



# **Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council**

## **Minutes of the July 18, 2024 WI DPC Meeting**

The meeting began with introductions. Mike Meyer informed the group that Trimble asked if they could present at the meeting in September, to allow them to attend the July meeting, see what the group is discussing, and build their presentation. Trimble attended this meeting and will be presenting at the September meeting.

The subcommittees then updated the group on their activity since the last meeting.

Bob Welch said the Legislative Subcommittee had two productive meetings since the last DPC meeting. The Subcommittee reviewed each item on the legislative wish list for clarification or to answer any questions. Now that the list is complete, Mr. Welch said the next step will be to form a smaller subcommittee of people who have legislative experience to draft the actual language of each item on the list. Once the language is drafted for each item, the full Legislative Subcommittee can then review the list again to determine which changes to pursue. Once the list is finalized, it will be brought back to the entire DPC for final review, discussion, and approval.

Kevin Boyer said the Data Sharing Subcommittee had also met twice since the last DPC meeting. Mr. Boyer said the discussions have been positive and have narrowed down into 3 main topics:

1. Sharing of future excavation projects. This issue focuses on working with utility and municipal organizations to share their plans for future work. The sharing of this data will assist locators in scheduling resources to meet the excavation needs, especially in areas where excavation has historically been slow, but then experiences a sudden increase due to road or fiber work. Some utilities are willing to share plans, while others are not. The Subcommittee is working on the specific information about future plans which is beneficial to locators and how best to reach out to facility owners to encourage sharing that information.
2. Pre-Marking and virtual white lining. There has also been discussion about the possibility of requiring Pre-Marking or virtual white lining. Pre-Marking involves excavators defining the specific area where they are digging at the worksite by using either white paint, flags, or stakes. Virtual white lining accomplishes a similar goal, but is done by identifying the specific excavation area in a computerized mapping system, which is typically part of the one call ticketing system.
3. Improving utility mapping. The Subcommittee has discussed ways to improve the accuracy and availability of the utility facility maps. This could be accomplished by surveying utility locate markings on the ground to improve the legacy data, as well as looking for survey grade mapping for all new facility installations. An additional discussion will be how to best share that information amongst the various parties.

Mr. Boyer acknowledged that much of what the Data Sharing Subcommittee is discussing works in conjunction with the efforts of the Legislative Subcommittee.

Josh Morby stated the Training and Resources Subcommittee has not met since the last meeting. A meeting was attempted to be scheduled, but only a couple people responded, so Mr. Morby and Mr. Meyer decided to forgo scheduling a meeting and try again down the road. Mr. Morby did say he has been working with USDA on grant money available specifically for workforce needs pertaining to rural fiber installation.

During the open forum, Kevin Boyer took a moment to compliment USIC for their work this season with his various locating needs. Mr. Boyer said USIC has been responsive and communication has been good between him and them.

Curt Campagna reinforced the importance of protecting workers on the various roadways. Mr. Campagna recommended taking all the necessary steps to protecting workers, especially given the increase in inattentive drivers. During this discussion, protective lights were recommended. Guardian Angel Devices was brought up as a quality light product many crews are using. If anyone is interested in those products, the website is <https://www.guardianangeldevices.com/>.

The group then decided to go virtual-only for most meetings and only schedule an in-person meeting once or twice a year. The online attendance for meetings has been good, but the in-person attendance has been decreasing over time.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, September 19 at 2pm. The meeting will be virtual only.