

MDPB Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2017

MITA Headquarters

Call to Order

The meeting began at 9:00AM. In attendance was Bruce Campbell, MISS DIG 811; Laura Arnold, MISS DIG 811; Dirk Dunham, Consumers Energy; John Crumb, Holland Board of Public Works; Bob Darket, URG; Harry Carr, Nick Lefke, MDOT; Steve Makowski, SEMCO; Julia Geraci, Tobe Construction; Chris Jensen, MECA; Scot Runke, DTE; Nate Lee, MGU; Rachelle VanDeventer, MITA; Scotty Kehoe, DTE; Joseph BOals, WPS; Jim Ault, MEGA; Jeff Quirante, MPSC; URG. John Hendershot of Great Lakes Trenchless Association was on the phone.

Approval of Agenda

No Comments

Approval of December 8, 2016 meeting minutes

Chris Jensen made a motion to approve the minutes. Bruce Campbell supported. Motion passed.

Update of Director List

Jim Ault Email change to Jaault@gomega.org

Update on Overhead Assistance/ Overhead Clearance

MISS DIG 811 is adding e-Overhead, e=Plan, Ticket Mod and Near Ticket. MISS DIG 811 is conducting a survey next week to get input on these changes. All changes should be in effect April first, but will definitely be completed by May first.

MPSC Damage Reporting and Complaints

Jeff reported that there were four complaints filed one was not relevant. One was against City of Rose City filed by a telecom. MISS DIG filed a complaint against Power Plus Engineering regarding use of 800-MIS-SDIG. One was filed by MGU against JR underground for completing work before the ticket is due.

PHMSA Letter-Adequacy of Enforcement Jeff reported and shared part of a presentation and a letter sent to rental companies regarding PHMSA part 196. Could you cite for a near miss of a gas line under part 196 even if it was another facility damaged. The recommendation letter to contractors performing soft excavation was shared with the group

Discussion on compliance with federal law vs. State law, and communicating and educating on the importance of placing a one call even with hand tools. Bruce and Dirk will send their educational information on hand tools to Jeff for consideration for incorporation in MPSC Letter. Jeff will share the letter with the group.

Any "Board Review" Incidents or Issues?

MISS DIG Updates

MISS DIG 811's Annual Meeting is in February. The MISS DIG Board approved the budget. The education team is focused on certification workshops throughout the state and is working on the grant items including tree tags at nurseries throughout the state. N Carolina one call reached out to Lowes and they will be placing tree tags on all of their trees and shrubs, and is considering placing on all digging items as well. MISS DIG is enhancing our social media presence and has Kristyn from our Member Services Department handling our social media message. MISS DIG new logo and mascot is being used for this years marketing campaign.

DPA Report

MDPB Best Practices

- Submitted for 30 day Review and vote at February mtg:
 - Staking Abandoned/ Idle Facilities

Dirk read the practice. The term idle was changed from inactive. Will be on next meeting agenda to be voted on. Nick asked that in third paragraph operator is used instead of FOO; should be consistent.
 - Hand Exposure

Dirk read the practice. Jim asked if MITA attorney has reviewed the document, as MITA was going to work on saw cutting best practice. MITA will look at needing a separate best practice. This will be on the next meeting agenda to be voted on.
- Updates on development of:
 - Expectations for Additional Assistance

This will be discussed at the next Best Practice Committee Meeting.
- Other pending items
 - Use of short notice tickets
 - Positive Response Guidelines (for chronic non-responders)
 - Use of gray paint to "erase" erroneous marks
 - Ticket Scope
 - Mapping
- Next Best Practice Committee meeting to be scheduled for mid-February Tuesday February 14, 2017 1:00PM.

CGA Update

New Business/ Roundtable

- Any plans for MDPB Annual Meeting?

We had Gold Shovel last year, Dirk brought up a presentation he saw similar to the JPL project that drove down damage rate and the projections the presentation was able to make. The program was from New York. Scot says it would be valuable, Bruce suggested a webinar. Discussion on damages and normalizing damage rates across states.
- Any plans for April Is Safe Digging Month event(s)

Discussion on State Capital or Flint. Suggestions at the next meeting

Updates

At the MUCC conference there were quite a few contractors who made presentations regarding MISS DIG issues. The items they brought up were presented well; however, Dirk stated that if we had healthy DPAs or Conference Calls these issues could be worked out there. Dirk asked if the MDPB could create a committee to determine the best way strengthen damage prevention relationships at a local level. Attendance had been minimal; MISS DIG 811 has begun hosting open mic forums. Rachelle suggested a form on the MISS DIG site. Bruce stated we have multiple form and resources online. Matt suggested a MITA Bulletin that reminds MITA members of the forms and resources available through MISS DIG 811. MISS DIG 811 will look at the way the contact us form description. Chris Jensen states that MECA has an online forum service that allows all participants to respond. We will discuss at the next meeting.

Scot Runke asked besides MISS DIGs mailing, is anyone else doing anything. Nate Lee stated that they also send something out. Dirk stated they do MISS DIG mailing and damage investigation. Scot asked that we need a way to educate homeowners. DTE will be sending out an e-bulletin to customers, or a small mailing. MGU will send someone out in addition to staking to help clean the line, they treat it like a gas leak.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is February 23

Adjourn

Bruce made a motion to adjourn at 10:38 AM. Chris supported. Motion passed.