

IDAHO UTILITY COORDINATING COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 2009
ADA COUNTY HIGHWAY DISTRICT, GARDEN CITY, IDAHO

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Franco Massari	Intermountain Gas	Franco.massari@intgas.com
Doug Schaefer	United Water Idaho	doug.schaefer@unitedwater.com
Tom Satorie	Ada County Highway District	tsatorie@achd.ada.id.us
Rodger Hood	Idaho Power	fredmert@msn.com
Kelly Gorringer	Intermountain Gas	kelley.gorringer@intgas.com
Darlene Edwards	City of Sandpoint	darlene@ci.sandpoint.id.us
Rod Bacon	Password Inc.	rjbacon@passwordincl.com
Bruce Hathaway	Timewarner Cable	bruce.hathaway@twcable.com
Jim Pope	Avista Utilities	Jim.pope@avistautilities.com
Tom Donohue	Cable One	tom.donohue@cableone.net
Linda Phillips	Digline Inc.	lphillips@digline.com
Terry Wolverton	TransCanada – GTN	terry_wolverton@transcanada.com
Robert Linkhart	ITD	robert.linkhart@itd.idaho.gov
Nestor Fernandez		
Ron Law	PUC	ron.law@puc.idaho.gov
Melissa Mendez	Qwest	Melissa.Mendez@qwest.com
Wally Hammons		whammons@ci.caldwell.id.us

Franco Massari called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Idaho Railroads and Idaho Transportation Department (I.T.D.) – Robert Linkhart, Utility Agreement Coordinator

Robert Linkhart said ITD and the Highway Districts keep in contact with the railroads and the IUCC should. There are some changes and Jack Masitis is now in charge of utility issues excluding the railroad and he handles railroad issues for ITD Operations and Safety. ITD still provides the same service and tools available on their web site. You can use utility/railroad tracking system to track ITD projects and contact information for all utility representatives operating in Idaho. You can view ITD Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on their web. He said the railroads have a fifty (50) foot right of way on both sides of the tracks. There is a safety presentation available for railroad crossing from the Idaho Lifesaver Program. ITD board meets once a month and they will have a new director and that would be a good time for the IUCC to make a presentation on the Dig Law. Sue Higgins is the board secretary and can be reached on ITD's web site.

Ron Law said before you contact the railroad board IUCC must be prepared and should contact the local ITD office and get their support.

Franco Massari said this discussion will continue later in the meeting and you will have to decide if IUCC is interested and who and what to discuss with the railroad.

Federal Stimulus & the Impact on Infrastructure in Idaho – Nestor Fernandez, Statewide Roadway Design Engineer

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Nestor Fernandez said Title 12 American Act funded twenty seven (27) billion dollars in stimulus funds. Idaho received one hundred eighty two (182) million dollars which is distributed in March 2010 between transportation enhancements, sub-allocation for areas based on population and for any area of the state. The funds must be expended by February 2012 or lose. He said they look at readiness benefit, long term economical and multimodal impact. He said the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) is going through comment period and on the web site.

Non-profit status – Darlene Edwards

Darlene Edwards said the IRS has determined IUCC non profit status as 501 (c) (6) and requested a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation (AOI) by October 9, 2009. She said the paperwork for 501 (c) (6) has been sent to the IRS. The amended AOI to reflect the 501 (c) (6) changes are before you for approval. Upon approval she will file the AOI with the state and send the filed copy to the IRS.

Linda Phillips moved to amend the Articles of Incorporation as presented and Tom Donohue seconded. The vote was called for: Payette-yes, Canyon-yes, Lewis/Clark-yes, Bonner-Boundary-yes, Kootenai-yes, Shoshone-yes, Ada-yes. The AOI were approved.

Damage Prevention Survey Results – Ron Law, Idaho Public Utilities Commission (I.P.U.C.)

Ron Law said he is the program manager of Pipeline Safety in Idaho and they are receiving more attention nationally and in Idaho. The 2006 pipe act passed and is about statewide damage prevention programs. It involves all stakeholders meeting and coming up with a plan on how to prevent damages in your state. He said the IUCC could be a backbone for a statewide damage prevention group. He is working with Intermountain Gas to setup a meeting with key utilities to discuss establishing state damage program and recommended IUCC as the spearhead group. There will be discussion about utility coordinating council and the need for local councils throughout the state. Intermountain Gas pledged that all their districts will work towards that and utilize there facilities for meetings. The state wide damage program needs to be revolving around the nine elements. The federal government will be doing a survey on where the state is on the nine elements. That information will help determine what areas for damage prevention need work. The other issue to be discussed is the Dig law and changes and what direction to take. It is known that TransCanada and Cable One-West Valley are both working on Dig Law issues separately.

Ron Law said he worked with Dig Line and Password and the surveys were sent out to excavator/contractor and Utility owners. There were 125 results for Utility owners and 283 for excavator/contractor.

Ron Law said the IUCC needs to continue moving forward on putting together a damage prevention program in Idaho that everyone will buy into.

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The Dig law is a major factor and needs improvement. There are only seven (7) states that have enforcement ability and there will be more emphasis on enforcement through Pipeline Safety Act.

Franco Massari said the surveys are the first paper trail for moving forward with changing the Dig law.

Ron Law said he would work with the local IUCCs and come up with a simple draft of an Idaho damage prevention program which he would use to present to the other utilities for their input and support. He would email out to everyone else for their comments. The draft could cover education for general public, utilities, excavators and enforcement. Franco Massari asked for volunteers to help him and Linda Phillips and Ron Law with the draft of the Idaho damage prevention program via email and conference calls. Rodger Hood and Tom Donohue volunteered. Linda Phillips suggested each person find out who the contact person at their company who is responsible for safety and education and see if they would support.

Dig Law Revisions

Franco Massari said Jed Turnbull chaired the legislative group that is tasked to work on the legislative side for changes to the Dig law. He said the UCC's were to provide key contact persons from utilities who can help with law changes and had not received very many. Some members stated that his email is always full.

Franco Massari read Jed Turnbuls letter of resignation from the legislative team due to health issues. He asked the members if the IUCC wants to continue working towards changes in the Dig law. Rod Bacon said there are two different approaches to the law changes and they are Nevada and Oregon's program. Rodger Hood said Jed Turnbull was leaning towards the Nevada program but funding is an issue. Franco Massari said Colorado approach is through State government and the UCC is called Damage Prevention Councils and they educate, no enforcement, but have State District Attorney assistance if needed in extreme cases when all else has failed.

Franco Massari said the underground facility owner survey showed that the lack of enforcement was the highest comment. That is when the committee was formed to find out how to get more enforcement in the Dig law. He said you need the support from a legislative person and facility owners along with a revised Dig law language before you can proceed.

Linda Phillips asked that since the PUC has no enforcement ability at this time, would the IPUC commissioners be open to providing enforcement, if the consensus was the IPUC would be mostly likely enforcing agent. Ron Law said if the legislature required it, then IPUC would do enforcement.

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However, the route would be the legislators would aske for comments from the IPUC on enforcement and then the commissioners would ask about resources and what the proposal details are. Somewhere there would need to be funding to pay for the enforcement, i.e., labor, etc.

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Kelly Gorringer	Intermountain Gas	kelley.gorringer@intgas.com
Joe Samer	Connecting Idaho Partners	joseph.samer@ch2m.com
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Andy Beutler		andyb@fmtc.com
Jim Pope	Avista Utilities	Jim.pope@avistautilities.com
Tom Donohue	Cable One	tom.donohue@cableone.net
Linda Phillips	Digline Inc.	lphillips@digline.com
Terry Wolverton	TransCanada – GTN	terry_wolverton@transcanada.com
Melissa Mendez	Qwest	Melissa.Mendez@qwest.com

Minutes

Bruce Hathaway moved and Tom Donohue seconded to approve the April 2009 minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer Report

Darlene Edwards said the bank balance as of September 2009 is \$2727.30. Rodger Hood moved and Andy Beutler seconded to approve the treasurer report as presented. The vote was unanimous.

One Call Update

Password – Rod Bacon

Rod Bacon said the transmission report shows that 2009 is down 32% from 2005. He said they are concerned of the level of compliance for their purpose and with the Dig law. They have collected data base on building permits from the City of Coeur d'Alene for the last five years. Their intent is to identify on the building permit if excavation is involved and if locates where called in. A solution is if the permit asked if excavating with a yes or no box and if they did excavate and no locates they will send out a series of mailings to remind persons to call before digging.

Dig Line – Linda Phillips

Linda Phillips said she is down 32-35% below compared to last year. She has down sized staff from seventeen (17) to ten (10). She said compared to last year homeowner request is up 20% and contractor has dropped 57% and excavator 59%.

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She said when a contractor calls in a locate request they ask who is doing the digging and if they state a subcontractor, they advise them to have the subcontractor call his own locate or request an update. When the homeowner calls the same question is asked and if the excavator is doing the actual digging than they put on the ticket excavator/owner.

The Dig Line web site has been revamped and has more public information. There is a tab for homeowners, engineers and excavators and utilities. She said coming October 1st there will be a chat line on the website.

She said Safety Fest 2010 in January is in southern Idaho and they asked Dig Line to give a class.

She said the workers in her office are still on dig patrol. She said they ask for an email address which is included on the ticket. She said they do pre-design locates at Dig Line.

Linda Phillips said she is starting to compile contact names and information of the utility personnel that are responsible for Pre-Design and/or mapping requests. Eventually she will create a data base on utility contact persons directly involved in mapping or design capacity and engineers will be able to access from the Dig Line or IUCC website. Engineers could select a county from the web map and then get the contact information they need for a design locate.

IUCC Web site

Franco Massari said the IUCC web site is complete. Linda Phillips and Darlene Edwards can input information in most parts of the site but there are some links that are not editable. The IUCC will have to decide whether to hire someone to update when needed. Linda Phillips said Clean Web Design charges \$70.00 an hour and does maintain existing sites and could provide an editor program which is easy to do. Bruce Hathaway said their UCC uses High Mountain Design to maintain their web site at \$30.00 an hour.

Local Chapter Reports

Kelly Gorringer - Magic Valley UCC said two years ago he attended the State meeting and was asked to setup a UCC in Magic Valley. He spoke with some of the people and they said it was tried before and not successful. He said he emailed people about the UCC meeting which is held during lunch hour and had a good response in attendance. He said in April the UCC celebrated one year and their attendees are: Intermountain gas, Project Mutual, Elm locating, Williams Petroleum Company, City of Twin Falls, PMT, IGC, JUB, Qwest, Idaho Power and Cable One. He said at their meeting you get updates on utility projects. Also the utilities are now coordinating on projects and have preconstruction meetings and sharing joint utility corridors. They meet on the second Thursday, monthly. He said there is no bylaws or dues setup yet.

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Andy Beuter - Payette/Washington UCC said the economy is slow and attendance is steady 12-15 persons. They have a good mix of companies and the city. Linda Phillips said the county planning attends with list of projects.

Tom Donohue-Lewis/Clark UCC said attendance is down and they lost the ITD person who passed away this weekend. Their economy is slow. City of Lewiston and Ashton County attend. He said the City of Clarkston and Nez Perce County only attend when there is some problem and they want to complain.

Bruce Hathaway-Kootenai County UCC said their attendance is 15-20 persons. The economy is slow. Jim Pope said there are small gas projects. Bruce Hathaway said there is no ITD attendance at their meetings. Bruce Hathaway said the Home and Garden show attendance was good this year and distributed a lot of information. Jim Pope said Herb Heisel visits with all equipment rental agencies and requests that they place the Call Before You Dig key chains on their equipment. Bruce Hathaway said the UCC now has a web site. He said they meet on the first Monday every month at noon at Sargents.

Rod Bacon-Shoshone/Benewah UCC said the Superfund cleanup is almost complete. He said there is more real estate development and properties selling. There is 14% unemployment.

Darlene Edwards-Bonner/Boundary UCC said the Bonner attendance is 8 and Boundary is 10-12. Meetings are second Wednesday of each month at noon and the location varies. The fair this year was very successful and they gave away large recyclable bags with 811 and TransCanada logos. Terry Wolverton said TransCanada held two contractor breakfast and first responder pipeline safety lunch in Bonners and Sandpoint and was very well attended. Rod Bacon said the GIS mapping for Bonner and Boundary is better especially for the county area. Rod Bacon said Gary Falcon in Boundary and Joe Barrica of Map metrics has done a great job.

Melissa Mendez-Ada County UCC said the same members attend their meeting and is slow at times. They still have participation from cities, counties and some engineering firms in attendance. She said Joe Samer with Connecting Idaho Partners attends their UCC meeting and helps with quest speakers and speaks about the UCC at ITD project meetings. They do have contractors attend and are members and attend when they need to provide or receive information. She said growth is slow except for ITD road projects.

Joe Samer-Canyon UCC said their attendance has dropped off due to work being busy. Nampa and Caldwell are very busy with road projects. There UCC has Qwest and Dave Lowry who attend and update on their projects. He said Connecting Idaho Partners has garvee projects and he is busing dealing in the development area.

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New Business

-Kelly Gorringer said another idea for damage prevention education for rental agencies is to attach the 811 logo to their telephone advertisement and he asked if the grant money could be used. Linda Phillips said the telephone advertisement is an annual fee. She said you could see about doing a shared newspaper advertisement in the spring as a reminder in the smaller cities. Franco Massari said public education outreach could be one of the elements for damage prevention program.

-Franco Massari said he needs volunteers via phone conferences to help draft a damage prevention program. The goal is to apply for September 2010 grant. Rod Bacon, Tom Donohue and Rodger Hood volunteered. Rodger Hood suggested email first the questions and then schedule a conference call. Linda Phillips said once a month having a conference call to work on the first outline for a damage prevention program. Franco Massari said that Ron Law will also help write the grant.

-Linda Phillips said there is no point person to contact about keeping track of the legislative changes for the Dig laws. Terry Wolverson said TransCanada regulatory affairs people are starting a process with other utilities on changing the Dig law and he can email the IUCC the information.

Nominating Committee – Franco Massari said he is looking for volunteers for nominating committee for the elections in April 2010 for president and vice president. Tom Donohue and Bruce Hathaway.

NEXT MEETING: tentatively scheduled in Lewiston April 21st-22nd or 28th-29th at a ITD meeting room. The Red Lion will be asked about guest staying there again. Some of the possible guest speakers could be the local Contractors Board and OSHA.