



Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council

Minutes of the May 23, 2024 WI DPC Meeting

The meeting began with a presentation from Mr. Mike Klonsinski, from Berntsen International, Inc. Berntsen International produces underground marking tools, as well as many other products. Mr. Klonsinski showcased some underground asset management tools which can be buried with the facilities and provide more granular location data associated to that line which is in the ground. His presentation also highlighted the data which can be shared regarding the location and accessing of those underground markers. Mr. Klonsinski told the group they could contact him at 608-335-4217 if there are any questions.

The Legislative Subcommittee and Data Sharing Subcommittee Chairs shared their updates. Mr. Bob Welch said the Legislative Subcommittee met in April and brainstormed any and all ideas for how the current law could be improved to aid damage prevention and improve utility locating. Mr. Welch said the group did not get into discussions about the merits or feasibility of the recommended changes, but rather just came up with ideas. Mr. Mike Meyer shared the list with the DPC members prior to the meeting. Mr. Welch asked that all the DPC members review the list and forward him any additional ideas for law changes. Mr. Welch said the next steps will be to discuss the items on the list and determine how they could be drafted into statutory language. Mr. Welch said it does not mean all ideas will be approved, but it is a necessary step in the process to assess how they would be drafted into law.

Mr. Kevin Boyer said the Data Sharing Subcommittee also met in April. The focus of the first meeting was on sharing future project data, but that was only one aspect of an agenda with many other topics. The next Data Sharing Subcommittee meeting is being scheduled for June and will cover more ways Data Sharing can be accomplished.

Mr. Meyer informed the group that there has been discussion by the Diggers Hotline Advisory Board about the possibility of holding a safety conference. The Advisory Board thought the WI DPC could be a good group to gauge interest and possibly be the driving force for creating the safety conference. The safety conference could be a 2-day event, centrally located in Wisconsin, and have a variety of safety-related speakers. Mr. Meyer asked that the group consider this idea for discussion at future meetings, as well as the possibility of creating a Subcommittee to discuss specifics. Mr. Meyer will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting moved into general discussion. Mr. Kevin Boyer, from EMCS, raised a concern about a specific situation he has encountered recently. Mr. Boyer said he had a utility company inform him they will not be locating Planning tickets. Mr. Boyer said he has been able, in some cases, to get prints from that utility company, but they do not want to provide that information either. Mr. Boyer brought this up not only to raise the concern, but to stress the importance of this being addressed by the Legislative Subcommittee.

The next meeting will tentatively be scheduled for Thursday, July 18 at 2pm. Location to be determined, but likely moving back to Madison as the Madison meetings are better attended in person.