



TENNESSEE UNDERGROUND UTILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION BOARD
Meeting on November 3, 2021

MINUTES

The board meeting of the Tennessee Underground Utility Damage Enforcement Board commenced at 10:06 a.m., in the Ground Floor Conference Room of 502 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

Board Members Present:

Earl Bolin
Wayne Hastings, Vice-Chairman
Eddie Hood
Scott Niehaus
Bobby Pitts
Steve Raper
Kevin Tubberville, Chairman
Bill Turner

Board Member(s) Via Telephone:

Rob Arnold
Bill Hollin
Kevin Kruchinski

Board Member(s) Absent:

Doug Burgess
Kevin Raley

4 Current Vacancies:

Cable Industry
Large Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers
Cooperative Electric Systems
Natural Gas Distribution Systems

TPUC Staff Present:

Stacy Balthrop, Director of the Consumer Services Division
Slayde Warren
Kelly Cashman-Grams
Aaron Conklin, Legal Advisor to the TPUC staff
Ryan McGehee, Legal Advisor to the TUUDEB
Chris Eaton

I. Opening of Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Tubberville opened the meeting and roll call was taken. A quorum was present in person.

II. Review and Adopt Board Meeting Minutes

The Board considered the Minutes of the last meeting on August 11, 2021. The motion to approve the Minutes passed unanimously on a voice vote.

III. Program and Rules Update

Staff reported the number of complaints received in October (21) and year to date (265), surpassing the previous year's total (226). The pending rules became effective on September 6, 2021. The Board was awarded a federal state damage prevention grant in the amount of \$88,894 for staff and equipment participating in the enforcement of the state damage prevention law. A second grant applied for by the Staff was awarded in the amount of \$30,815 for a portion of salary and benefits for staff who provide legal and advisory knowledge to the Board and Executive Committee.

IV. Vacancies and Finances

Bill Turner indicated he, Vice Chairman Wayne Hastings and Steve Raper have reached out to various groups with vacancies to encourage them to fill their appointment.

Mr. Chris Eaton summarized the fiscal year invoice of approximately \$104,000.00 for services from the Commission billed to the Board and explained that the decrease in the balance was due, in part, to the decrease in travel expenses with COVID-19, and the federal grants that were awarded from PHMSA. Mr. Scott Niehaus motioned that the invoice be approved, Mr. Raper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously on a rollcall vote.

V. Update on Online Compliance Training

Mr. Turner reported that 557 individuals from 455 organizations have been trained since the inception of the program. At this point in 2021, 103 individuals have been trained and 17 more are scheduled. Additionally, 127 individuals completed online training during the pandemic. In August, two cancellation fees were charged for cancelling training within 48 hours of the scheduled class.

VI. 2022 Scheduling, General Discussion, and Topics for Next Meeting

The Board reviewed and discussed dates and scheduled meetings in 2022 for February 23, May 24, August 30, and November 3.

The Board engaged in a discussion of ways to conduct outreach to industry associations and contractors concerning the increase in penalty fines. The Staff indicated they would be glad to accept any invitation to speak to any trade group, association, or gatherings to talk about the Board, the Act and the increased penalties. Board members indicated they desired to discuss more options at the next meeting and to discuss spending the Board's Fund for public education.

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.