



Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council

Minutes of the July 23, 2026 WI DPC Meeting

The meeting began with introductions. Mike Meyer, from Diggers Hotline updated the group on the Legislative Subcommittee meeting held a few weeks earlier. Mike said the Subcommittee has begun to review the full legislative wish list to determine if any of the items on that list need to be removed from discussion due to significant concerns. The group went through about a third of the list. There were some questions or concerns about each item discussed, but none appeared to be deal breakers at this time.

Mike then informed the group that the Board of Directors and the President/CEO of Diggers Hotline have been meeting with management of other one call centers around the country to discuss the legislative efforts undertaken in those states and the role the one call has played in that process. In the course of those discussions, other states raised some interesting points which might be applicable to the WI DPC legislative discussions. One common occurrence with other legislative efforts is it starts with forming a strong stakeholder coalition. In most of the states, legislation is passed a few items at a time, not all at once. When discussing the wish list items, the best approach is to make sure the coalition agrees with the points in principle, even if the exact wording still needs to be worked out. The goal should also be to build 80% consensus because no item will have a complete approval.

Mike said he was going to recommend to the Legislative Subcommittee they narrow down the list to a handful of important items and work towards getting those passed. He thinks it might be easier to build consensus if the list is smaller, and acknowledged it might take too long to pass a larger bill. Mike believes this process has gone on too long already and the DPC needs some accomplishments to keep the group interested and active.

Elise Nelson, from the WTBA, raised a concern about the previous work done by the Legislative Subcommittee and the last document presented by Bob Welch before he retired. Elise was concerned about losing all the good work which was done, especially on the language in that document. Ruth Hackney, from WUCA, agreed with Elise about the importance of not beginning from scratch. While there was some concern from DPC members about aspects of that document, the DPC as a whole agreed that document can and should be used moving forward in the legislative discussions, so we are not reinventing the wheel and losing the work which has been done. DPC members asked to review the Welch document, as well as the master list of legislative changes being used by the Subcommittee. Mike will forward those documents to the DPC members with the minutes. Mike will also push the next Legislative Subcommittee meeting from next week to a few weeks out, so DPC members can review both documents and start to put together their top 5 lists.

Mike then raised another issue for discussion. This was another idea which came from discussions with other states who have legislative committees/coalitions. Mike recommended the DPC begin to discuss setting up a leadership structure. The initial discussion centered around having two Co-Chairs of the

DPC. Ruth recommended a Chair and Vice Chair, citing that Co-Chairs can end up being a “too many cooks in the kitchen” situation. The 2 leadership positions would have one from the excavator/planner side of the industry and one would be from the utility/locating side of the industry. Each group would discuss a candidate or candidates to nominate and then bring the candidate to the DPC for consideration. Candidates would need to be people who are respected in the industry and have a proven track record of working with all stakeholders. Diggers Hotline, and more specifically, Mike, would remain in a Secretary position with the DPC, and continue to be tasked with organizing and documenting the meetings. The leadership positions could be discussed between now and the last DPC meeting of the year, in November. At the November meeting, the leadership could be implemented so it is in place for 2027.

DPC members all seemed in agreement that establishing leadership was a good idea. Nancy Mitchell, fromUSIC, said this type of leadership structure is similar with what many other states do. Nancy also said that typically the final decision about which people are placed in the leadership positions falls to the President/CEO of the 811 center. Mike will work with the DPC members to organize them into groups for discussing potential candidates.

Action Items for DPC Members

- Review the legislative wish list, Welch legislation draft, and PIPES act documentation. Recommend 5 legislative items the Legislative Subcommittee should pursue for implementation as soon as possible. Provide those top 5 lists to Mike.
- Utilities/Locators and Excavators/Planners should work within their specific coalitions to discuss a recommendation for leadership positions with the WI DPC. Potential candidates should have a proven track record of working with all sides of the industry and be committed to the Mission and Vision of the DPC, not their own coalitions’ best interests.
- Anyone not already on the Legislative Subcommittee, who wishes to be, should reach out to Mike to be added to that roster.