
Minutes

MEETING DATE: Feb. 20, 2018

TIME: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LOCATIONS:

- NV Energy, 1 Ohm Place, Reno, NV
- NV Energy, 7155 Lindell Road, Las Vegas, NV

ATTENDANCE:

- **North:** Jack Byrom, TMWA | Geoff Daferno, TMWA | Mike Fitzgibbons, Comstock Insp. | Jamie Haas, Paiute Pipeline | Jay Mendiola, NV Energy | Aaron Quilici, SW Gas | Rudy Ricardo, SW Gas
- **South:** Boyd Duchene, CCWRD | Brad Poulson, Kern River | Cesar Castillo, R.P. Weddell | Craig Rogers, PUCN | Dennis Bott, SW Gas | Greg Noel, USIC | Kyle Wright, Haaker Equipment | Nick Nishihama, City of Las Vegas | Rick Torrens, KCI | Robert Ward, NV Energy | Wayne Scott, AT&T | Dawn Rivard, PUCN
- **Phone:** Harold Oster, Reliance | Mike Marrero, USIC | James Wingate, USA North

STANDING ITEMS:

1. Introductions (Bob Ward)

Self-introductions took place.

2. Adoption of the Agenda (Jay Mendiola)

Dennis Bott made a motion to adopt the agenda. Cesar Castillo seconded the motion.

3. Financial Status Report (Dawn Rivard)

- **CGA Conference** – Silver Lake Construction: Silver Lake’s representative, President Brett Willis, is set to attend the conference. The NRCGA paid upfront for his conference fee, airfare and airport shuttle fee. The NRCGA will reimburse Willis for hotel and meals upon his return to Vegas. The cost to date is \$2,189.36.
- **Dashboard Calendars** – The calendars have been ordered and will be delivered to Dawn soon. The charge was \$4800 for 10,000 calendars.
- **Training Flyers** – The NRCGA now has flyers to promote the Excavator Damage Prevention Training. The cost was \$128.25 for 1,000 flyers.

4. Enforcement Actions (Craig Rogers)

One civil penalty was issued in the south. One warning letter was issued in the north and one in the south.

5. CGA Best Practices and CGA Update (Cesar Castillo, Bob Ward)

The CGA will hold its annual conference and expo in March in Phoenix.

6. Positive Response Program (James Wingate for Ryan White)

Started Jan. 1, 2017. USA North encourages all utilities to participate even if the law doesn’t yet require participation (CA requires it; NV doesn’t). 250 utilities have been using it or have used it at least one time. AT&T in Nevada and USIC have been using positive response for all tickets. When you post the disposition of your ticket, it posts automatically to positive response. If you’re a utility with more than one facility type, such as a city (sewer, traffic lights, water), USA North encourages the utility to utilize different codes for each utility type for clarity. However, utilities with multiple facilities have been reluctant to use this program

for fear of being charged extra. USA North won't charge extra. Contact Nick White in USA North's member services department to get help setting up codes for each utility type.

NEW ITEMS:

7. Damage/Exposed Ticket (USAN 811)

After an excavation site has been officially marked by locators, excavators occasionally encounter unknown lines that weren't identified/located prior to the dig. The excavators then experience delays while they wait for utilities to come and check the lines to verify ownership and if the line is dead or live. Some NRCGA members feel that unknown exposed lines should be given a new ticket number. Utilities don't respond to the original ticket number because the utilities feel they've done their job by going to the site and marking known lines. USA North feels that giving a new ticket number to an unknown line muddies up the process. Therefore, NRCGA members need to analyze what other states do, including AZ, to determine the best course of action for Nevada. NRCGA members attending the March 5-8 CGA Annual Conference & Expo will look for Arizona 811 staff to get an idea of what this agency does in this scenario. This item will become a standing item on the NRCGA's monthly agenda.

8. Line Locate Training (Dennis Bott, Craig Rogers)

The NRCGA would like to use PHMSA State Damage Prevention Grant money to hire an instructor to teach line locating classes in Reno (1 class), Las Vegas (2 classes), and Elko (1 class). The NRCGA conducted this training in 2016 with Technical Assistance Grant money. The classes were well received. However, the PUCN told Dawn that SDP grant money cannot be used for this training. Dawn and Craig will talk to the PUCN finance representatives to get a second opinion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

9. Education/Training (Jay Mendiola, Cesar Castillo, Dennis Bott)

North (Jay Mendiola) – Three trainings to a total of 71 people took place in the north.

South (Dennis Bott) – Cesar Castillo conducted an English and a Spanish class last month. New flyers will help get exposure for the training. Push people to the website to register for training. Classes in the south are scheduled in advance.

- **Attempting Repairs Training (Dennis Bott)**

This is a new class that will be provided to excavators on an as-needed basis. If someone nicks a line while excavating and tries to fix it, the PUCN fines those excavators instantly and requires them to attend the NRCGA's current damage prevention training. The PUCN would like them to attend this new attempting repairs training. If you want to be part of the development of this new class, please contact Dawn Rivard.

10. Locate Rodeo Committee (Dennis Bott, Mike Marrero)

The Rodeo will be April 28 at UNLV. This committee will meet directly after this meeting.

11. 811 Safety Day (Mike Marrero)

Three committee members participated in this committee's inaugural Jan. 30 teleconference. Ten to 12 states plan to do block parties on 811 Day, which is also the NRCGA's plan. An idea to get national and local media coverage is to break a world record. Don't know what that world record would be yet. For Nevada, the committee discussed potential sites. The leading site at the moment is Cashman Field. There is a game

scheduled between the Reno Aces and Las Vegas 51s on Aug. 11. If you'd like to be part of this committee, please let Mike know.

12. USA North 811 NV Committee Update (Boyd Duchene, Bob Ward, Tom Georgi)

This committee met last Wednesday, Feb. 14. James Wingate attended and provided a presentation for the group. Terms are up for a few board members. Craig Rogers and Cesar Castillo are joining as non-voting members. Richard Oster and Wayne Scott volunteered to be on the board. It was determined that Wayne cannot be on the board because an AT&T representative from CA already sits on the board. However, James will look at bylaws to clarify if a representative from both states can sit on the board since AT&T is incorporated in both states, making it two separate entities. Tom Georgi will resign from the board so Dennis Bott can have his position.

Non-Agenda Items

13. NRS 455 (Bob Ward, Dennis Bott)

According to NRS 455, anytime you remove or move dirt, you are supposed to have a dig ticket. For example, if a homebuilder uses a vacant lot to store sand to be used on other lots. Even though they're not excavating, they're "moving dirt." Southwest Gas inspectors are not comfortable signing off on a job if the contractor isn't compliant with the law.

Craig Rogers suggested we monitor the impacts to determine if requiring dig tickets in this scenario is damage driven or inspector driven. Dennis Bott will talk to Southwest Gas inspectors and research damages from moving dirt. According to Dennis, there were at least two damages to Southwest Gas facilities last year in this type of "moving dirt" scenario. Dennis will report back on his findings at the NRCGA's March meeting.

14. 811 eTicket Training (Dawn)

The city of Las Vegas, thanks to Nick Nishihama, has offered to allow the NRCGA/USA North to use one of its computer labs to conduct this training. The training will be offered to excavators in southern Nevada who call in 75% or more of their dig tickets. The goal is to get these excavators to use USA North's online eTicketing services.

15. Reno Aces Promotion (Jay Mendiola)

Jay would like to do a promotion again this summer with the Aces. Dawn will add this item to the March agenda for discussion. In the meantime, Jay will do research on costs/benefits and send the info to Dawn, will disseminate it to the group.

16. USA North Call Center (James Wingate)

The call center will be open 24/7 starting on March 1. This will not impact the 2 business day timeframe for marking lines. Ticket volume is "through the roof." It's higher than normal for this time of year.

Next Meeting: March 20, 2018