



WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

July 24, 2024

8:33 a.m.

Attendance

Jennifer Lindsey, Wasco Electric Cooperative
Alyssa Shoaf, Wasco Electric Cooperative
Aaron Westfall, NW Natural
Jesse Adams, Heath/NW Natural
Geoffrey Lacefield, Northern Wasco PUD

Brewster Whitmire, Wasco Electric Cooperative
Jacob Gilbertson, NW Natural
Dale McCabe, City of The Dalles Public Works
Conner Reed, Oregon Dept. of Transportation

Vice President, Brewster Whitmire called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. from Cousins Restaurant.

Minutes

After review by the attending council, consensus was reached and the minutes from the June 18, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted.

Report of Officers

President, Weslee Cyphers (absent)

Vice President, Brewster Whitmire

- Attended the OUNC meeting virtually last week, no substantial updates. Jacob Gilbertson stated that he believes new dig laws will be released on January 1, 2025. OUNC is also talking about a rate increase of some sort on outbound tickets and changing the ticket life from 45 to 30 days, also noted there would be some slight verbiage changes. With the new fiber coming in (high-speed internet) this will increase revenue for OUNC. Grants will be available for the installation of high-speed internet. OUNC also combined a couple of the committees to help with getting new projects moving forward.
- New advertisements – TV & Radio spots; exclusive ads with Lars Larson, will be rerouting sponsors this year.

President-Elect, Jesse Adams

- None Reported

Treasurer, Arthur Smith (absent)

- Ending balance of \$1,275.76 as of June 19, 2024.

Recording Secretary, Jennifer Lindsey

- Want to give thanks to Tonya Brumley and Jesse Adams for attending the Wasco Electric Member Appreciation Event and volunteering to work the 811 booth/trailer during the event.
- 2024 Joint States Meeting will be held October 8-10, 2024, in Whitefish, MT. If anyone is interested in additional information, please let me know.

Unfinished business

- Hood River Council meeting on Wednesday, September 5, 2024, at Tabby's Hole in One Clubhouse in Hood River from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those in agreement to volunteer and assist in the planning are Jacob Gilbertson, Jesse Adams, John Buckley, Scott Gallegos, and Jennifer Lindsey. If anyone else is interested in assisting, please let one of us know.
 - Please reach out to John Buckley, johnr.buckley1954@gmail.com to RSVP or if you know of anyone interested in attending.
 - An update will be provided at the August 21, 2024, WCUC meeting.

New Business

- WCUC should receive tickets to the Wasco County Fair & Rodeo, if interested in these tickets, please let Jennifer know.

Damages

Dale McCabe, The Dalles Public Works:

- Reported that NW Natural Gas hit their sewer and water lines at 815 E 8th Street in TD, utilities were marked.
- Reported that on 9th Street & Quinton Street, RBC was relocating and moving ZAYO fiber lines, hired a sub-contractor to bore, when boring they went through TD Public Works storm line. The contractor had maps, incidentally, hit storm line while boring.
- On 13th & Washington/Federal – TD Public Works was working on a sewer project; all locates with NW Natural Gas had questions regarding where the gas line is located. Aaron Westfall responded, and he relocated the locate line. Dale stated that where the gas line was located and where it is, is 4 feet off. Aaron replied that whoever did the last service going west, line was to be severed at that point, he was wondering if they forgot to cut the wire as anything west of that last service nothing is supposedly live. Dale will have Rocky get in contact with Aaron to work though the correct placement of NW Natural Gas line.

Jacob Gilbertson, NW Natural Gas:

- Reported that on July 19th, there was a line hit in White Salmon by Roto Rooter. They damaged a service line on Strawberry Mountain Road; Called in locate *after* they hit the line. Roto Rooter did not have a locate ticket called in properly prior to working. Jacob indicated that he had a Best Practices conversation with them.

Aaron Westfall, NW Natural Gas inquired about the difference between Best Practices and Non-Evasive Tools. From the OUNC website, Best Practices is described as:

Minimum Standards and practices should include the following:

- 1. Understanding of System design prints / technology.**
 - Demonstrate a basic understanding of the mapping system for the facility(s) being located.
- 2. Understanding of construction standards and practices.**
 - Correctly identify the most common surface structure of each utility system.
 - Correctly identify different visual evidence of the presence of buried facilities.

3. Ability to use Locating equipment.

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the three methods of signal application (direct connect, close induction/clamp and induction).
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic transmitter operation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic receiver operation.
- Demonstrate proper equipment maintenance procedures.

4. Ability to recognize the plant / structures they are locating.

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the physical utility system(s) being located.

5. Understanding of locating theory.

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of electromagnetic theory as it applies to utility locating.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of a simple circuit as it applies to utility locating.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of signal frequency as it applies to utility locating.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of signal power as it applies to utility locating.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of signal distortion.

6. Safe work practices and understanding of regulations (Local, State and Federal).

- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of safe work practices.
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of applicable Local, State and Federal regulations as they apply to utility locating and working in public rights of ways.

7. One Call Regulations / Requirements

- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of One Call regulations and processes for the assigned area of responsibility.

The OUNC website does not have a description for Non-Evasive Tools. As a reminder, OUNC provides excavator education; it is up to each individual utility to offer support or a reduced fee for damages if they attend an education course. The next excavator safety training is scheduled for October 15, 2024, in Eugene, Oregon.

Brewster Whitmire, Wasco Electric Cooperative

- OUNC is currently talking about making Oregon a required reporting state. Washington is a mandatory reporting state.

Round Table

Geoffrey Lacefield, Norther Wasco PUD

- Viewpoint Road Super Sub to Celilo; replacing whole line, approximately 5 miles of line.
- Working on permits for new substation (Skov Substation) near Rowena.

Jacob Gilbertson, NW Natural Gas

- None reported

Round Table, Continued

Conner Reed, Oregon Department of Transportation

- Danile Lopez reported to Conner that they are working in the City of Wasco on sewer repair
- Daniel also reported to Conner they are still working on the I-84 sign project replacements from Cascade Locks to Arlington; Phase 1 is almost complete.
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Jesse Adams, Heath (NW Natural Gas)

- None reported

Aaron Westfall, NW Natural Gas

- None reported

Brewster Whitmire – Wasco Electric Cooperative

- General Maintenance
- Replacing damaged poles in Tygh Valley
- Projects in Antelope

Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works

- 2nd Street (2nd and Webber) Utility Project- new storm and sanitary sewer – under way; finishing up – wrapping up and will soon have road paved
- Looking at starting 6th Street, between Snipes and Hosteler – have funding to get project completed in 2025 construction season
- Still working on 10th street; Safe Routes to School Projects – finishing up design – Construction to begin summer 2025; there will be some NWPUD poles that will need to be relocated, will also contact NW Natural regarding the gas lines in that area.
- Sign project on Richman Street to 12th Street with sidewalk and storm; construction to begin summer of 2025
- RBC – installing big fiber line down by river – Crates Way to Crates Way – currently working off west 2nd street (google side before they go over to River Road portion), should be getting paved back in next week or two.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance. **The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 21, 2024,** beginning at 8:30 a.m., and will be held at Cousin's Restaurant in The Dalles in the Banquet/Meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lindsey

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Recording Secretary