



Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council

Minutes of the September 11, 2025 WI DPC Meeting

The meeting began with introductions. Bob Welch, from The Welch Group, then provided an update on the legislative efforts. Mr. Welch said he received a second revision of the proposed bill, but still wanted a few items corrected before turning it over to the group. Once he is satisfied, he will present the proposed language to the group for their review. Mr. Welch also said he plans on scheduling a Legislative Subcommittee meeting by end of September or early October at the latest.

Ben Bents, from Xcel Energy, asked about the proposed mapping requirements which are part of both the Data Sharing and Legislative Subcommittee discussions. Mr. Welch explained the proposed requirements are about improving future utility mapping data, incorporating Z coordinates with the X & Y, as well as improving the accessibility of that map data. Joe Tew, from the City of Brookfield, asked if anyone has experience with utility mapping, and are not already part of the Data Sharing Subcommittee, to lend their expertise to that group now, given the Subcommittee is actively defining what improvements to propose.

Barry Paye, from the Wisconsin DOT, informed the group that the DOT will be holding their utility workshop on December 16, 2025. Mr. Paye said the goal of the workshop is to discuss common issues regarding working around utilities, the various DOT projects which are upcoming, and improving the communication in both those areas. Mr. Paye said he hoped to bring some highlights back to the DPC to assist with the DPC efforts.

Daniel Stoscup, from RHP Properties, discussed a situation he encountered when his company hit a underground line and encountered communication difficulties attempting to notify affected parties. Mr. Stoscup asked who he could talk to about the situation to discuss how it was handled and recommended improvements. Mike Meyer, from Diggers Hotline, said he could call him to discuss.

Bill Esbeck, from the WSTA, informed the group that the PSC had submitted their final proposal for BEAD funding. Mr. Esbeck said it is expected that projects related to the proposal could begin in 2026, but it is likely only some of the work will begin in 2026 and continue for approximately 4 years. There are also approximately 130,000 fiber-to-premises planned as part of that proposal.

Mr. Meyer, on behalf of Alex Kirschling, from the PSC, informed the group that the PSC has added an additional day to their utility conference in 2026. The extra day will be dedicated to Damage Prevention and will be on February 3, 2026, in the Wisconsin Dells. There is talk of hosting a DPC meeting to start that day. Mr. Kirschling asked the group to inform anyone they think would benefit from attending, as well as bring forward any ideas for topics that day.

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