



NODPC Meeting

Wednesday, March 01st, 2023

09:32am to 11:12am

Sleepy Hollow Golf Course (9445 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, Ohio)

1.) Introductions

- Began at 09:32

2.) Meeting Minutes Approved

- The motion passed for approval.

3.) Roger Lipscomb OUDPC Coalition Updates

- Roger began with the background of both him and the OUDPC.
- 1989/90 is when Ohio excavation laws were put into place. The OUDPC is working to update the Ohio Revised Code
- 2006 began a different approach to passing legislation. The focus became getting multiple parties involved (municipalities, contractors, utility owners/operators). The goal was for the industry to update the Ohio Revised Code, not one or two entities.
- The OUDPC is made up of twenty-seven to twenty-eight entities with two co-chairs – one excavator and one utility representative.
- In 2012, Governor Kasick signed House Bill 458 (the bill passed unanimously). This bill was designed to make individuals and entities aware that the more we communicate with one another the more we collaborate to achieve common goals. The positive response system came of this.
- In December of 2013, Senate Bill 378 addressed the accountability portion of the law and formed the underground technical committee (UTC).
- The Covid pandemic delayed coalitions efforts, however, they will be meeting once a quarter moving forward.
- Issues will be addressed as they arise (introducing smaller bills) versus multiple issues in larger bills as previously done (this was not efficient).
- Let Chuck know if you are interested in receiving communications on coalition updates.
- Current examples of coalition projects – working to address misuse/abuse of the system (eg. calling in numerous update tickets with no work being performed, locators misusing billing codes), two to three working days for tickets instead of a flat forty-eight hours and addressing the exemption of municipalities working within their own ROW less than twelve inches deep.

- Take away – difference of opinion is constructive as it influences suggestions.

4.) Meeting Location

- Starting next month (April), we will be meeting at the City of Independence Civic Center. The next meeting will be on April 5th, 2023.

5.) OHIO811 Updates

- The excavator seminars are starting soon (March 21st in Fremont is the first one). Space is filling up for these so register soon to ensure availability.
- There were 104,014 tickets called in for the month of February statewide (this is up 26%YOY) with over two hundred thousand tickets already year to date.

6.) Speakers for 2023

- Badger will be the speaker for April 2023.
- Johnny Henson with USIC will be the speaker for May.
- We still need volunteers for the rest of the year.

7.) April Safe Digging Month

- There are no Friday availabilities for the traditional “shoot”.
- The governor will be making a proclamation.
- The key is to get the word out about safe digging (eg. having media attention).
- Possibly create a value point document for council members to share with their companies to show the value of these meetings.

8.) Marking Standards

- The Marking Standards meeting is on March 16th.
- Kevin Anderson reviewed the process of bringing up issues to the marking standards committee.
- Kevin Anderson will cover proper placement of the MAR (marked according to record) symbol and whether arrows should be used to indicate that a line continues.

9.) Open Discussion

- We discussed dispersing Safe Digging Month banners/Ohio811 banners for contractors' sites, etc.
- We discussed several new HDD companies in the area who are not familiar with the laws (new OUPS manual will have Spanish).
- The meeting adjourned at 11:12am.