



## **Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council**

### **Minutes of the January 23, 2025 WI DPC Meeting**

The meeting began with introductions. Mike Meyer, from Diggers Hotline, informed the group that he presented information about the Damage Prevention Council at 2 conferences the previous week. He presented at the Municipal Electric Utility of Wisconsin conference and at the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association conference.

The DPC Subcommittees have not met since before the holidays. The Legislative Subcommittee is waiting for the potential law changes to be drafted into language suitable for a bill. Then the Subcommittee will review that verbiage and determine if it is accurate and worth pursuing as part of a law change. At the last Data Sharing Subcommittee meeting, Mr. Meyer said he would send requests to approximately 200 Diggers Hotline members asking for them to share their upcoming project data for 2025. As of this meeting, he had only heard back from a small amount of companies, although some of the larger utilities on the Diggers Hotline Board of Directors stated they would work to get that information to him. Mr. Meyer said some companies stated it is sometimes difficult to compile and forecast data like that due to many projects being scheduled which do not always get started for a variety of reasons. Mr. Meyer spoke with Josh Morby regarding the Training and Resources Subcommittee. Mr. Morby indicated that his current projects had him diverging from the original goals of the Subcommittee. Mr. Morby will continue to work with some of the DPC members on his new initiatives, but thought it may be best to turn the Subcommittee over to someone else who may want to pursue other goals. If any DPC members have ideas regarding the Training and Resources Subcommittee, and would like to Chair that Subcommittee, just contact Mike.

In the open forum, Alex Kirschling, from the Public Service Commission, informed the DPC that he is considering hosting a one-day damage prevention conference. Mr. Kirschling said the PSC hosts a pipeline safety conference every other year in February. The next conference would be in February of 2026. He said he could add a second day to that conference and dedicate it to damage prevention topics. Mr. Kirschling asked the group their thoughts on that idea and if they had interest.

Matt Grove, from the WTBA, said his organization would be willing to assist, attend, and help come up with agenda items. John Hass, from Veit, and Tyler Gustaveson, from USIC, also said they would be willing to help however they could. Bill Esbeck, from the WSTA, Patrick Vander Sanden, from the WCHA, and Rob Richard, from the WECA, all said they would make their members aware of the conference as Alex moves forward with planning the event.

The next meeting will be Thursday March 20, 2025 at 2pm.