



MD/DC Damage Prevention Committee

Kevin Woolbright, Chairman
Mark Hamrick, Vice Chairman
Susan Sullivan, Secretary

Minutes of the meeting for July 27, 2021
Hybrid Meeting hosted by Miss Utility in Hanover, MD
Prepared by Susan Sullivan

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Kevin Woolbright called the regular monthly meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. via Zoom. There were 51 virtual attendees and 9 onsite attendees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the June 22, 2021 minutes was made by David Wilkins (WSSC) and seconded by Diane Spriggs (WSSC). The motion carried by approval.

The approved meeting minutes will be posted at <https://www.missutility.net/excavators/>.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mitzi Ambush (Pepco) emphasized the importance of hand digging and not using mechanized equipment when exposing underground facilities and that at no point should contractors or any unauthorized person attempt to repair damaged utilities.

- Title 12:127 (3)
Before using mechanized equipment for excavation or demolition within 18 inches of an underground facility marking, a person shall expose the underground facility to its outermost surfaces by hand or other nondestructive techniques

David Wilkins (WSSC) commented in response to Mitzi, that WSSC safety meetings are ongoing, and that Diane Spriggs (WSSC) has indicated training has reflected a decreased in damages.

Bill Jackson (MDOT/SHA) shared his appreciation for everyone's patience as their new contact locator, Skyline, gets acclimated and adjusts to a higher than normal locate volume.

Mike Burns and George Daffan (Utiliquest) responded to inquiries about the lingering locate back log by indicating that training classes are ongoing, locators are working overtime, weekends, and holidays, and that Utiliquest continues to actively and aggressively seek new hires and to support new trainees as they gain both confidence and field experience.

Discussion continued about the need to submit and update tickets well in advance of planned excavation to ensure the tickets get statused on time. This can lead to tickets expiring before planned excavation is completed which in turn requires an update, starting the process all over again which can lead to further delays.

George Daffan responded by encouraging contractors to only ask for locating that is necessary and that can be completed during the validity of a ticket. Mark Hamrick (Verizon) added that dig and ticketing rules are dictated by both law and utility member consensus and cannot be readily or easily altered. Ticketing under the new ITICnxt platform automatically split tickets based on business rules which makes them more manageable but can in turn, increase locate volume.

Kevin Woolbright (DPC Chair) wrapped up the discussion by stating that issues similar to the current ones have been discussed through the years which have been addressed by the new law update. He encouraged everyone to work together with the tools available in order to get through this difficult time of increased work load and a decreased work force.

Lisa Hurley (SMECO) asked that locators go to the site for locating and not just auto-clear or status *marked* without the marks actually being put down.

Jim Barron (The Maryland Authority) reiterated that a ticket's EOW must be completable within the twelve (12) day validity period. When someone is not in compliance with this or any part of the Title 12 Law, a complaint can be filed. Although not a real time consequence, MD Authority fines can be assessed and as high as \$4,000.00 per violation depending on severity and other determining factors.

MISS UTILITY CALL CENTER

➤ ITICnxt Presentation: Street Tool

- ITICnxt is Miss Utility's new ticketing platform system.
- The Street Tool should be used for excavation taking place along existing streets.
- When using the Street Tool, a pop-up box appears prompting the user to provide a width that will be measured from the center line of the street. For example, a width of 30 FT would be 15 FT each side of center.
- Marking instructions and dig site address are auto-filled into the appropriate ticket fields during step 2 of ticket processing.
- Multiple locate requests, using multiple tools, can be created during one mapping session.
- Next month's topic: The Route Tool

- Dashboard Reporting: Jennifer Arroyo (Miss Utility) provided ticket volume data for the month of June 2021.
 - Inbound ticket volume: 94,344 a monthly increase of 15.38% compared to 2020
 - Outbound volume: 594,791 a year-to-date increase of 39.037% compared to 2020

- Damage Reporting: Susan Sullivan provided YTD data through June 2021 of reported damages in MD/DC.
 - 438 utility damages (104 mains and 334 services)
 - 28.54% due to no call or valid ticket
 - 31.96% due to hitting a marked line
 - 31.05% due to incorrect locate marks
 - 8.45% due to other root causes

MARYLAND AUTHORITY Jim Barron, Executive Director

There was an Open Meeting and Closed Executive Session Meeting via Zoom on July 7, 2021.

- The Authority reviewed six (6) NPVs; four (3) for marking violations and three (3) for No Call-1st Offense.
- The Authority currently has thirty-one (31) NPVs to investigate.
- The Authority will be submitting Mr. James Dudley of Carroll County to replace Joyce Brooks in the Public Member seat. Mr. Dudley was nominated by Paul Kwiatkowski.
- The MD Authority mobile app is scheduled to go live on 8/11/2021 – 811 Day.
- The Authority will be submitting the 2020 Adequacy Review to PHMSA this week.
- The Authority will be participating and have a booth at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Conference in Ocean City, August 18 - 21, 2021.

The next meeting of the Authority will be a Closed Executive Session on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 9:00 AM.

MD TITLE 12, CHAPTER 18/SB877 Presented by Jim Barron, Executive Director MD Authority

Presentation: Section 12-121: Emergency Excavation or Demolition. Jim presented a review of Emergency Excavation or Demolition requirements per the new law. Jim emphasized the new emergency definition and the increased penalties for filing an emergency that does not meet this new standard. The following information was shared via a slide and discussion followed.

§12-101. Definitions

(k). “ ‘Emergency’ means a sudden or unexpected occurrence involving a clear and imminent danger demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or injury to, Life, Health, Property, or an Essential Public Service.”

§12-121. Emergency Excavation or Demolition

This section applies to any action taken to address an Emergency from the time the Emergency arises until a Standard Ticket is initiated and valid under §12-124 of this subtitle, including any work associated with stopping or mitigating the Emergency.

A Primary Contractor or a person performing an emergency excavation or demolition SHALL identify the location and extent of work, as stated in §12-124 (b) (1) of this subtitle in a clear and concise manner.

The Owner-Member or its Contract Locator SHALL:

Respond to an Emergency Notice as soon as possible but not later than 2 hours from the transmission of the ticket from the One-Call Center,

Begin the locating process to mark their respective underground facilities within 3 hours after the transmission of the ticket,

If the Facility Owner has no underground facilities within the delineated excavation area, clear the ticket within 3 hours after the transmission of the ticket.

The person responsible for the excavation or demolition SHALL:

Be on site or in communication with the Owner-Member, their Contract Locator or their representative within 3 hours after the transmission of the ticket or a mutually agreed response time.

The Owner-Member or its Contract Locator SHALL respond to the Underground Facilities Exchange System as soon as:

The extent of work is marked or

It is determined that no underground facilities are in the delineated area.

A person that abuses the Emergency Excavation or Demolition Procedure set for in this section is subject to penalties under §12-135 of this subtitle which states:

§12-135 (a) (7) – A person that files an Emergency Ticket that does not meet the definition of Emergency under §12-101 of this subtitle may be subject to the Maximum Penalties available under this subsection (which is \$4,000).

Next month’s topic: Changes and Requirements for Contractors

2021 GREATER CHESAPEAKE DAMAGE PREVENTION TRAINING CONFERENCE

Matt Ruddo, Chairman (OCC)

- Dates: October 26-29
- Location: Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, MD
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bertice Berry
- New this year: OCC is sponsoring the New York 811 VR-X-Sim: a mobile, virtual reality training program that is designed to be the future of damage prevention.
- This year's conference continues to offer various networking opportunities, educational break-out sessions and the acclaimed 811 Bike and Trike. Fundraising opportunities will support the Maryland/DC Chapter of Construction Angels.
- Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available. Exhibit hall is 90% full.
- Early bird registration runs through September 6.
- For more information, please visit www.missutilityconference.com

The next planning committee meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2021.

MD/DC SUBSCRIBERS COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Scott Brown, Chairman

Scott Brown shared that in light of the ongoing locate back-log, the committee is looking into the possibility of extending response due by times. This ideally would allow contractors to submit their tickets as necessary but postpone the excavation start date which would allow for an extended locate period. Scott also shared that the Board is to be represented at CGA, UG and the GCDPTC.

The next MD/DC Subscribers Committee and BOD Meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2021.

DAMAGE PREVENTION AND SAFETY

Training - Coordinator, Susan Sullivan ssullivan@misstuality.net

- Virtual DPT Completed:
 - June 17 – Anchor Safety Stand Down
 - June 18 - Virtual ODPT
- DPT Upcoming:
 - August 13 – Virtual ODPT
 - August 27 – Baltimore Tree Trust
 - September 8 – Charles County DPW
- National Conference
 - CGA Conference & Expo
 - October 12-15 at the Renaissance, Orlando at Sea World
 - OCC and the MD/DC BOD will be represented.
 - Attendance is open to all.
 - For more information, please visit <https://cgaconference.com/>
- Miss Utility Facebook

- Please visit www.facebook.com/missutilityofmd/ for upcoming shows, holiday announcements, and call center notices/information.



- Carvertise Marketing Metrics reported by Susan Sullivan, Miss Utility
 - Nine wrapped cars currently travel throughout 8 Maryland counties, Baltimore City and Washington D.C.
 - Quantitative Performance Data for the month of June:
 - Miles traveled by fleet: 14,815 (6,715 above expectation)
 - Impressions per fleet: 2,163,008 (768,008 above expectation)

2021 AWARDS COMMITTEE Mark Hamrick, Chairman

The Dig Smart Awards self-nomination application process is now open. This program recognizes Maryland and D.C. contractors for outstanding safety practices. Applications are now available and can be accessed at <https://www.missutility.net/dig-smart-award/> through August 20, 2021. Winning companies will receive two complimentary two-night packages to the 2021 GCDPTC in Ocean City this October and be recognized and honored during the DSA Ceremony.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14 and will be held virtually.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Scott Brown, Chairman

Congratulations to this year's 2021 Miss Utility/District One Call Scholarship winners! The program considered over 200 applications and selected seven recipients to receive a \$1,008.11 single-year scholarship. This year's scholarship recipients include:

- Zone 1: M. McCarter
- Zone 2: L. Austin
- Zone 3: E. McKenny
- Zone 4: R. Bosley
- Zone 5: T. Wilkinson
- Zone 6: J. Rollins
- Zone 7: K. Spann

MGH MARKETING & OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

Reported by Kelly Cahill & Gaby Tancona

➤ Trade Show Updates

- Miss Utility will have a booth at the MACo Summer Conference, Aug. 18-21.
- Miss Utility has also confirmed participation in the Chesapeake Region Safety Council Conference & Expo October 7th, the Allegany County All Things Home Expo (October 8-10, and the CGA Conference & Expo, October 12-15.

➤ Digital Marketing Campaign

- Kelly Cahill reported that ads on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, NextDoor and Google Search achieved more than 4.6 million impressions during the first half of the campaign.

CONSTRUCTION ANGELS

Kevin Woolbright, CA Board Representative for MD/DC

- The Miss Utility of Delmarva 811 5K CA fundraiser is taking place August 15, 2021 in Lewes, DE. All are welcome to participate.
- OCC is an event sponsor with Miss Utility hosting a booth. The OCC 811 Trike and Bike will be on hand as well.
- More information is available at <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/47149/3rd-annual-miss-utility-of-delmarva-811-5k-1-mile-fun-walk-and-kiddie-k>.
- Please visit <http://www.constructionangels.us/> for more information about CA.

There being no further business brought before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Upcoming 2021 MD/DC Damage Prevention & Safety Meetings via Zoom

- August 24
- September 28
- November 23

MEETING ATTENDEES: This was a hybrid meeting. Onsite attendance is below. Accurate Zoom attendance is not available.

On-Site Attendees

Construction Angels	Kevin Woolbright DPC Chairman CA Board Representative for MD/DC	(301) 806-8745	bright.67@verizon.net
MGH	Gabriella Gaby Tancona Public Relations	(410) 902-5025	gtancona@mghus.com
One Call Concepts/ Miss Utility	Jennifer Arroyo General Manager		jennifer@occinc.com
One Call Concepts/ Miss Utility	Susan Sullivan ITIC Coordinator	(410) 782-2030	ssullivan@missutility.net
USPCD BOD VICE PRESIDENT	Steven Keyser Chesapeake Utilities Line Locator Supervisor	(302) 213-7480	skeyser@chpk.com

Verizon	Mark Hamrick DPC Vice Chairman Damage Investigator	(410) 610-1371	mark.a.hamrick@verizon.com
Washington Gas	Jack Ellison Senior Specialist	(703) 750-5128	<u>JohnEllison@washgas.com</u>
Washington Gas	Scott Brown BOD President, Gas Rep	(703) 750-4388	<u>ssbrown@washgas.com</u>
WSSC	David Wilkins BOD, Water/Sewer Rep Customer Advocate	(301) 648-6953	david.wilkins@wsscwater.com