



PIPE USERS GROUP Northern California

MINUTES
September 24th, 2004

Attendees:

Stan Shogren	Kennedy Jenks	StanShogren@KennedyJenks.com
Cindy Preuss	Harris & Associates	cpreuss@harris-assoc.com
Jennifer Glynn	Brown and Caldwell	jglynn@brwncald.com
Jonathan Lee	West Valley Sanitation Dist	jlee@westvalleysan.org
Joyce Carlson	City of Oakland	jacarlson@oaklandnet.com
Allen Law	City of Oakland	atlaw@oaklandnet.com
Joan Kwong	City of Oakland-PWA	jkwong@oaklandnet.com

General Discussion:

Executive:

Jonathan Lee suggested we look into hiring a tax consultant to prepare the Non-Profit Application because it is too exhaustive (~3" thick, small print) for us to do. Jennifer Glynn (Jen) will check with one of her colleagues for a referral, and will briefly review the application to see what all is involved for completing it.

Seminar Progress & Planning:

Jonathan has reserved the room at H's Lordships for the Annual PUG Seminar to be held February 24, 2005. Jen will prepare the Call for Papers ad for placement in the November issue of TT Technologies magazine. Deadline for paper submissions will be mid-December. Cindy Preuss will forward the PUG mailing list to Jen for the announcement to be sent directly to members.

Past experience has shown that direct solicitation for presenters is always required regardless of our advertising efforts. Jonathan has a presenter in mind that spoke at last year's seminar on a project now under construction. He thought it would be interesting to learn about project progress & challenges to date now that construction is underway, especially considering the size of the project (~\$40M, 10-foot diameter pipeline).

This year we are considering formalizing the vendor display(s) at the seminar by charging a fixed amount per display table. The amount would need to cover any associated costs for using the additional tables, lunches for the representatives, etc. Jonathan will check with the restaurant to find out how much they charge per additional table required in the room. Joyce Carlson volunteered to do the policing of the vendor tables as well as be the point of contact. Anticipated amount per table: \$750 (still under consideration).

Website Development:

Cindy will be meeting with the website developer tomorrow for the website administration training. Once trained, member feedback on the beta version and miscellaneous information updates will be addressed. These updates shouldn't take more than a week to complete.

Cindy will also check with the website developer concerning how an entity goes online and what the associated cost(s) would be.

It is in the group's best interest to go online as soon as possible, especially in consideration of the upcoming Call for Papers and Seminar announcement.

Project Discussion:

West Valley Sanitation District: Phase 1 of 4 pipe bursting project, designed internally. Existing pipe is 6", 8", 10" VCP totaling 12,000 lf of pipe. Total construction footage for all phases is 60,000 lf. Pipe reaming is given as a construction alternative. Advantage of pipe reaming over pipe bursting is the ability to upsize the existing pipe considerably without pavement failure (since the host pipe is ground out during the operation).

Interest was expressed in seeing the pipe reaming spec – Jonathan will provide a copy of this to post on the PUG website. He developed the spec by using an HDD spec and modifying the drilling head.

LAVWMA (Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency): Project includes cement mortar lining of 5-6 miles of existing 24"-36" steel pipe, designed by Brown & Caldwell. Existing pipeline lined with coal tar epoxy. Pipeline cleaned prior to lining, with some epoxy lining still in place in areas, patchy in others. Cement mortar lining continues to collapse in pipe – is spun on but can't get it to stick long enough to cure in place. Unknown as to why this is happening. Could be improper cleaning, epoxy chemical makeup, etc. When researching the process during the design phase, a contractor confirmed that there shouldn't be a problem with cement mortar lining atop coal tar epoxy. Additionally, this process has been done before with success. More to come as the investigation continues.

Kennedy Jenks: Project includes 3-4 miles of force main replacement located in Yosemite. Existing force main is a 50 year old iron pipe with extensive corrosion problems. Impetus was a big spill they had in the village. Replacing existing 14" with 16" HDPE (to match internal diameter). Construction via open trench. Also putting in same linear footage of above-ground pipe for bypass during construction.

Recent Seminars Attended/Upcoming Seminars:

2-day seminar on UCT rehab options – Sept 2004 (attended by Allen Law)

1-day seismic design for pipelines seminar – Sept 2004 (attended by Stan Shogren).

Miscellaneous Notes:

Attendance of PUG Members/Attracting Interest in PUG:

- Seems as though there is less interest from the public agency sector relative to a couple years ago. Could be due to lack of funding for staff to participate, as well as added responsibilities of staff due to layoffs that make it difficult to break away from the office.

- Focus needs to shift from describing technologies to actual use of products, associated challenges, etc.
- Could have a couple of series presentations, e.g. an environmental series where one month the presenter talks about permitting/CEQA and the next month an archaeologist talks about cultural resources & how they (could) impact a project site.
- Website will help in terms of outreach, although the information available on the website doesn't compete with what can be gleaned from attending an actual meeting just due to sharing of information.
- Talked about the possibility of permitting suppliers, vendors, and contractors to be "Associate PUG Members," which would be members without voting rights that would be invited to attend quarterly (versus monthly) meetings. The current bylaws do not allow these professionals to be members due to a potential conflict of interest – as a career these industry professionals are bent toward one product or technology above all others.

One benefit of having these industry professionals' contributions, however, is the sharing of information, issues, challenges, and experiences from both owner and vendor perspectives. For example, Contractors are encouraging the use of native backfill in construction projects as opposed to cement slurry or quarried materials due to the lack of facilities that will accept offhauled soils, as well as the cost and equipment required to procure & haul the quarry materials onsite. On the other hand, engineers would rather go with soils certified with having certain properties over the variable soil properties and consistency common in native backfill. An open discussion on an issue such as this would be instructive for both sides.

To solicit membership of these industry professionals, an idea is to contact the UCA (Underground Contractor's Association).

More discussion to come on this topic.

- Joyce would like the phone numbers of the member agencies to conduct outreach and encourage participation at future PUG meetings.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held the 3rd Tuesday of the month, October 19th at the offices of Brown and Caldwell. Please call (925-210-2307) or e-mail Jennifer Glynn (jglynn@brwncald.com) to RSVP.

Minutes by:
Cindy Preuss, Harris & Associates
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