Hood Street from 10th to 23rd will be chipsealed and armour coated by the County on August 20th and 21st.
- ❖ We are still in the design and contract phase of the 4th street grade survey. This should go to City Council in September.
- ❖ The week of August 19th, NW Kodiak will start the Webber Street water line project which should be completed the middle of October.
- ❖ The Kelly Avenue project from 10th to 12th will start the first part of August.
- ❖ The sewer department has an upcoming project on Bridge Street from 10th to 14th where catch basins and storm lines will be replaced and new services installed.

Greg Jensen – Crestline Construction

- ❖ Have projects going on in Hood River but nothing major in The Dalles.

Ed Ortega – Northern Wasco County PUD

- ❖ Still working on the Goodwill Store site.
- ❖ Fairfield Marriott Inn project.
- ❖ Pole inspections and replacements.
- ❖ Miscellaneous customer services.

Jim Bailey – Wasco Electric Co-op

- ❖ New URD service several miles out Cherry Heights Road.
- ❖ Underground on Juniper Flat.
- ❖ Cottonwood State Park between Wasco and Condon.
- ❖ Miscellaneous service orders.

Mike Richardson – The Dalles Irrigation District

❖ Normal summer operations.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Next month's meeting: August 20th.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Huskey, Secretary