

OHIO UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION COALITION

November 1, 2022

Attendance: Roger Lipscomb, Jeff Kursman, Yancy Deering, George Gillespie, Jason Broyles, Chuck Muller, Melvin "Johnny" Hinson, Al Tonetti, Debbie Harris, Brian Hickman, Scott Tustin, Wendi Snyder, Tony Brigano, Michael Beine, Kyle Petty, Michael Burn, Troy Carson, Steve Schafer, Scott Lucas, Jim Mander, Brian Williams, Jennifer Reams, Mary Logan So, Steve Buskirk, Les Schell, Liz Pyles, Clayton Heinz, Jim Collins, Lori Wade, Joel Johnson, Greg First, Mike Wilson, Blake Ross, Mike Clifford, Scott Lucas, Greg Bennett

Call Meeting to Order:

Introductions

Brief review of previous subcommittee meetings. (see minutes)

- 1) Exemptions Subcommittee
- 2) Utility Coordination Subcommittee

Roger Lipscomb provided a review of previous work by the OUDPC. He spoke about the impact of Covid on the coalition's pace, and the substantial efforts of the subcommittees during the past year. He expressed, and others agreed, that it's time to recognize that the coalition has made progress and that the participants have a better understanding of each other's needs and issues. Now can be a time for the OUDPC to move forward on the items we all agree on.

Next, Greg First and Mike Wilson were introduced as individuals who have volunteered to be co-chairs. The floor was open to other nominations, but no other names were presented. There was no opposition to Mr. First and Mr. Wilson as serving as chairs.

Exemptions Subcommittee

Exemptions moving to activity-based from entity-based, addresses safety issues and allows Ohio to apply for PHMSA grants.

Broad based agreement on the following exemptions:

- Milling and grinding—no more than 4", no pulverizing, not affecting traffic signal control.
- Underground utility locating and surveying activities limited to uncovering valve enclosures, manhole covers or similar utility components, placement of temporary marking flags or wooden lathe and grounding of locating equipment.
- Utility wood pole inspection utilizing hand tools to excavate and working on the clear side of poles greater than 90 degrees from any risers.
- Repair or replacement of utility pedestals or enclosures in same location.
- Tilling for sowing of grass or other ground cover, especially when to prevent erosion
- Placement of temporary signage.
 - Discussion around the type of temporary signage (doesn't exceed 4" or 6")
 - Discussion around the need for definitions (signage and risers)
 - It was settled that both issues from above should be considered by subcommittee
- Addition or removal of roadside berm material.

The subcommittee will continue to work on an exemption for “the cleaning of debris from open roadside drainage systems that does not alter the existing invert of that drainage system.”

Utility Coordination Subcommittee

Subcommittee supported support for replacing “Large Project” with Utility Coordination.

Information was shared regarding Pennsylvania's law and its “Coordinate PA” system. PA is getting ready to add a new phase to this system. Could Coordinate PA can serve as a model for Ohio?

Roger noted that it is likely that OHIO811 could start to implement this as a voluntary program first, then it might later be supported by law.

There also was support for:

- Scope of Ticket:
 - In terms of the geographic size of a locate request, the subcommittee changed language to “shall not exceed ¼ mile.”
- Ticket Life:
 - Ticket expiration at 30 calendar days (as long as markings are preserved)
 - 16-day commencement of excavation requirement
 - These changes are suggested so that contractors can schedule new tickets for 4 weeks and 2 weeks respectively with an extra two days for remarking so that work doesn't stop).

Al Tonetti voiced concerns that archeologists, because they often will dig in multiple locations on the same day, could be negatively affected by the ¼-mile rule. It was pointed out that the language limits this to the public right of way, thus it would not affect most of the archeological work

The coalition discussed a possible 30-day life of ticket. This would change the law to call for a mandatory remarking at 30 days, but that would cause a 48-hour wait for marking. Thus, the excavator should call in at the 28-day mark (based upon four weeks, plus two days for marking, thus avoid a work stoppage).

The coalition directed the utility coordination subcommittee to fully define “utility coordination” so that it can be written into the law and avoid confusion.

Subcommittee also discussed separate discussion on the topic of white lining.

Roger brought up other concerns that he is hearing, each of which could be addressed later at the subcommittee level:

- Abandoned lines
- The need for further education for UTC members. He suggested each member should visit OHIO811's call center and attend a safety talk.
 - There was further discussion about changing the law to include OHIO811 on the UTC as a non-voting/advisory member.

It was suggested that there be an exemption for emergency ditching. However, the current language the coalition is proposing would not apply to emergency situations

Other possible topics for the coalition and its subcommittees to consider:

- Changing the 48-hour marking period to begin the first business day after the locate request is made.
- Training requirements for excavators.
- Limited basis participation no longer exists as a membership level, but language in the law is still there. OHIO811 would like to see that language removed.
 - OHIO811 now sends notifications to LBPs, but they do not have access to other OHIO811 tools or services. Most LBPs have been converted to full voting members.

Coalition could consider multiple bills to get changes made more frequently.

Utility coordination law language should be clarified so that only one utility can be called into a Utility Coordination Meeting. The language now looks like it could cause ALL of the utilities be drawn into a Utility Coordination Meeting.

Also at next coalition meeting, the group will consider pushing for smaller, but multiple, bills.