



PIPE USERS GROUP Northern California

MINUTES
June 21st, 2005

Attendees:

Stan Shogren	Kennedy/Jenks Consultants	stanshogren@kennedyjenks.com
Marie Bowser	Kennedy/Jenks Consultants	mariebowser@kennedyjenks.com
Patrick Johnston	Kennedy/Jenks Consultants	patrickjohnston@kennedyjenks.com
Eugene Balinski	SRCSD	balinskie@saccounty.net
Bob Allen	Brown & Caldwell	ballen@brwncald.com
Carl Sibley	City of Oakland	csibley@oaklandnet.com
Cindy Preuss	Harris & Associates	cpreuss@harris-assoc.com
Jonathan Lee	WVSD	jonlee@westvalleysan.org
Jennifer Glynn	Brown & Caldwell	jglynn@brwncald.com
Allen Law	City of Oakland	atlaw@oaklandnet.com
Jing Lin	City of Oakland	jlin@oaklandnet.com

Presentation: *Utility Coordination / Avoiding Utility Conflicts*, by Carl Sibley from the City of Oakland.

Intro: Carl is the Senior Construction Inspector in the Design and Construction Services Department at the City of Oakland, and is a Board Member of USA North. Carl shared information specific to the City of Oakland's utility coordination process using a sample utility coordination meeting agenda.

Carl leads the monthly utility coordination meetings (held the 1st Thursday of each month) attended by approximately 8-20 stakeholders and permittees for work to be done in the public right-of-way (ROW). Carl's main objective is to ensure the City regulations/ordinances are followed, the imposed timeline for construction work is strictly adhered to, and any work that is slated to be done (or is underway) is known of, permitted, and inspected by the City.

Included in the monthly coordination meeting agendas are announcements, concern construction issues, construction procedures, and planning. Announcements include miscellaneous matters recently surfaced that the City wants utility companies to be aware of. Concern construction issues include reminders and requirements, such as public safety and traffic control issues. Construction procedures speak to excavation permitting, pre-construction meetings, and documentation and authorization for any deviations from approved plans to ensure the deviation does not conflict with other existing or proposed utilities. Planning covers the current City of Oakland construction projects so that scheduling and costs may be tracked and updated.

Handouts: Carl brought handouts that included a sample utility coordination meeting agenda, excavator and locator check-off lists, general regulations in the performance of excavation work per the Oakland Municipal Code, among other items.

Minutes by: Cindy Preuss, Harris & Associates
Secretary, Nor Cal PUG

Executive:

Treasury status: Quickbooks will be installed on the PUG laptop and used in-house at Harris until Allen takes over. Allen and Cindy will be signers on the Harris bank account set up for PUG, Cindy will continue to track the administrative and reimbursable funds, invoices will go to Allen for processing (approval), and will be paid by Harris once approved. Allen will be meeting with Harris representatives following this PUG meeting and will report next month on its status.

New member applications: To be sent following June's meeting, so watch for your membership renewal form and please remit as soon as possible. If there's someone else that you believe would benefit from sharing pipeline technologies, experiences, and challenges, you are encouraged to forward the application along, or invite the individual to check out our website at norcalpug.com.

Non-profit application status: Jonathan knows someone who may be willing to complete the application for us and will follow up on that end. We are all eager to complete the process so that Allen can take over all PUG accounts using a bank account set up exclusively for PUG.

Website Development:

The website is up and running. We welcome all PUG members and interested individuals to check it out at norcalpug.com. Cindy is the Website administrator and is accepting feedback at cpreuss@harris-assoc.com. It is a website with little flash at this initial launching, although there are some interesting project photos of varying technologies, membership information, calendar of events (please send information on conferences, seminars, trainings to add to the calendar), meeting minutes, bylaws and more to navigate through.

General Discussion:

Potholing/USA North: Carl Sibley attended a USA North damage control meeting today. Collectively they would like to come up with criteria for potholing equipment and acceptable techniques so that conflicts and damages to existing utilities and conduits using certain equipment is avoided. He attends quarterly board meetings where senate bills are in development specific to safety in excavations.

Bob Allen has been attending USA North meetings as well, and reported on recent vacuum excavation demos that prove to be less destructive than conventional potholing techniques. And air lance and water lance were both used to pothole utilities encased in concrete; neither machine could cut through the wrapped cable inside. A warning per Carl, however, is that damage to the interior conduit may not show up for two-three months in some cases.

There was a general discussion on the topic of utility potholing, and the responsibilities and liabilities therein. In a recent newspaper Senator Torlakson announced regulations will be stepped up for utility marking and locating by requiring certification of those doing so. [Senate Bill 1166 from July 2004 on subsurface utility engineering didn't pass and needs further discussion.] Currently USA will not respond to design-stage requests for utility markings, and would instead like the engineers to locate the utilities within their means. Engineers have difficulty locating utilities within any degree of accuracy, however, given the utility maps that are submitted with disclaimers for "approximate locations", often void of

depths, of their facilities within the project area. Potholing is required, however if potholing is conducted and no utilities are discovered, it is difficult (if not impossible) to predict where the existing utility would be, if it still exists at all. Further, many public agencies refuse to pay for potholing, so if exact depths and locations are required during design, the consultant would need to pay for it out-of-pocket in order to reduce their risk/liability in the project. The consensus was that everyone feels they are at-risk with this issue, but doesn't know the best way to correct the situation without assigning a high-level of liability to any one organization or entity.

The discussion continued on potholing with an inquiry on assignment of liability if a Contractor potholes in an area where no utility is known to exist, yet ends up damaging an unexpected utility in the process. Who pays? In general, it was agreed that the excavator would pay if the utility was marked by USA, but the owner of the utility would pay if the utility was not marked by USA.

Announcements/Upcoming Events: There is a Call for Papers in effect for the National No-Dig Conference to be held March 26-31, 2006. Get your papers in by the June 30 deadline if you'd like to present on one of your projects. Both Cindy and Jennifer are on the national No-Dig planning committee, so papers may be submitted to them if desired.

The Western Regional No-Dig Conference will be held in the fall, although a date has yet to be confirmed. A date should be secured around mid-July and will be announced to PUG at that time.

Jennifer Glynn, on the NASTT Western Regional Board of Directors, is currently scouting locations that will accommodate approximately 50-100 people for classes on pipe bursting, horizontal direction drilling, and cast-in-place pipe. Anyone who may be able to offer ideas on potential locations is encouraged to do so at jglynn@brwncald.com.

SAFE (Safety Awareness for Excavators) is holding free classes throughout the next year. See the PUG website calendar for dates and locations.

Discussion of Current Projects:

CIPP by Insituform to be constructed in Concord the next few weeks. May be a candidate for a field trip. A pipe bursting operation south of San Francisco is currently on hold while a bursting head is being shipped to the job site. The existing pipe is 36" to be replaced with the same size pipe. This may also be a candidate for a field trip. Jennifer to investigate on behalf of PUG and coordinate.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held **TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005** at the offices of Brown and Caldwell. The topic will be on overhead utility undergrounding. Please call (925)-210-2307 or e-mail Jennifer Glynn (jglynn@brwncald.com) to RSVP.