

**DAMAGE PREVENTION BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

Thursday – March 11, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. (MST)

**Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d'Alene
155 North Maple Street, Blackfoot**

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2021 MEETING

NOTE: The following report is not a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting; however, is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

In the absence of Chairman Jerry Piper, Vice-Chairman Bob Chandler called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. (MST)

Board Members Present:

Bob Chandler, Vice-Chairman
Roy Ellis
Sean Marsh
Paul Good
Darrin Ulmer-Telecon.
Jeanna Anderson-Telecon.
Scott Spears-Telecon.
Nichole Rush-Telecon.
Julie Maki-Telecon.

DBS Staff Members Present:

Ron Whitney, Administrator
Spencer Holm, Deputy Attorney General-Telecon.
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Manager, Region 3
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Bill Hale, Damage Prevention (DP) Program Specialist
Patrick Wood, DP Program Assistant
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Open Forum**

Extending Markings – Evan Powers, Safety Manager for Knife River, expressed opposition to extending the timeframe for markings from three to four weeks in terms of maintaining markings as an excavator. Mr. Powers stated verbiage in the current code is adequate enough with three weeks and allows for circumstances to extend the markings. In addition, the amount of activity that happens within three weeks is already difficult to maintain and extending an additional week opens it up further for damages to the utilities. There was further discussion on this topic under Agenda Item 05 *Statutes and Rules Review subcommittee Update*.

◆ **Approval of the March 11, 2021 Agenda and January 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Sean Marsh made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes as presented. Roy Ellis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Financial Update**

Bill Hale, DP Program Specialist, addressed a revised financial spreadsheet with corrections and adjustments to column P “Actuals” and the addition of column Q “Spending Authority” for Fiscal Year 2022, which has been approved by the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee. Board Member Nichole Rush stated on tabs “FY19 & 20” and “FY20 & 21” the dates are still incorrect in Row 3 “Revenue Generated”. Upon correction, Board Member Rush asked the spreadsheet to be resent to the Board.

ACTION: The DP Program Supervisor will make the corrections and resend the spreadsheet to the Board.

◆ **Education and Training Subcommittee Update**

Billboards – The last week of February 2021, 14 billboards were installed throughout the state of Idaho. At the end of March 2021, one additional billboard will be installed in the Boise area and in April 2021, one in Challis. The billboard campaign will run through the middle of November 2021. Marketing company Vladimir Jones will provide a launch summary in April 2021, and a wrap up report in November 2021 for the campaign. Vice-Chairman Chandler offered to take, and provide, pictures to the Board of the billboards in north Idaho.

ACTION: Vice-Chairman Chandler will send pictures of the billboards in north Idaho to the Board.

Future Advertisements – The Education and Training Subcommittee will meet by the end of March 2021 to begin working on training and educational ideas for FY2022. Budget figures should be out in August 2021, at which time the subcommittee will begin to focus on FY2023. Ideas will be brought to Vladimir Jones for recommendations based on the Board’s priorities and budget. The subcommittee will bring a strategic plan to the Board for its input and approval at the May 2021 Board meeting.

ACTION: The topic *Future Advertisements* will be added to the agenda for the May 27, 2021 Board meeting as an action item.

◆ **Damage Prevention Training Report**

DP Program Specialist Hale received the following feedback from industry when providing training: 1) Afraid to file complaints against utility companies (bite the hand that feeds them), 2) Now get charged for repair of line(s) they have broken, and a complaint filed against them, and 3) Friends working for utility companies would repair lines and not report them. Now have to go through dispatch.

Idaho Code § 55-2208 states in part: “(1) An excavator who, in the course of excavation, contacts or damages an underground facility shall notify the underground facility owner ... (2) The owner of the underground facilities damaged shall arrange for repairs or relocation ... or may permit the excavator to do necessary repairs or relocation at a mutually acceptable price.”

Contractors are placing empty electrical conduits from the street into the house for future installations by power companies. Since there is nothing to mark those conduits, other utility companies are cutting through them; costing the contractor time and money to repair. As a preventative, it was suggested using locate tape on the ends of the empty conduits.

◆ **Statutes and Rules Review Subcommittee Update**

Since the January 2021 Board meeting, the subcommittee has met three times; addressing the following topics: 1) Sprinkler Maintenance, 2) Locates, 3) Locating for Design, 4) Maintaining Markings proposal, and 5) Emergency Locates. In the future, the topic *High Volume Excavations* will be discussed. On March 9, 2021, with a vote of 6-2, the subcommittee endorsed the Maintaining Markings proposal from three to four weeks. Subcommittee Chairman Scott Spears

will work with Chairman Jerry Piper to get the proposal on the agenda for the May 27, 2021 Damage Prevention Board meeting for discussion and possible endorsement.

ACTION: The topic *Maintaining Markings* will be added to the agenda for the May 2021 Board meeting as an action item.

◆ **Compliance Report**

Safe Digging Book – One thousand of the English version of the Safe Digging Book and 500 of the 2021 Spanish edition have been ordered.

DIRT – Emails have been sent with regard to DIRT notification and reporting.

NOV Activity and DPB Stats Reports – There were no concerns or issues with either report.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Legislation – The majority of the reauthorization of rules moved through the Senate and House committees with no issues. However, when first introduced to the Senate Commerce Committee, the electrical, building safety and public works rules were pulled. Ultimately, those three items went separately to the Senate Commerce Committee and passed. At the House Business Committee, electrical apprentice to journeyman ratios were removed in its entirety from the electrical rules.

Senate bills 1024, 1026, and 1056, relative to the new DOPL, have made it through the Senate. They will now go to the House Business Committee and then to the House floor for approval.

Activity Report – The 10-cents per call revenue is higher than the numbers budgeted for 2021. Rather than gather the Financial Subcommittee to discuss this issue, it was agreed to wait as there might be a time when the Board no longer receives grant monies, or a downturn in the economy, in which case, the Board will need the monies.

The Division has been tracking its permits and inspections. The permit activity, 2018-2019, went up ten percent, and up another 17 percent from 2019-2020; totaling a 27% increase from two years ago. The first two months of 2021, relative to 2020, is up another ten percent.

◆ **Adjournment**

Vice-Chairman Chandler adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

BOB CHANDLER, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DAMAGE PREVENTION BOARD

RON WHITNEY, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

05/27/2021rb