

NCCGARP

**North Carolina Common Ground
Alliance Regional Partner**

Date: 11 November, 2007

Location: Piedmont Natural Gas Operations Center, Greensboro, NC

Attendance

Rick Gould	Qwest Communications	David Cantrell	Cantrell Construction
Doug Morris	Charlotte DOT	Grant Culp	Culp Brothers Inc
Teresa VonCannon	Piedmont Natural Gas	Brad Barringer	BRS Inc
Jim Lowry	NC Utility Contractors Association	David Stikes	Sanford Contractors
Jimmy Price	R. H. Price, Inc	Christopher Stike	J F Wilkerson Contracting Co, Inc
Allen Gray	Carolinas AGC	Max Richardson	Rutherford
Brad Gibson	Rutherford	Walter Romine	Williams Gas Pipeline – Transco
Jim Raschke	Williams Gas Pipeline – Transco	Mark Doss	Williams Gas Pipeline – Transco
Dan Grove	Taylor Wiseman & Taylor	Dale McGowan	Taylor Wiseman & Taylor
Greg Baily	AT&T	Stephan Shehan	AT&T
Brian Groome	AT&T	Dan Hinson	State Utility Contractors, Inc

Call To Order

Ron Fairbanks was absent from the meeting, Dave Cantrell acted as Chair. Dave opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introductions.

Meeting Agenda was approved

Minutes from July 10, 2007 meeting were approved.

Proceedings

After introductions and approval of agenda/minutes, Dave Cantrell welcomed everyone again and expressed his hopes that the North Carolina CGA Regional Partnership efforts help improve communications between stakeholders and could help improve the quality of locates in the field.

Committee Reports

David Cantrell had nothing else to add for his Co Chairperson report.

Rick Gould presented the Secretary report. He asked that everyone please print clearly on the sign in sheet, he is receiving a number of rejected emails when using the group email list. He also asked that

NCCGARP

North Carolina Common Ground
Alliance Regional Partner

any new attendees wishing to become sanctioned members please see him after the meeting to complete a pledge form.

Teresa VonCannon presented the Finance report. She advised that lunch for the July meeting had been provided by the Carolinas AGC and the North Carolina One Call Center.

Tom Callahan was not present at the meeting, there was no Membership report.

Doug Morris presented the Program/Meeting report. He said that he is looking at ideas for future meetings and that he was open to any suggestions. He mentioned the possibility of moving the meeting to different locations in the State, but a number of folks brought up the Hickory meeting and the low attendance experienced there. General consensus was that Greensboro seems to be the most centrally located area. Doug also asked everyone to print clearly on the sign in sheet so we could capture correct email addresses.

Brad Barringer presented the Regional Partnership Coordinator report. He advised that there is a request from the Regional Partnerships Committee (RPC) for each State to look at their current State Damage Prevention programs and determine if they meet the recommendations of the Excavation Damage Prevention Initiative (EDPI) committee.

http://www.commongroundalliance.com/Template.cfm?Section=EDPI_Team&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=55&ContentID=4375

Brad asked the group for input on the idea from the RPC requesting the Regional Partnerships review of the EDPI study. Rick Gould asked if this was similar to OCSI and NTDPC have put together. Brad said he believes it is similar, but this effort centers on the 9 points of the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2006. He also explained that compliance with the EDPI could affect future grants that may be available from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/>

Brian Groome asked Brad what the grants could be used for and who could apply. Brad replied that he is not 100% sure how the grant process works, but does know the request has to be for a specific purpose and the grant money spent according to the request.

Rick Gould asked who was driving the State reviews. Brad advised PHMSA had placed the request. PHMSA requires that someone evaluate the State program and that the State Governor designate entity's that can receive grants.

Allen Gray added that PHMSA is aware that few states currently meet the 9 key points of the PIPES act, may elect to award grants based on a States progress to improve.

Brian Groome asked if there was any form of enforcement in NC. Brad advised that there was not.

Doug Morris added that the City of Charlotte is implementing a new permitting program that will include policing of construction in the City. He explained the new program and advised that fines (up to \$1000) could be levied against Contractors for working without proper permits, or Utilities for not locating. This is all part of the new permitting system. Doug added that the City Ordinance was passed in October and becomes effective 1 January, 08. Doug also advised that the City is developing training and information on the new permitting process and hope to have it in place by December.

NCCGARP

North Carolina Common Ground
Alliance Regional Partner

Brad mentioned that the City of Charlotte effort is similar to an effort Wilmington has in place. He added that we could see similar programs pop up all over the State as Cities try to implement their own ordinances for safe digging.

Rick Gould brought discussion back to the EDPI review and suggested that if our Partnership was to be involved with the evaluation, it should be by committee.

Brad suggested that we form a committee to review the possibility of our Regional Partnership evaluating our State law against the EDPI White Paper, requesting 1 member from each Stakeholder group. After some discussion, it was decided we should form a smaller committee at this time to monitor progress of the EDPI White Paper and determine what further action would be appropriate once CGA and PHMSA make a determination on how they will proceed.

Open Discussion

NC One Call

Rick Gould announced that the Board of Directors of the NC One Call Center had approved increasing the number of Directors from 21 to 22. The added Director seat is a Class 3 voting member that is to be appointed by the Executive Director of the League of Municipalities.

Safety Stop

Rick Gould passed on an idea for local UCC's that he picked up on from South Carolina. They set up tables at contractor supply shops and rental agencies to promote safe digging practices. Stephan Sheehan also mentioned that in the Eastern part of North Carolina they are seeing a great deal of success with Safety Tailgate meetings that promote damage prevention and safety.

CGA Update

Allen Gray gave a quick update on CGA Transaction Records (TR) close to adoption.

- Locate Sewer Laterals

- One Call Center Standards

- Colored Duct Tape

- Project Coordination

- Use of Qualified Designers

- One Call Membership. Allen added that currently, CGA Best Practices do not mention

Mandatory Membership.

Allen said that committees are reviewing each chapter of Version 5 of Best Practices, it is due to release in the spring.

NCCGARP

**North Carolina Common Ground
Alliance Regional Partner**

Excavation Damage Prevention Initiative (EDPI)

Allen gave a short presentation on EDPI. PHMSA has formed a stakeholder group to develop a white paper defining the 9 key points of the PIPES Act. Once complete, the white paper will be used as guidance to evaluate each states damage prevention programs.

DIRT

Brad Barringer encouraged everyone to use the Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) program to record their incidents. He stated that DIRT was covered under Chapter 9 of the Best Practices and pointed out some highlights of the program. Brad also presented reports for 2004 & 2005 and noted that there was a significant increase in the number of incidents reported, but it is not indicative of increased damages, but increased use of the DIRT program. Brad added that data for 2006 is still be compiled for reporting purposes. DIRT is a private and secure system. Owner company names and associated information are confidential. There is a request before the DIRT committee to make state specific reports available, but there is a concern this could take away anonymity of the system. Reports are currently broken down into 8 regional areas.

Conclusion

Dave Cantrell brought the meeting to a conclusion and thanked everyone for their participation. He scheduled the next meeting for 10AM, Monday 4 February at the Piedmont Natural Gas office in Greensboro.

Dave Cantrell adjourned the meeting.