**Wisconsin
Damage Prevention
Council**

Minutes of the May 22, 2025 WI DPC Meeting

The meeting began with introductions. Bob Welsh, from The Welsh Group, then provided an update on the legislative efforts. Mr. Welsh said he has been working with a legislator's office to draft the proposed law changes into language suitable for a bill. Mr. Welsh said he received an initial draft, but it needed changes. He is currently waiting on the second draft. Once satisfied, he will present the information to the Legislative Subcommittee for additional discussion and clarification.   Mr. Welsh anticipates more revisions will be needed before the language is ready to be crafted into a bill.

With quite a few new people in attendance, Kevin Boyer, from EMCS, took the opportunity to promote the Data Sharing Subcommittee, of which he is the Chair. Mr. Boyer said that subcommittee has been a bit dormant recently due to many of the discussion items funneling into the law discussion. However, Mr. Boyer informed the group that the Data Sharing Subcommittee has discussed sharing future excavation project data, white lining, and improving utility mapping. He encouraged any of the new participants to reach out to him if they have any additional ideas for the subcommittee.

Bill Dreyer, representing the operating engineers, recommended the DPC reach out to Spectrum and invite them to attend the meetings. Mr. Dreyer has encountered issues with Spectrum locates out in the field. Mike Meyer said he would reach out to Spectrum.

The group then discussed the utility mapping requirements in the proposed legislation. Rob Sosalla, from Riverland Energy Cooperative, asked if there is a standard or technology which is being used to track the Z coordinate (depth) when plowing new cable into the ground. Mr. Sosalla, and Nic Alberson, from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, are both concerned about having a depth requirement without a reliable technology to track that depth at the time of burial. John Hass, from Veit, said he could discuss this with some of the companies in Minnesota to see what they are doing to get that depth data. Minnesota recently passed a law requiring utility mapping to include X, Y, and Z coordinates on new facility installations. Kenny Ceagiske, from Taylor Electric Cooperative, asked if Mr. Hass could also find out what the utilities are using for database software to store the mapping data. Mr. Ceagiske said it is cost-prohibitive for small municipal utilities to replace software just for mapping data, in addition to being problematic due to that software also being currently tied to other municipal processes. Mike Meyer, from Diggers Hotline, recommended the Data Sharing Subcommittee meet and come up with a list of potential concerns about the mapping requirements, as well as research solutions. Joe Tew, from the City of Brookfield, recommended that discussion also include standards for how that data will be stored and shared. Mr. Boyer will schedule a Data Sharing Subcommittee meeting. Anyone interested in attending that subcommittee should get in contact with Mike Meyer.

A question was also asked about the proposed penalties in the law. The question specifically was about who would be assigned the penalty in the case of non-locating? Would it be the utility or the locate company? Most DPC members seemed in favor of the penalty going to the utility. Mr. Welsh said the proposed language references the current law, which puts that requirement upon the transmission facility owner.

Mr. Welsh asked if the Training and Resources Subcommittee could take up the discussion about locator and utility training. The Training and Resources Subcommittee currently is not active and needs a Chair. If any DPC members would like to Chair that subcommittee, please contact Mike Meyer. Brian Dreesen, from USIC, said

NULCA, the National Utility Locating Contractors Association, is discussing national standards for locator training. Mr. Dreesen said he would do some research on that and providing his findings back to the DPC.

The next meeting will be Thursday July 24, 2025 at 2pm.