

ARIZONA UTILITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2017

The Arizona Utility Coordinating Committee serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge.

PRESENT

Connie Peretz	AZUCA	Bobby Garza	APS
Dan Nissen	Peoria	Chinton Jhaveri	Trace Consulting
David Cross	MCDOT	Dennis Aust	Chandler
Jamie Lando	SRP	Ivan Lopez	Avondale
Matt Vig	Cox	Jami Erickson	Phoenix
Vicki Bever	ADOT	Jim Badowich	Avondale
Will Fielder	SW Gas	Leann Johnson	Chandler
Adam Shochat	SW Gas	Steve DiDomenico	Mesa
AJ Kerin	Gilbert	Joaquin Campos	Chandler
Al Field	Al Field and Assoc.	Sandi Garrick	Pima County
Anthony Patterson	SRP		

Meeting Called to Order/Attendance

- ✓ Will Fielder, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am
- ✓ Introductions/Attendance sheet circulated. Quorum was met.

Previous Meeting Minutes

- ✓ August 1, 2017 meeting minutes reviewed and approved with amendments.

Safety Minute

- ✓ Temperatures are cooling down which creates more pedestrian traffic, be aware of increased foot traffic.

Guest Speakers-

Abandoned Utilities – Al Field; Abandoned utilities are becoming more and more common leaving less space underground for new utilities. Al discussed some of the challenges in getting these removed including enforcement of codes, laws, franchise agreements and regulations. Arizona has a more progressive utility locating law than most of the rest of the USA which requires abandoned facilities be mapped and marked in the field. Utility owners are required to maintain records and locate anything installed after 1988 until they are removed. Some suggested options are to repurpose the lines and lease or sell them to another utility owner, fill pipes to make them collapse and corrosion-proof, include a line item in CIP project specs to compensate excavators to remove them and help prevent future delays. He recommends utility owners plan for the future and coordinate projects, correctly survey and present accurate as-builts and maintain records indefinitely. Arizona has a standardized a marking symbol, an "A" with a circle around it in the appropriate APWA color, Al suggested utilizing standardized locations facilities as proposed by Valley leaders in 1970.

Unknown Lines – Sandra Holmes; Sandra discussed the process that Arizona 811 has developed to help expedite the process of identifying unknown lines that are discovered in the field by excavators. Arizona 811 is a communication center which notifies utility owners about scheduled excavation in a designated area on a locating ticket. Those utilities either mark their facilities or hire a private utility locating contractor mark them. When an excavator discovers an unknown or unmarked line, they notify Arizona 811 who takes them through a three-step process to identify what type of facility it is and who the owner is. **Step 1** the excavator indicates what type of facility they think it is, notices are sent only to that facility type, then those owners are required to visually inspect the line and determine if it is theirs and whether it is abandoned or active. **Step 2** sends notices to all utilities with conflict with notice to respond within two hours. **Step 3-** If no one claims it, a qualified person is sent to look at the facility to determine the age, consider if the company is out of business or installed prior to 12/31/1988. The most qualified person present will window the facility. Most excavators will try to work around it if the facility is not claimed. In 2016 there were 3,329 known lines reported, 93% were resolved in Step 1, 6% in Step 2 and 1% in Step 3. If jobs are delayed, excavators can bill the owner of the line. Unknown lines are often the result of inaccurate records or outdated maps. Private utilities in mobile home parks and apartments are also a common issue.

2018 Executive Officers-Accepting nominations for-Chairman, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Send nominations to Will Fielder.

Project Updates-

SW Gas East-Bidding three large projects that will start late 2017 or early 2018. McDonald Rd. & Tatum. Southern & Greenfield in Mesa, 19th Ave. to Central on Glendale.

SW Gas West- 5 ½ mile project along 27th Ave. around Bethany Home Rd.

Mesa- Software upgrade proceeding. Have over 600 permits online and still transitioning. Project in southern area near Higley and Greenfield, at 60% plans and ongoing work on light rail project.

APS- 1st of the year work will start at Liberty & Perryville. Along MC85 canal will unground. At Olive & the 303 to Citrus relocating facility to north side of road. Working on Street car in Tempe, Also 52nd Street & Washington for new light rail station. Relocating facilities for storm drain project from 107th – 111th Ave. from Union Hills to Palm Drive.

Avondale- Wrapping up CIP soon. Widening streets along Van Buren and Roosevelt at 99th-103 and 107th. Half interchange at El Mirage Alignment.

Phoenix- Water/sewer rehabbing main on I-10 of 8 24" pipes. Water main replacements in ¼ sections everywhere. Manhole rehab in spots as needed. Light rail station going in at 50th Street. S. Central and NW LR extensions should be completed by 2023. 22 miles of work on S. Mtn. Freeway. In Aviation-Sky Train facility expanding to rental car facility.

Gilbert- Rehab water/sewer in downtown area and adding parking. 202 interchange at Lindsay Rd. Small Cell work.

ADOT- SR30 Reworking for environment assessment-will include PIR. SR189 in Nogales advanced as design build.

MCDOT-Many pavement preservations projects. 75th – 107th still underway, also Olive and the Northern Parkway.

Peoria- 83rd Ave between Northern & Butler. Looking at scoping to widen to arterial standards and add new bus line on 83rd Ave from Camelback to Bell. Currently no design work or utility coordination but will after shelter design is approved by council early next year.

Staffing Updates-

Avondale-Open Assistant Traffic Engineer and Project Manager position.

COX-All of Randy Sims' projects are now being managed by Ricardo Pedroza.

Chandler-Reorganization at high level city structure.

Other Business/Committee Updates-

Preconstruction meetings-Industry trend of incomplete designs moving through permitting resulting in changes at precon meeting and designs being changed in the field. Need as-builts to be updated more regularly. If facility owners think the ticket should be for design, they can check their own internal records for requests, if they are none then it is for design.

Small Cell- Municipalities/Agencies can request in their terms and conditions that they be a member of Arizona 811. The challenge is that they are not recognized as a utility.

UPROW-Broadband rapid deployment white paper under review including design standards, and recommended terms and conditions. AI will send out when it is approved. He invited all to participate on this committee

ASCE-New institute in Arizona for Utility engineering & Surveying. AI will keep committee updated.

MAG-Wrapped up 2017 with 15 new cases, 2 will carry over to next year. Case topics approved this year include-crack sealing, pervious concrete, adopted Midwest guardrail system, ADA sidewalk ramps and tapping sleeve & values. Invitation extended to join working groups. Rod Ramos retired after 27 years on committee.

AUCC Working Group- in 2018 to update PIPG to include wireless communication.

AZ811 Updates- Damage Prevention & Safety Seminars-Had over 800 attendees in Metro Phoenix, northern AZ had 8 seminars with 500 attendees. 2018 considering moving Metro seminars to September and northern seminars to July. Have had concerns reported from facility owners on 100% excavation marks requirements to schedule preconstruction meetings. If they are not available to meet right after the marks are completed (reports received of up to 10 days to schedule) then the ticket is recalled and marks are required again. This municipal process is slowing down work. Should be part of the design process.

Holiday Potluck- next meeting at Arizona 811. Bring a dish to share.

Future Topics 2018

Unified Response for homeowners about graffiti. Homeowner letter emailed to group.

Landscape Restoration

Adjourned: 11:19 am

Next Meeting: December 5th @ Arizona 811, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm