



WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2024

8:34 a.m.

Attendance:

Jennifer Lindsey – Wasco Electric Cooperative
Conner Reed – Oregon Dept. of Transportation
Aaron Westfall – Northwest Natural Gas
Arthur Smith – Wasco County Public Works
Jeff Handley – Northern Wasco P.U.D.

Jacob Gilbertson – Northwest Natural Gas
Weslee Cyphers – The Dalles Irrigation District
Alyssa Shoaf – Wasco Electric Cooperative
Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works
Jesse Adams – Heath (NWN)

President Weslee Cyphers called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Minutes:

After review by the attending council, consensus was reached and the minutes from the February 21, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted.

Report of Officers:

President, Weslee Cyphers – None reported.

President-Elect, Brewster Whitmire – absent

Treasurer, Arthur Smith - reported that he issued the check for \$350.00 for the Cherry Festival parade candy, resulting in an ending balance of \$1,670.20. The council still needs to issue a check for the community clean-up refreshments in the amount of \$500.00.

Jennifer Lindsey, Recording Secretary – reported that Kitty O’Keefe requested a council listing update for all officers. She will update this report and submit it back to Kitty.

Further discussion was held regarding volunteers to assist at the 811 trailer, after the Cherry Festival parade on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Those in agreement to assist are:

9 a.m. – Noon – Jesse Adams & Weslee Cyphers

Noon – 4 p.m. – Brewster Whitmire, Jacob Gilbertson, & Tonya Brumley

New Business

A request was made to see if there is an available agenda for the upcoming OUCC/OUNC meetings that will be held April 3 & 4, 2024 in Hood River. Jennifer Lindsey will check with Kitty O’Keefe and provide information via email to the council regarding the status of this request.

New Business, Continued

Jacob Gilbertson reported that he spoke with Kevin Hennessy, Chief Pipeline Safety with PUC, regarding repeat offenders and the monies that OSHA receives from the fines of those individuals/companies. The PUC is passing along offenders to OSHA; OSHA then assesses the fine and collects, due to lack of willingness to correctly handle it inside the PUC. Nothing is passed back to PUC for their efforts and the budget is dwindling.

Damages

Jacob Gilbertson and Aaron Westfall reported that a location on 8th and Laughlin, a delivery took place of some gravel and caused a crack to occur in the sidewalk (between the sidewalk and the curb area). A friend was handling the delivery of the gravel and wanted to fix the damage. As he was driving a stake in the ground, he thought he hit a gas line, called NW Natural to come and inspect. After inspection, it was determined that no line was hit. While Jacob was onsite, he did provide education to the gentleman, that he should have called 811 prior to performing any work to verify any utilities that are in the area.

Jeff Handley reported that incidents occurred on the west end of town, at Ideal Homes, where an employee of Ideal Homes dug into secondary lines, three times, the first time without calling for locates. Also noted, the first two times the secondary lines that were affected were after hours. Jeff stated that NWPUD billed Ideal Homes for the time and services that were provided.

Round Table

Jesse Adams – Heath

-None reported

Aaron Westfall – NW Natural

-None reported

Weslee Cyphers – The Dalles Irrigation District

- Water turned on March 18th
- Repairing leaks

Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works

- 2nd Street (2nd and Webber) Utility Project- new storm and sanitary sewer – under way; completion middle of June
- Still working on 10th street; Safe Routes to School Projects – finishing up design – up to bid later this spring – construction to begin later this summer; there will be some NWPUD poles that will need to be relocated, will also contact NW Natural regarding the gas lines in that area.
- Sidewalk and storm project for surveying and design – Centurywest Company - Thompson/12th & Richmond – calling for locates – surveying has started - bidding next fall
- RBC – installing big fiber line down by river – Crates Way to Crates Way – currently working off of west 2nd street (google side before they go over to River Road portion)
- Sewer line on East 9th & Thompson; new water line
- Street crews – 2nd St.– Cherry Heights and Terminal – April 29th – May 2nd – pothole repairs
- Chip seal contract – June 10th – June 16th
- Design for upgrading sewer on 1st between Webber and cherry growers (quite a ways out) Locating on 1st Street & Webber with Public Works Dept for sewer project

Arthur Smith – Wasco County Public Works

- Spring maintenance mode
- Gravel roads – off of winter maintenance

Conner Reed – Oregon Dept. of Transportation

- Daniel Lopez in Salem – attending scope training
- Mosier bike hub (old Hwy – putting in bathrooms and power)
- Biggs – other side of Spanish Hollow – truck wash – water crossing – a ways out
- Had four hazmat spills (three on Hwy 97, one on Hwy 26)
- Spring maintenance

Jeff Handley – Northern Wasco P.U.D.

- Underground – Viewpoint; installing secondary – new conduit in area 3
- Spring maintenance

Alyssa Shoaf – Wasco Electric Cooperative

- Pole replacements
- New overhead / underground services coming in

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, April 17, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**, and will be held at **Cousin’s Restaurant in The Dalles in the Banquet/Meeting room.**

There will not be a link to attend remotely for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lindsey

Jennifer Lindsey
Recording Secretary

Important Dates:

2024 Excavator Safety Training Dates:

To register: <https://digsafelyoregon.com/event-directory/excavator-safety-training/>

July 18, 2024 – Gleneden Beach

October 15, 2024 – Eugene

Oregon Utility Coordinating Council Board Meetings

July 17, 2024 – OUCC – Salishan Resort – Gleneden Beach

July 18, 2024 – OUNC - Salishan Resort - Gleneden Beach

October 16, 2024 – The Gordon Hotel – Eugene

October 17, 2024 – The Gordon Hotel – Eugene

OUCC meetings will start at 1:30 p.m. with lunch provided.

OUNC meetings will start at 9:00 am. With breakfast and lunch provided.