

# CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

## Kootenai County Utilities Council

P.O. Box 1031 Hayden, ID 83835

[www.kootenaicountyonecall.com](http://www.kootenaicountyonecall.com)

### KOOTENAI COUNTY UTILITIES COUNCIL

#### DECEMBER MINUTES

**December 2, 2015:** Meeting was called to order by Kelly Brownsberger with 25 members present. Introductions were done and a motion was made to approve the minutes, motion made and passed.

**Treasurer Report:** Income- PassWord: \$1,521.20 Dues: \$00.00, Reimbursed Expenses:\$ 0.00  
Total Income: \$1,521.20 Expenses: \$441.36 Net Income: \$1,079.884. Checking account balance \$25,098.42. Budget is on track. Motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

**Speaker:** Scot Hattenburg with M&L Construction spoke about the issue of positive response and Red light/Green light.

Scot is also a member of the Washington State Dig Safety Committee and started a local chapter of NUCA the National Utility Contractors of America. One of the reason he started the local chapter was to try to help bring excavators in line with being good actors. To have excavators, locators and facility owners all work together so that the system works so that we can safeguard the utilities and the safety of the industry. PHMSA will be sending a ruling to the State of Idaho informing them that the Idaho has 9 places where the current dig law does not meet the pipes act requirement and that PHMSA will be bringing in one enforcement person into Idaho who will have enforcement jurisdiction on very major violations. The idea is that if within 5 years Idaho hasn't complied with the pipes act requirements then PHMSA will take control of the dig law enforcement. One of the 9 issues is the need for positive response, the requirement for all recipients of a locate ticket to respond when they have completed the locate or that they are clear of the locate area. The excavators like this because it lets them know that the waiting time is met, everyone has responded to the locate and you are ready to dig. On the facility operators side this would require another step in the process, they would need to respond to the ticket by notifying the call center when they had completed the ticket.

The idea behind Red Light/Green Light is that an excavator would be required to call for a locate before digging, mark the dig area in white paint wait the required time period and then be able to get a response that says Yes I can dig (Green Light) or no I can't dig (Red Light).

Scot suggested that since Idaho is working on the new dig law that we try to get as many things as you want in the new law the first time around because it will be very hard to get the law reopened for changes after that. The best thing for all parties is to work together and communicate!

Thanks Scot!

#### OLD BUSINESS

Coalition Group:

The group is meeting again to finalize the plan for the new dig bill and waiting for the notice from PHMSA to be sent to Idaho saying our dig law is not adequate in the enforcement capability and see what reaction comes from that notice that will be delivered on January 1st 2016, more to follow.

Contractor's Breakfast:

The breakfast will be held on January 20th from 7-10am at the Centerplace Regional Event Center, more details at the January meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Advertising/Budget & Nominating Committee :

The following members volunteered to be on this committee: Bruce Hathaway, Herb Heisel, Alan Miller, Mike Galante, Kelly Brownsberger and Donna Phillips they will meet and report at the January meeting.

PassWord Contract:

The 5 year contract expires at the end of 2015 and PassWord has a new 5 year contract up for council review. Rod gave a report on the accomplishments of the past 5 years, they included rebuilding the call center to the 1st floor, updated all workstations to dual monitors, new stand by generator, installed high availability computer system which provides for high capacity to allow for aerial imaging and intense data files and they have high quality voice logging. In the next 5 years they will be using a web portal that will allow direct access to aerial imaging maps, locate tickets and virtual white lining among other features. Rod is working on a Grant for funding of the better aerial imagery mapping, he is working with the IPUC and the IDUCC on this grant. Rod asked if the council would be in support of this grant and if so, would we send a letter of support. The council is in favor and will send a letter of support for this grant. The new contract is the same other than that the nominal fee beginning Jan. 1st will be \$1.48 which is the same as in 2015. Members will review the contract and we will discuss more at the January meeting. The council will decide if we approve of executing the contract but the contract agreement is with each utility.

Upcoming Projects:

None

PassWord Report: Emergency calls were 81, an increase of 48 calls. Normal calls were 949 a decrease of 445 calls. Year to date totals 15,570 which is an increase of 1,662 calls from last year.

**PLEASE remember to send in Dig-Up information to PassWord.**

**Contractor Report: Frontier Communications-** Storm damage, subdivisions, pole transfers and maintenance. **Eastside Highway District-** Winter maintenance. **Fatbeam-** Fiber builds to Numerica Credit Union & Real Life Ministries. **East Greenacres Irrigation District-** Winter maintenance. **City of Cda-** Winter maintenance. **Ruen-Yeager-** Odom Corporation, Plummer SH5 bridge. **Avondale Irrigation District-** Sewer installation, Odom Corporation, facility work, line crossing and Warren St. **North Kootenai Water-** Winter maintenance. **Post Falls Highway District-** Winter maintenance. **City of Rathdrum-** Winter maintenance. **Hayden Lake Irrigation District-** Projects all over including Atlas / Dakota, Robison Rd, Hayden Ave, Prairie Ave, Honeysuckle / Reed.

**Drawing for paid lunch:** Stephen Edmiston with Northwest Utility's name was drawn and his lunch was paid for by the council.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

**ATTENDING MEMBERS**

Mike Galante- North Kootenai Water District  
John Pankratz- Eastside Highway District  
Bruce Hathaway- Fatbeam  
Ryan Ross- ELM Locating  
Ron Wilson- East Greenacres Irrigation District

Laura Winter- Ruen-Yeager  
Ki Moulaxart- PassWord  
Donna Phillips- City of Hayden  
Rick Edmiston- Utility Locating Services  
Marie Brown- PassWord

Dion Holton- City of CDA  
Kelly Brownsberger- Post Falls Highway District  
Sean Moore- Melex Detection  
Mike Phillips-City of Rathdrum  
Herb Heisel  
Randy Roberdean- HD Supply Waterworks  
Dale Zachary- ELM Locating  
Scot Hattenburg- M & L Construction

Bob Chandler - Avondale Irrigation District  
Christie Coulter- Black Rock Utility Inc  
Verlyn Bailly- TransCanada GTN Systems  
Cindy Christoph- Frontier Communications  
Stephen Edmiston- Northwest Utility  
Rod Bacon- PassWord  
Alan Miller- Hayden Lake Irrigation District

**NEXT MEETING:**

**JANUARY 6, 2016  
AT NOON AT  
SARGENT'S RESTAURANT  
9021 N. GOVERNMENT WAY  
HAYDEN, ID 8383  
208-772-4114**