June 20, 2018

MISS DIG 811 GSS Committee

Minutes

In Attendance: Bruce Campbell, Dave Mauerman, Kyle Kremer, Bill Fisher On Phone: Lisa Douglas, Catherine Stafford, Rhonda Smith, Jim Moskal

* Certification updates (RHONDA)
  + Committee members – No updates.
  + MI contractors update – 51 certified this month, 241 certified. January was 120, Rhonda and Dave are updating charts and the other visual aids.

Bruce said 8/11 should mark our second anniversary, asked GSS to pull together info to promote it. Rhonda also said Homeworks is certified now. Catherine asked if they are a member or if their contractors are certified? Rhonda said that they are both. Dave said Homeworks does most of their own work. Traverse City Light and Power, Rhonda said it was a great rollout. Their certified internally and most of their contractors are too.

* GSS Program update
  + Metrics rollout (RHONDA) – TCL&P provided their first damage report, this should help with the metrics tracking. Bruce asked if Bob had completed the two page document explaining the metrics. Rhonda will find out and get it to him. He also asked if the damages put in will be placed into DIRT also, Rhonda said yes. Bruce would like the MI contractors to go to the MI virtual private DIRT first, then to the national DIRT. Rhonda said that it is up to the FOO to request the reports for their vendors. GSS can set up alerts if wanted. The vendors do set up the rules for sharing their information. There was discussion on the phrasing difference between the tolerance and caution zone. Bruce clarified that CGA defines tolerance as the area of the approximate location. Will see if we can add a note to say for in MI that tolerance and caution zone are the same.
  + MISS DIG 811-GSS Associate Member discussion – Bruce asked about renewal for people who are GSS certified and receive their free associate member. Most have not hit their 1-year renewal. GSS will send a list of people who do not renew, so that MISS DIG 811 can bill accordingly.
  + City of Detroit Workshop – July 17-18 (DAVE) – Detroit is presenting GSS to the contractors that they use and informing them of an upcoming ordinance. Many people will be attending. Bruce asked if Jim would want to come, he will check to see if he can make it. MISS DIG provided a list of almost 1600 contractors who worked within Detroit last year to invite.
  + GSS Fall Conference – September 26, Newport Beach, CA – Next conference will be coming up and will detail the status of GSS.
* Expansion
  + GSS Roadmap – MI leadership (DAVE)
  + Utilities/Facility Owners – Dave asked if we are missing anyone to reach out to. Bruce mentioned some organizations.
  + Municipalities – Bruce reached out to GSS last week about getting munis on board. MISS DIG has grant money available, even though there have been some requesting information, no one has decided to pursue certification. Bruce said that we only have $10k to use, but if we don’t use anything, what message does it send to PHMSA about GSS? Bruce asked GSS to help with getting more muni’s involved.
    - Foundation availability/usage
    - Strategy – Dave asked what we can do? Catherine thinks that the requirements still aren’t very clear. She will put a package together to share what DTE Gas has done and show how it can be utilized to fit. Bruce said we should start with just becoming members as a Gold Shovel community since it costs no money and they’ll get 1/3 back. Should set their contractor certification aside, just require the contractors working in their ROW be certified. We need to give examples of ways to implement: ordinance, bid specs or policy.
    - Catherine mentioned maybe hosting another event? Dave suggested incorporating in 8/11 day. Catherine said Detroit may be ready to announce by then. Bill will share the list we have of possibly interested municipalities for the committee members to target and sit down with to help them get certified. MISS DIG will have Miranda go through the list to contact and reintroduce GSS. Will add Flint to list. Will add membership information such as annual fee and amount saved. MISS DIG may even offer a greater than 1/3 discount.
* Targets (by next meeting - August)
  + 8/11 “811” day ideas, plans, goals - Have another open house later this fall? Press release for the successes of GSS in MI for 8/11. MISS DIG and Consumers will be at the Nascar event at MIS for 8/11.