



## Northern Ohio Damage Prevention Council

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *Northern Ohio Damage Prevention Council is a proactive network of stakeholders involved in all phases of activities requiring excavation. Through open communication, education, and cooperation, council members work together to maintain service integrity to customers, protect the underground infrastructure and environment, and encourage the development of excavation activities that proceed in a safe and efficient manner.*

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### Minutes for October 3, 2018

Great Lakes Construction  
2608 Great Lakes Way  
Hinckley, OH 44233

**Presenter: Bill Hocevar**  
**Topic: UTC Updates**

Meeting opened at 9:32 by Vita Moore

Bill Hocevar began the presentation by welcoming council members to Great Lake Construction's new facility—they also have locations in Cincinnati, Southeast Ohio and West Virginia.

- There are 17 UTC members chosen by government (PUCO) from all types of industry professionals (excavators, designers, locators, etc.) that serve 4-year terms.
- Complaints are filed and reviewed by the UTC against damagers
- In 2016 they reviewed 27 cases, in 2017 it had doubled to 69 cases
  - 8 violations against excavators
  - 13 violations against utilities
  - 1 violation for no pre-marking
  - Other violations were mismarks
- UTC agenda is available on PUCO.org
- UTC can issue fines up to \$2,500 for first offense, \$5,000 for second offense and \$10,000 for habitual offenders
  - Usually issue mandatory training for first offense
  - The goal is to better our industry by protecting both facilities and people
- Call Chuck for education for your organization
- File complaint online with PUCO
  - Present all your facts via paperwork
  - Complainant cannot speak at meetings just sit and observe
  - Both parties submit their facts and the UTC decides which party didn't comply with the standard
  - They are going to start assigning cases to each member on the panel.
- Curt: Are the repeat offenders smaller contractors or larger ones?
- Bill: Both. Sometimes the big ones don't pay as much attention, the small companies notice the fines.
- Shaun: Some companies already have an action plan in place. It's nice to see that proactive response. But we still get some that don't respond.
- Bill: We don't tell companies how to train/educate, we just want them to show that they did some and that it was effective.

Introduction of members

September 5, 2018 minutes were reviewed & approved (Curt & Lou).

O.U.P.S. Updates and Announcements (Chuck Green)

- On October 26 we are holding the Sporting Clay DPC event at Hill & Dale in Medina

- Currently have 26 people signed up
  - \$50 is a great deal
- We had the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Shooting Event—83 people shot, raised more money than last year
- Excavator seminars will be held in November
  - 11/14 in Fairlawn
  - 11/13 in Geneva
  - Topics include safety talks, iDig, laws and updates
- We processed 115,843 tickets last month, up .09%
- 810,900 notices went out, up 1.0% year to date

#### OUPS & OGPUPS Consolidation

- We will be bringing in an additional 140 members by the end of the year
  - Jim Mandera: We have already seen them starting to call us.
- A big piece of this is getting these facilities mapped
  - Roger: Give us feedback immediately. They stop taking calls at OGPUPS 11/30 so we have a very short window
  - Jim: If we have areas and we don't know who owns them, do you want us to tell you?
  - Roger: Yes, that is a common problem.
- Chuck: We offer safety talks. Let us know if any utilities are not a member of OHIO811.
- Roger: Jeff Kursman is a new member of OHIO811
  - Will help us by working more out in the field
  - Has huge experience in other industries
  - Training him right now

#### Ohio Damage Prevention Coalition

- Lou: Unfortunately, I didn't make it to the last meeting.
- Vita: We aren't getting notices on when the meetings are happening. Who should attend? Also, we'd like to get the minutes.
- Roger: Anyone can go to the meetings.
  - Email Alice Miller ([alicem@oups.org](mailto:alicem@oups.org)) to get on the mailing list.
  - Minutes are posted on the OUPS website
  - Meetings have been sporadic
  - Discussions regarding funding, committees, suppressed complaints, etc.

#### Anna Bell: Reminder, we are having a NODPC contest

- Creative sign contest ends 11/6
- Marquis, billboards, etc. (must be in public view)
- Submit photo to be entered
- Winner gets \$100 gift card, presented at the December breakfast
- No one has submitted anything

#### December Breakfast

- Scott has secured Mike Powell
- Topic is Being Street Smart on Drugs
- 45-minute dynamic presentation
- USIC commented that they do come across syringes in the ground often

#### 2019 Speaker Forms

- We hope to have all of next year's speakers lined up by the December breakfast
- Roger: I recommend getting someone from cyber security, the FBI, homeland security, etc. Alice Miller can provide contacts.
- We still plan on having the Meet N' Greet in February
- Joint Meeting will be March 6, 2019 once confirmed with Eastern Ohio DPC
- Mike Ressler was a recommendation for a speaker, he's from The Illuminating Company

- Les Hendershot is flexible, available October again if needed

## Open Forum

- Roger: Marking Standards—2019 is a review year. We need two representatives from your DPC. We will be getting started in February. Typically organized by Lee Richards.
- Jim: We need to add marking standards to the agenda each month.
- Roger: There will be an all Ohio DPC meeting in Bellevue with officers of each council. We want to know what the issues are.
- Vita: Are there any volunteers to attend? Lou volunteered.
- Bill: We should have a conversation about who we should focus on—big monopolies or people with actual boots on the ground? If you have any interest in being on the UTC let someone here know.
- Roger: Has anyone said that they do not want another term?
- Bill: Rob Vadley from PUCO guides us on what needs filled. Our next meeting is in November, we will talk about openings then.
- Shaun: Make sure you provide as much documentation as possible because we only see what you present to us.
- Bill: Your only chance to be heard is on paper.
- Jim: Could the UTC provide us ideas of what a good presentation of data looks like?
- Roger: We are working on templates, we need UTC feedback.
- Bill: We will bring it up at the next meeting, we do have a document online but we can tweak it
- Jim: How does the industry know how each member of the UTC represents them?
- Roger: The minutes are available for the industry to review.
- Vita: The minutes are not posted promptly so we don't know unless someone physically goes to the meetings or is there an option to call in and listen?
- Bill: There is a phone-in line but I don't know if it's just for members, I will find out.
- Roger: PUCO has the ability to post the meetings online. We can make it an option to just log-in to the website and then you can see & hear the meeting. We didn't think it was necessary at the time.
- Bill: I will let Rob know and get back to you about that. Right now, we have one person facilitating the meetings to speed things along.
- Jim: The workload needs to increase though because I'm not seeing changes.
- Bill: We are anticipating more workload and we have discussed it.
- Roger: We ask that UTC members cannot discuss active cases with you.
- Bill: We need to be cautious because we don't want to put the UTC or PUCO in a precarious situation.
- Justin: I wish there was a written guide for education for violators.
- Roger: We just look at the results. Has it been effective? Did something change? These are the questions we get from legislators. In general, the answer has been yes. We see stakeholders talking and communicating. People are working out their differences better than before. The goal is to hold everyone accountable. We are starting to see a better environment. The next piece of legislation is important, so people know which direction we are going.
- Curt: It's all about contacts.
- Chuck: It's all about communication.
- James: The UTC should keep in mind that money is a big factor. \$500 is nothing but \$5000 might need approval from a higher level and get attention.
- Bill: Education is still going to cost them, but we do see your point.
- Jim: Once someone gets fined \$5000 then word will get out. We need to get people's attention.
- Bill: I will bring this up to the UTC on behalf of the facility owners.
- Roger: I wanted to clarify, enforcement accountability was never applied to whether or not a damage occurred. It's about compliance failure only. We have seen record volumes (50,000 tickets were entered this Monday) and just want to make it clear that we only discuss compliance failure, not damages.
- Justin: I wish the UTC could offer some resources such as websites, DPC's or contacts.
- Bill: The UTC can't suggest education but PUCO can, so we will discuss this.
- Roger: We get calls all the time at the call center about who to reach out to at different companies and we do have numbers to give. Get a hold of Chuck or the call center for contacts.

- Bill: Just look at the differences in the past 3 years. We have great dialogue and communication now versus then.

The next meeting is on November 7<sup>th</sup> at The Illuminating Company.

Attendance Drawing—Vita Moore won \$25 gift card. Next drawing will be for \$25.

Motion to end meeting by Vita Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Curt Malone.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Madden, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting November 7, 2018**

The Illuminating Company  
2896 Miller Rd  
Brecksville, OH 44141

Email: kmadden@firstenergycorp.com to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

**Utilities Council of Northern Ohio - Scheduled Meetings Dates for 2018**

January 3, 2018	Don MacBride, Dominion East Ohio & Tour of New Facility	*Dominion East Ohio's New Training Facility
February 7, 2018	Meet N Greet	The Illuminating Company
March 7, 2018	City of Cleveland	The Illuminating Company
March 29, 2018 (April's meeting)	Badger Daylighting	*OUPS Tour of new Facility
May 2, 2018	Terry Perona, The Illuminating Company	The Illuminating Company
June 8, 2018	Annual Golf Outing	*Briarwood Golf Club
July, 2018	No meeting due to holiday	*
August 1, 2018	Les Hendershot, Safetyman	The Illuminating Company
September 5, 2018	John Rook, Bloodhound	The Illuminating Company
October 3, 2018	Bill Hocevar, UTC Update	*Great Lakes Construction
November 7, 2018	Scott Templeton Cleveland Thermal	The Illuminating Company
December 7, 2018	Annual Breakfast	*

Please contact us at <http://www.oups.org/DPCouncils>