



General Membership Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: Nov. 16, 2021

TIME: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

LOCATIONS:

- **MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

ATTENDANCE:

Dennis Bott, Southwest Gas, NRCGA Chair
Cesar Castillo, RP Weddell, NRCGA Vice Chair
Dawn Rivard, PUCN, NRCGA Secretary/Treasurer
Boyd Duchene, CCWRD, NRCGA Director
Charles Atkinson, TMWA
Charles Folashade Jr., Zayo
Tom Clifton, TMWA
Craig Rogers, PUCN, NRCGA Director
Anthony Ebersole, Cox Communications
Vernon Hadley, NV Energy
Harold Lefler, Western States
Jeff Trumbull, Zayo
Jeff Kennedy, Cox Communications
Kyle, Haaker Equipment
Manny Valencia, Zayo
Marc Krichman, 811 Spotter
Mario Fernandez, LVVWD
Michael Stake, Zayo
Nancy Lopez, Southwest Gas

Greg Noel, USIC, NRCGA Director
Rick Torrens, KCI Engineering, NRCGA Director
Ryan White, USA North 811, NRCGA Director
Salvatore Caponigro, Stake Center Locating
Saundra Waggoner, C&S Company
Wayne Scott, AT&T
Andrea Stainback, Lumen
Timothy Semays, Eagle Drilling Service
Bob Ward, NV Energy, NRCGA Director
Michael Williams, Bloodhound Underground
R. Alford, Zayo
Steve Wibalda, G2 Integrated Solutions
Robbie Reed, City of Henderson
Krysanne Kerr, CGA
Elizabeth Duenez, Sunstate Companies
714-600-1983, Company Unknown
702-202-8319
702-600-1983

STANDING ITEMS:

1. Introductions (Dennis Bott)

Dennis introduced the executive board and told everyone to look at the Teams attendee list to see all those attending.

2. Adoption of the Agenda (Dennis Bott)

Cesar made a motion to adopt the agenda; Vern seconded the motion.

3. Financial Status Report (Dawn Rivard)

Dawn provided a report on recent expenditures and the NRCGA's current fund balance. Dawn is chair of the Budget Committee, which will meet in Jan. If you want to join, let Dawn know.

4. Enforcement Actions (Craig Rogers)

4 warning letters and 2 civil penalties – 1 in the north and 1 in the south.



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

CGA conference in Orlando. NRCGA sponsored night of networking. Well attended.

NEW ITEMS:

6. **2022 CGA Conference in California (Krysanne Kerr, CGA)**

Ryan – at the 2021 CGA conference – the CGA asked the NRCGA to present to the regional partners committee about what the NRCGA’s got going on. Craig, Dennis and Ryan presented. They were well received.

Krysanne Kerr from the CGA said the 2022 annual conference will be held April 4 – 8 in Anaheim. CGA members get a discount on conference fees. She went over the benefits of attending. Conference fee is \$1200 for members, \$1600 for non-members. Kerr@commongroundalliance.com – email her so she can help NRCGA members get member pricing if they’re not yet a CGA member.

7. **Introduction of New Members (Dennis Bott)**

Dennis introduced each new member company and asked for company reps to speak on the company’s behalf.

- Zayo (zayo.com)
- DigContrax (digcontrax.com)
- G2 Integrated Solutions (g2-is.com)
- 811 Spotter (811spotter.com)
- Blood Hound Underground Utility Locators (Bhug.com)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

8. **Excavator Appreciation Event (Cesar Castillo, Dennis Bott)**

Held Nov. 4. We chose a new venue – Lifeguard Arena. Eastside Cannery has not reopened since the pandemic closure. Lone Mtn Excavation won. Byrd Underground and Trenchless Evolutions were runner ups. Matt Dodd from USA North will create a video of the event. Craig, USA North, NUCA, Dennis, Cesar, all presented. We had fantastic door prizes – 55 door prizes. We had a smoker, Golden Knight and nascar tickets, many gift cards, etc. At least half of our attendees went home with a prize.

9. **Best Practices (Craig Rogers)**

The benefit of being an NRCGA member is that you’re getting in on the ground floor discussions on changes to NAC/NRS. When there’s a law change, anyone can sponsor a BDR. PHMSA has come in looked at our definition of “excavation.” We’re considered an “adequate” state by PHMSA. A recommendation in one of our last audits was that we strengthen our definition of excavation. Southwest Gas and the PUCN are sponsoring a bill in the 2023 legislative session and want the NRCGA to develop language and put forward suggested language for the new definition of excavation. Contact Dennis or Dawn if you want to be on this committee.

Two items that this committee is currently working on.

- Positive Response – Hoping to be done in Jan. or Feb. 2022. Will be codified in NAC. Ryan said he’s going to try and setup a training meeting for new members or anyone else to get up to speed with PR. Dennis – G2 just built a new office and in that office have a training room. They have offered space to USA North to do this training.



- Definition of Excavation – this one will be an NRS. This has been pushed on the federal level to be include in our law. There are a bunch of different directions we can go.

Join this committee if you want to express thoughts on any of these two ideas.

10. NUCA Damage Prevention Committee (Harold Lefler)

This committee will meet on Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. at the PUCN office at 9075 W. Diablo Drive, Las Vegas. The meeting will also be available by Zoom. Come with solutions on how to help all of us do our job better. Hermenia will send Dawn a link to forward to the NRCGA’s membership list.

11. Design Ticket Exploratory Committee (Rick Torrens)

Across the US, many states will identify as having a design ticket option. The reality is that people think they’ll get locates on the ground. At best, they get a list of utilities in the area.

The cost to develop a program is an issue. The first challenge for us in NV is looking at establishing a platform through the call center for at least red lines on the ground.

Two steps for a design ticket program:

1. Design request (redline request)
2. Design locate (field locates)

12. NRCGA Board of Directors Nominating Committee (Robbie Reed)

The winners are:

Stakeholder Group	Director	VOTE
Sewer	Boyd Duchene (Clark County Reclamation District)	51 of 52
Gas	Dennis Bott (Southwest Gas)	41 of 53
Regulator	Craig Rogers (Public Utilities Commission of Nevada)	52 of 52
Electric	Robert Ward (NV Energy)	50 of 52
Excavator	Cesar Castillo (R.P. Weddell)	23 of 51
Locator	Salvatore V. Caponigro (Stake Center Locating)	42 of 56
Design Engineering	Rick Torrens (KCI)	53 of 53

Ryan White and Salvatore Caponigro volunteered to take on Robbie’s role as chair of this committee. Robbie is stepping down. The committee will vote on which one will be chair.

13. Education/Training (Cesar Castillo, Dennis Bott, Steve Wibalda, Nancy Lopez)

Cesar – conducting trainings at SWG facility. Targeting companies that have damaged gas facilities. We’re getting a lot of people trained. Month of Dec. there are 4 classes scheduled. Reach out to Cesar or Steve if you want class info.

Dennis – training focuses on excavator and utility responsibilities. It’s not just providing classes geared at excavators. It’s geared toward the process as a whole – industry wide. Major companies like Las Vegas



Paving are encouraging their subcontractors to attend the NRCGA training. Our training numbers are up – more students trained. Also added more trainers – we added a bilingual trainer in So. NV and now have 2 (Cesar is the other). Nancy and Matt do training in the north. All our classes are listed on our website and it's very easy to sign up.

Nancy Lopez said requests for training are “constantly” coming in the north.

Action Item: NRCGA members - email Dawn if you'd like to attend a special training just for NRCGA members so you can see what the training entails.

14. USA North 811 NV Committee Update (Boyd Duchene, Bob Ward, Dennis Bott)
Nothing to Report.

Next Meeting: Jan. 18, 2022