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## Minutes of special meeting to consider the recommendations to CCOPS in the 2018 report Pipeline Safety in Washington State by the Pipeline Safety Trust

### Attendees:

Donna Albert, General Public  
Jerome Delvin, WA State Assoc of Counties  
Leanne Guier, Assoc of WA Cities

Brian Schultz, Industry  
Mike Hatchett, Industry  
John Trier, UTC

Chair Leanne Guier, member representing cities, asked Vice Chair Donna Albert, member representing the general public, to lead the meeting today. The Outreach Committee discussed each recommendation in the order it appears in the report.

### CCOPS-#1 Be proactive.

Donna read RCW 81.88.140 that gives CCOPS the responsibility of advising federal, state and local government agencies and officials on pipeline safety. Donna said CCOPS has not been filling this role in recent years, and suggested a simple cover letter to Senator Cantwell, Representative McMorris Rodgers, and Representative Larsen, recommending they consider the safety recommendations of Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) as provided at the PIPES Act of 2020 reauthorization hearing (attached).

Jerome Delvin, member representing counties, pointed out that other members of the committee may not have read the details of the hearing testimony, and we should understand what we are recommending.

Donna said she would send the Pipeline Safety Trust testimony to UTC (attached), and would ask PST whether there were any changes to the final document, since it is labeled "draft." As an example of the safety implications, one recommendation in the PST hearing testimony was based on an NTSB recommendation from 50 years ago that valves should be added to existing pipelines. Those valves could have prevented fatal accidents that occurred since then, including a teenage girl in Texas killed when her home exploded after three days of leaks in nearby homes.

Brian Schultz of Avista provided input from the pipeline operators point of view. The safety recommendations as described by Pipeline Safety Trust in their testimony have significant impacts. Pipeline operators are opposed to all but 2 or 3 of these safety recommendations. The consequences include extreme rising costs to natural gas customers.

Mike Hatchett of TC Energy said that generally pipeline operators can tell if there is a leak.

Donna pointed out to the Committee that our purpose according to the RCW is to advise federal, state and local officials regarding safety. We should listen to the pipeline industry representatives on the committee in order to understand technical issues. Our legislators will hear about cost control from industry lobbyists that visit their offices, but we will not be visiting their offices. It is our role to advise federal officials on safety, and this is our opportunity to do that.

The Outreach Committee decided on the following steps:

1. Donna will send the Pipeline Safety Trust testimony to John Trier, so he can send it to the the whole CCOPS committee prior to the May meeting.
2. John Trier will add this item to the agenda of the May 10th CCOPS meeting: Discuss sending federal PIPES 2020 reauthorization safety recommendations to Washington legislators.

### CCOPS-#2 Committee structural issues.

The Outreach Committee discussed structural issues which slow our progress. Jerome and Leanne talked about the advantages of in-person meetings pre-COVID, which sometimes went all day, in which much work got done. Donna said much can be done between meetings by subcommittees, who can then bring options to the whole committee. The group discussed the technical nature of pipeline safety, and that it takes time for a new committee member to get up to speed on the topic. Loss of expertise due to member turnover is a problem. There are not many people with this expertise, outside of the pipeline industry.

The Outreach Committee decided on the following steps:

1. John Trier will add this to the agenda of the May 10th CCOPS meeting: Discuss committee structural issues.

### CCOPS-#3 Reach out to the public.

Jerome and Leanne talked out the status of outreach to municipalities pre-COVID. The tri-fold information pamphlet was complete, and only needs to be updated with current committee member names (UTC task). Was there a list of contacts? Who will make a current list? Would organizations such as WSAC and AWC be willing to distribute information to their members? John Trier has some emails that went out from Jerome, but no response. Jerome mentioned the Public Works Board follows some issues - watch for the Growth Management Update schedule.

Donna suggested that bringing up specific current topics could generate interest, for instance the PST presentation mentioned the city of Ellensburg natural gas utility encountered a discussion about reducing staffing. Guidance for municipal planning departments is another topic that may generate interest. Brian would like to hear about Ellensburg. He doesn't think reduced gas use is an immediate concern for Avista — PSE may see reductions sooner on the West side of the state. As customer numbers decrease, maintenance and safety costs remain, resulting in a higher cost per customer. Donna thinks this would be an interesting discussion topic, if Ellensburg is already considering how to manage reduced natural gas demand, since larger natural gas utilities will experience that in time. Jerome pointed out we should know what happened at city of Ellensburg before we invite anyone to the committee to tell us about it. He will call the city.

Outreach to city and county planning departments will generate interest in pipeline safety, including awareness of current pipeline locations, easements for new pipelines, and locating new housing where pipelines already exist.

The Outreach Committee decided on the following steps:

1. John Trier will find the list of municipal contacts that CCOPS may already have, if it exists.
2. No approval needed for the tri-fold to be updated. It was already approved by the CCOPS committee. John will get it updated.
3. Jerome will find out what actually happened at city of Ellensburg, and will let us all know.
4. All agreed that outreach to cities and counties on the topic of planning is a high priority of CCOPS (as already established by CCOPS prior to COVID).

#### CCOPS-#4 Add ways for the public to contact CCOPS directly.

This recommendation was put on pause. UTC has not received any emails or calls for CCOPS.

#### CCOPS-#5 Create and nurture a network of pipeline safety leaders.

This recommendation was put on pause. Donna pointed out that the non-industry people she knows who are most engaged and most knowledgeable about pipeline safety came out of the Bellingham tragedy, or concern about pipelines near them. The topic is technical, and people tend to not be interested unless they see it as affecting them personally.

#### CCOPS-#6 Create and track pipeline safety indicators.

This recommendation was put on pause. Donna suggested we could assign this to a committee to research it. UTC graphs trends, and PST has charts of indicators. What could we do that would add value?

#### CCOPS-#7 Incorporate model consultation zone ordinance developed by MRSC (Hazard Mitigation Planning) into outreach to municipal permitting and planning departments.

Brief discussion. All agreed this Planning topic is a high priority of CCOPS.

The Outreach Committee decided on the following steps:

1. Donna will find this document and send it to John Trier, to be distributed to CCOPS members.
2. John Trier will add this to the next Outreach Committee agenda: Discuss incorporating the model consultation zone ordinance developed by MRSC into outreach to municipalities.

The action items reviewed at the end of the meeting were incorporated into the notes above.

NEXT MEETING — John Trier will send out an Outreach Committee meeting invitation after the May 10th CCOPS meeting.

Minutes submitted by Donna Albert to UTC