



NODPC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

09:30am to 11:00am

6363 Selig Blvd, Independence, Ohio, 44131

1.) Introductions

- There was a good attendance for the first meeting of the year (no January meeting due to holiday). There were thirty-three individuals in attendance.

2.) Meeting Minutes Approved

- The November meeting minutes were approved at 0935.

3.) Presentation Bill Hocevar Great Lakes Construction

- Bill was unable to make it but will be presenting at a future meeting this year.

- We watched a new digging dangers video from Planet Underground.

- The video covered three instances where gas lines were struck.

- Each of these instances showcased the risk of damage to or loss of life and property that is posed by struck natural gas lines.

- The message is that everyone has a responsibility to ensure the safety of all involved in the work, including the general public. Excavators placing one-call tickets accurately and ensuring the scope is marked, utility companies and locate vendors marking tickets on-time and accurately, and utility companies responding efficiently.

- We had a thoughtful group discussion over the understanding cross-bores and how not all plumbers (or even homeowners renting equipment) understand the importance of calling in locate requests to verify utilities prior to auguring a lateral.

4.) OHIO811 Updates

- The spring excavator seminars are coming up. There are currently four scheduled for the month of March. The first is March 12th in Ashland, the 13th is in Carrollton, the 14th is Chillicothe, and the 15th will be in Cincinnati.

- The excavator seminars will offer extended credit hours of 3.75 hours for safety through the EPA.

- Paradigm meetings are happening throughout the state in February. There is still opportunity to sign up to attend. Visit the Paradigm Alliance website for more information.

- For 2023, OHIO811 had 1,561,669 requests to the center which was up 2.5% YOY.

- For January 2024, OHIO811 had 97,882 which 1.34%YOY (highest on record).

5.) April National Safe Digging Month Project

- Scott shared the idea of a beatification project at the City of Independence Civic Center as a thank you for allowing us to utilize their facility for the DPC meetings.
- For safe digging month in April, OHIO811 will be partnering with Akron Energy Systems and Akron Rubber Ducks for a safe digging event.

6.) Open Discussion

- March, April, June, September, October, November still needs speakers for our meetings.
- There is the possibility of a joint (with Eastern DPC) or all Ohio DPC virtual meeting coming up.
- We reviewed best practices for update tickets.
- The City of Cleveland will be sending out their bid information for utility locating.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1059.
- Our next meeting will be on March 6th at 9:30am at Independence Civic Center.