



Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council

Minutes of the October 5, 2023 WI DPC Meeting

The meeting began at 9:05AM with introductions, followed by a discussion of where and how often to meet. The group decided that the meeting locations should rotate around the state to allow for in-person attendance opportunities from a variety of stakeholders. The next meeting will be held in the Milwaukee area again, but will move to other locations for subsequent meetings. We Energies, the Wisconsin DOT, the Public Service Commission, and Xcel Energy all offered to host future meetings at their various facilities.

Regarding the frequency of meetings, the group decided the next meeting will be in the afternoon on November 15, 2023. There will be no meeting in December due to the scheduling challenges posed by the holidays. The group will meet again in January, February, and March, but will then move to an every-other-month meeting schedule. Once the group has been functioning a while, the meeting schedule could change to quarterly for the entire group and bi-monthly for the smaller, core group.

The group then discussed how best to get the word out to other stakeholders for the future meetings. It was decided each group member would come up with 5 additional contacts/companies from within their specific industry to invite to attend the next WI DPC meeting. Each member will reach out to that contact to see if they are interested in participating. The WI DPC members will get the contact information of the interested parties to Mike Meyer, from Diggers Hotline, to add to the meeting mailing and contact list. Mike will send the WI DPC informative handout to the group so they can present it to their contacts.

The group then discussed the official role of the core members and potential officer positions. Bob Welch, from the WSLS and The Welch Group, recommended consensus building over holding official votes. Bob explained that getting all parties in agreement on something is not likely to happen, therefore building a consensus will be the most effective way of moving issues forward which do not have complete agreement.

Justin Larson, from Xcel Energy agreed with consensus building, but stated that if voting is necessary, it may be beneficial if the WI DPC members received one vote for each stakeholder group they represent.

Regarding officer positions, Brian Dreesen, from USIC, stated it may be premature to consider candidates for officer positions due to the WI DPC still being in the phase of growing the participation. The group agreed with Brian and will spend time focusing on building the council first. Andrew LaTona, from We Energies, recommended that when the time comes for officer positions, that a reserve officer group be established, an "officers-in-waiting" to be ready to fill the open positions once the 2-year term is up. That allows the reserve officers to learn the ropes and be ready to step in once their term begins. Mike Meyer volunteered to continue organizing, planning, and facilitating the meetings until officer positions are established.

The final topic discussed was the agenda for future meetings. Mike Meyer presented a list to the group. The list contains various factors potentially contributing to the issue of utility locates not being performed on time. Mike pulled the list from opinions and conversations shared by various stakeholders to Diggers Hotline. Mike will send the document to all the WI DPC members. WI DPC members will review the list and provide any additional factors they believe are contributing to the problems, review the list and come to the next meeting prepared to share their insights on those factors which affect their industry directly. Bob Welch asked that the WI DPC

members explain their experiences and viewpoints from their stakeholder perspectives. Bob also asked that, for a future meeting in January or February, the group discuss current technological advances and whether or not the WI DPC members have or will be implementing any new technology.

The meeting wrapped up shortly after 10am.