



TENNESSEE UNDERGROUND UTILITY DAMAGE ENFORCEMENT BOARD
Meeting on October 28, 2025

MINUTES

The board meeting of the Tennessee Underground Utility Damage Enforcement Board commenced at 10:35 a.m., at the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, 502 Deaderick Street, Ground Floor Conference Room, Nashville, TN, 37243.

Board Members Present:

Wayne Hastings, Vice Chairman
Earl Bolin (via Webex)
Jarrod Brackett
Vaughn Charles
Chris Gilmer
Eddie Hood
Craig Ingram
Charles Key
Scott Niehaus
Bob Pitts
Tim Settles
Lance Sledge

Board Members Absent:

Kevin Tubberville, Chairman¹
Steve Raper
Milton Henderson

¹ Chairman Tubberville was present at the preceding Executive Committee meeting. However, prior to the start of the Board meeting, he was called away on an urgent matter.

TPUC Staff Present:

Ryan McGehee, Legal Advisor to the TUUDEB
Aaron Conklin, Legal Advisor to the TPUC staff
Stacy Balthrop, Director, Consumer Services Division
Slayde Warren, UUDEB Staff
Tim Schwarz, Director of Communications
Samantha Lay, Chief Financial Officer

Current Vacancies:

Interstate Pipeline
Public Water/Wastewater

I. Opening of Meeting and Roll Call

Eleven (11) members were present in the room and one (1) member participating by phone at roll call. A physical quorum was met.

II. Review and Adopt Board Meeting Minutes

The Board considered the Minutes of the last meeting on August 19, 2025. Mr. Hood motioned to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Program and Legislative Updates

Ms. Balthrop provided a program update in the meeting packet. She added that PHMSA has given a preliminary rating of adequate; however, there was no date as to when the Board would receive the letter of adequacy.

Mrs. Lay provided an annual and quarterly financial update in the meeting packet. She answered questions and provided information regarding the financial update. Mr. Ingram asked if the vacant position assigned to the Board needs to be filled. Ms. Balthrop said she expects the position will need to be filled in the next few months. Mr. Sledge asked if it would be possible to fill the position part-time or on an as needed basis, instead of full-time. Mrs. Lay explained that there are no part-time positions available, and the state does not have as-needed positions. Ms. Balthrop reminded the Board that there is grant money tied to the functions of the position.

Mr. Bracket made a motion to accept the invoice. Mr. Sledge seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Ingram asked that the damage prevention fund be used to cover the invoice amount. Mr. Bracket made a motion that the Board use the fund to pay the invoice cost of \$71,473.17. Mr. Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. McGehee provided the Board with a memo about the grant process in the meeting packet. Mr. Sledge made a motion to cap the grant awards at \$40,000. Mr. Hood seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. McGehee discussed his research into a third-party collection agent. Mr. Conklin provided an update on the entities with multiple violations that he is pursuing for enforcement of non-compliance with Citations.

Mr. Settles asked that the agenda item, Tennessee 811 filing damage notices with the board as complaints, be tabled for a later meeting. Mr. Ingram discussed the data that Tennessee 811 collects from damage notices.

Mr. Ingram asked about the status of TPUC's legislative proposal to restructure the Board. Mr. Conklin advised that the Commissioners have not met, but Commission staff's recommendation is to not pursue that legislation at this time.

Mr. Ingram presented a legislative agenda that was approved by Tennessee 811's board and asked for the Board's approval of the legislative concepts. Mr. Ingram noted that should TPUC pursue legislation to restructure the Board, Tennessee 811 would oppose it. There was discussion on the legislative concepts. Mr. Bracket made a motion to approve the legislative concepts. After discussion, Mr. Bracket removed the motion.

Mr. Bolin motioned to approve the concept of defining daylighting and potholing. Mr. Hastings seconded. Mr. Pitts asked if the Board would see the language before it goes to the legislature. Ms. Balthrop stated that the Board would be provided with it. Mr. Bracket asked that the concepts be voted on since the Board has not been provided with the language. Mr. Bolin withdrew his motion.

Mr. Ingram reminded the Board of the legislative concepts that were approved by the Tennessee 811 board:

1. Defining daylighting, potholing, vacuum excavation.
2. Digital locating.
3. Mandatory reporting of violations.
4. Maritime excavation.
5. White lining.

Mr. Pitts made a motion to approve the concepts as presented by Tennessee 811. Mr. Hastings seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Ingram provided the training update. No member of the public commented. The meeting was adjourned at 12:28pm.