



Date: April 14, 2022

Location: Virtual via Google Meet

Present:

	Chris Kampmann		Jeannette Jones	✓	Mark Williams	✓	Rob Martindale
	Dale Kishbaugh	✓	Jim Moody	✓	Patrick Fitzgerald	✓	Ted Jensen
✓	Dana Bijold	✓	Julie McCaleb		Raymond Swerdfeger		Terri King
✓	Esther Williams		Lori Warner		Rob Ellis		

* Indicates arrival after roll call . - indicates technical difficulties during roll call

Note: The meeting was recorded and started at 10:00 am. These minutes represent a summary of this meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim document. Audio recordings of the meetings can be obtained by contacting cdle_safetycommission@state.co.us.

MINUTES APPROVAL

A Motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2022 meeting: In discussion a spelling error was noted and corrected; a vote was taken to approve the minutes. It was approved.

BEST PRACTICE DISCUSSION:

Utility Owners were invited to share their current workflow for Large or Complex projects:

BJ Hartley from Black Hills Energy:

- Uses 10 day tickets as “large” projects - with 1,000ft. Attempt to complete all tickets within the time period.
- Perhaps developing a *30 day prior meet ticket*, so that everyone is aware of the upcoming workload.
- “Large projects” are not an issue for this utility owner at this time. What they do for horizontal drilling projects:
 - Called a meeting with everyone through CO 811 to explain Black Hills requirements and State requirements, and that establishes weekly meetings (once they know work is occurring).
 - Would prefer to have meetings 30 days prior to work to inform contract locators, however they do not always know that far in advance.
 - Gypsum/Eagle county helped establish this process.
 - Key is proactive communication.
 - Ask the contractor to file a multi day ticket to allow time for work to be completed.
 - Not required, and prefer to be present for all visual crossings, services and mains (had to staff up for this).
 - If utility owners could see grants/contracts being issued, that is a way to know ahead of time what is coming location-wise. Can move staff if known in advance. Sometimes in rural areas where there’s only 1 locator and no advance notice it’s an issue.
 - It would be helpful if excavators/contractors have to be trained/licensed for CO laws. CO Springs may require this.
 - Ask boring companies to not call in more than 1,000ft per locate ticket. This kind of limit is very helpful.

Mark Williams:

- Sewer, want to be present for at least all Mains being crossed
- When engineering locates being asked for keep that information for later.
- Sometimes they get a multiday ticket and sometimes they get a regular locate ticket.
- Meetings are the most important.
- Boring companies that apply for a right of way permit, have to work with the city's engineering department (plans have to be approved).
- Large project process (water utilities):
 - Goes through engineering process first, regardless of 50 or 1,000 feet (when in the right of way)
 - Conditions of engineering requirement are part of permitting process.
 - Have weekly meetings with contractors working with School of Mines and USTS; for drillers it might be a 1 time meeting.
 - Keep a locator on a project until the project is done.
 - Has seen refresh tickets being called in continuously, and the contractor was not yet even on the job site. Law requires them to maintain marks on site as best as possible as well.
 - "Large projects" might be ~10% of tickets.

Esther Williams:

- It is not knowing ahead of time what work is coming & who is doing it.
- Also, out of state excavators may not know the CO laws.
- Excavators need certification that they know the rules for excavating in CO. Currently this is not the case. Specifically, how to "safely dig around all utilities"
- Large projects like malls/shopping centers and Boring projects both should be accounted for in this Best Practice. Boring causes damage to utilities more than other excavation types (13% of damage); they make up 24% of locate requests. Locating resources are significant for boring projects.
- If tickets are over 1,000ft will locate 1,000ft and document what has been done and what needs to get completed.
- Xcel's process:
 - Similar to the other 2 stakeholders' comments.
 - Challenging to know what work is happening in Denver Metro; usually find out when there is a damage.
 - Use relocate/refresh and 10 day tickets.
 - Try to limit to 1,000ft per ticket.
 - Challenge when excavators want to work in a non-linear fashion.
 - Attempt in person meetings and hosting trainings.
 - Have met previously with municipalities in an attempt to get permit data (for anything over 500ft); nothing came from the discussions (discussions happened during pandemic).
 - Prefer 30-60 days notice.
 - Advanced notice would allow for meetings and education to occur.

Rob Martindale:

- Several large projects don't meet the definition of SUE, and then the SUE tickets are not required to be done.
- CDOT changes their code to require utility companies to provide plansets to CDOT for directional boring work occurring in their right of ways, and those plans are shared with excavators. This has led to less damages.
- Standard specification 105-11: cooperation with utilities - to be shared by Rob with Commission at a future meeting
 - Expectation of excavators to establish communication with utility owners

Melissa Craven (CO 811):

- Half of multiday tickets for 2021 were for directional drilling

Georgia 811 Process for Large Projects:

- [Docket No. 28596](#)
- [Step by Step Large Project Process](#)

General Discussion:

- Weekly meetings and ongoing communication is key.
- Consider focusing on directional drilling as a Best Practice, as this might impact locator resources and damage prevention for the benefit of all.
- State licensure would require a law within CO to mandate this.

- Current law does not mandate size limits on tickets; it is encouraged. Consider making this a Best Practice (1,000ft limit).
- Consider requiring CO 811 Excavator courses for out of state companies?
- Consider asking permit offices to share with contractors a statement, “for projects over 500 linear feet, please contact the following utility owners”
 - CDOT has put similar language into their permit process.
 - Utility owners need to ensure the contact information is always accurate (generic/forwarded email and phone number).
- Perhaps consider multiple solutions to cover all cases, in case certain jurisdictions are not on board, or certain contractors are not willing to do the process. Ideally the multiple methods would have a more positive impact.
- Conversations amongst Utility Owners about work occurring (eg calling Verizon or Comcast when they are doing installations) - BJ Hartley noted this has not worked, and has more success with drill companies. Esther Williams felt similarly; not sure who is in charge of damage prevention for other utility owners.
- Public projects/SUE tickets do allow utility owners to have advanced notice of potential future work.
- All utility owners that shared their perspectives agreed that companies that they do not pre-meet with are causing the majority of damages to facilities.
- Consider reviewing other state laws: Xcel operates in 8 states (Esther Williams to follow up); Black Hills is in 5 states and uses the same process in all 5.
- When refreshes are being constantly called in it takes resources away from other tickets, and impacts other excavators. Education on this is important. Question on what type of contractors are doing this (if known): Seems to be all over the board.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Best Practice sub committee members should read the hyper-linked documents from GA before the next meeting.
- Next meeting should include boring contractors or horizontal drillers, excavators, CDOT, then at a future meeting CO 811 and how the process looks in other states.

The next meeting is May 12, 2022.

Meeting adjourned.