##  **Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**

 Meeting Minutes

Utilities and Transportation Commission

621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Via Teams

September 14, 2022

## **Present** **members: Absent members:**

Jerome Delvin, Chair Bill Caram

Leanne Guier, Vice-Chair Gregory Baruso

Aaron Losik Andreas Kammereck

Donna Albert Vacant, Position 5

Albert Chang

### Other attendees:

Sean Mayo, UTC Pipeline Safety Program

Debbie Becker, UTC Pipeline Safety Program

John Trier, UTC Pipeline Safety Program

Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introductions, and Adoption of March 16, 2022, and May 18, 2022 Minutes**

At 9:31 a.m. the meeting was brought to order by Jerome Delvin who welcomed all attendees. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the May 18, 2022 and March 16, 2022 meeting minutes as written.

1. **New Member Discussion**

Since the last meeting, there have been no new appointments or reappointments provided to CCOPS or UTC by the Governor’s Boards and Commissions Office.

1. **Committee Workplan and Best Practices**
* Chair Delvin opened with a discussion with Committee members regarding challenges with virtual meetings vs difficulties in attending in-person meetings. Discussion was raised about the ability to perform in-person / hybrid meetings.
* Sean Mayo provided information about current UTC building access being appointment only with some parameters around vaccination status and masking, but those are likely to change following some updates to the safe start guidelines which may allow for a return to an in-person / hybrid model.
1. **Discussion of 2018 Pipeline Safety Report Recommendations (Report)**
* Chair Delvin opened discussion of the Report Recommendation items for the UTC and CCOPS. Discussion centered on the seven recommendations specific to CCOPS in the Report and community outreach efforts that had been derailed by Covid lockdowns. The discussion included a reference to a presentation created by the Pipeline Safety Trust (Trust) for providing education to various community and local groups. Chair Delvin suggested adding an item to the next meeting agenda for a Trust update from member Bill Caram. Leanne Guier requested a discussion with the Trust about the outreach presentation.
* Donna Albert inquired about recordkeeping and prior notes that were not present in previous minutes which has made verifying which recommendations have been completed or are in progress difficult to verify.
* Albert Chang reviewed the list of CCOPS recommendations in the Report and suggested that CCOPS-#7 may be sufficiently met by distributing a simple form letter with the two-page model ordinance developed by the Municipal Research and Service Center (MRSC) to local elected officials.
* Donna Albert wanted to revisit CCOPS-#6 (regarding pipeline safety indicators) in further detail. Sean Mayo reviewed a list of potential pipeline safety indicators provided by UTC staff in 2019.

ACTION ITEM: John Trier will locate the Trust presentation materials from 2018/2019 and distribute them to CCOPS members.

ACTION ITEM: John Trier will add a presentation by the Trust to the next meeting’s agenda.

1. **Committee Outreach Efforts**

Chair Delvin and CCOPS members advanced a proposal to establish a subcommittee to coordinate CCOPS community outreach and education efforts. Donna Albert and Vice-Chair Guier volunteered to participate in the subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: Chair Delvin will reach out to all committee members to establish a subcommittee for Community Outreach and Education.

1. **Department of Ecology Update**

*Document is posted on the UTC CCOPS website*. Scott Zimmerman of Ecology reported on spill contingency planning, drills, and geographic response planning. The Department of Ecology is evaluating deployments, tabletops, and participating in drills in person once again.

1. **UTC Update**

Sean Mayo reviewed the activities conducted by the Pipeline Safety Program (Program) since the last meeting and provided an update on PHMSA activities.

* Agency Update discussed steps in opening the building to the public.
* Program Staff Update, the only change is the addition of a new staff member John Trier to perform administrative tasks for CCOPS.
* Since the last CCOPS meeting in May, the Program completed
	+ 35 individual scheduled inspections
	+ 59 unannounced operations and maintenance crew inspections.
	+ 93 facility inspections
	+ 39 calls to the incident hotline
	+ 19 of 34 Section 114 inspections.
* Donna Albert had questions about the Section 114 Inspections and reports. Sean Mayo provided further clarification about the basis of the inspections and the UTC’s progress.
* PHMSA Rule Updates.
	+ In June PHMSA issued advisory bulletin related to Earth Movement and Other Geologic Hazards ([link](https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents/2022-11791)).
	+ Also in June, PHMSA issued a final rule on valve installation and minimum rupture detection standards ([link](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/04/08/2022-07133/pipeline-safety-requirement-of-valve-installation-and-minimum-rupture-detection-standards)).
	+ In August, notice of proposed rulemaking for periodic standards update, incorporation by reference updates ([link](https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents/2022-17219)).
	+ Also in August, final rule published, Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines([link](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/08/24/2022-17031/pipeline-safety-safety-of-gas-transmission-pipelines-repair-criteria-integrity-management)).

ACTION ITEM: Sean Mayo will provide members with a link to the federal register which has additional details about the final rules.

1. **Damage Prevention Program Update**

Debbie Becker gave an update on the damage prevention program.

* A review of damages characterized by day of the week damage occurred and further explanation of the two business day waiting period between notification to 811 and start of excavation.
* Upcoming PHMSA audit for damage prevention work in 2021.
* Year to date in 2022 the program has conducted 67 investigations and issued 16 penalties totaling $46,500.
* RFP sent out and contract completed for locator and dig safe training. In-person training should begin this fall. Online training will remain available.
* Responded to CCOPS questions regarding locate responsibility for privately owned lines outside of the utility right of way.
1. **Public Comments**

Chair Delvin asked for anyone interested in providing public comments. No one requested time or provided comments.

1. **Review of Action Items, Topics for Next Meeting and Other Business**
* Invite the Trust to present at the next meeting.
* Sean Mayo will provide CCOPS members with link to CFR & Federal Register.
* Sean Mayo and John Trier will look to find materials from the Trust’s 2018 or 2019 briefing.
* Chair Delvin will contact committee members to solicit volunteers for the community outreach subcommittee and schedule subcommittee meetings.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.