

**Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**

## Meeting Minutes

Utilities and Transportation Commission

621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Via Teams

**July 26, 2023****Present members:**Donna Albert, Chair  
Albert Chang, Vice-Chair  
Jerome Delvin  
Aaron Losik  
Greg Baruso**Absent members:**Andreas Kammereck  
Michael Hatchett  
Leanne Guier**Other attendees:**Scott Rukke, UTC Pipeline Safety Director  
Marina Rathbun, UTC Pipeline Safety Program Operations Manager  
John Trier, UTC Pipeline Safety Program Management Analyst  
Scott Zimmerman, Dept. of Ecology  
Amanda McKay, Pipeline Safety Trust Policy Manager**Agenda Items:****1) Welcome, Meeting Protocols, Introduction, and May 10, 2023, and May 30, 2023, Minutes**

At 9:36 a.m. the meeting was brought to order by Donna Albert who welcomed all attendees. Members and guests were introduced. In a unanimous vote, the Committee adopted the May 10, 2023, and May 30, 2023, meeting minutes as written.

**2) Action Item Review**

Donna Albert went over the June 29, 2023 Outreach committee meeting minutes. The committee discussed setting up a table at the annual Washington State Association of Counties annual meeting and providing a presentation for county planners. Jerome Delvin mentioned that typically the convention would have space available for vendors and other organizations to have tables outside the meeting room which would be included on the program distributed to attendees. Jerome Delvin moved to have a table at WSAC and Albert Chang seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to attend. Donna Albert will fill out the form and submit it to WSAC to attend.

**ACTION ITEM:** Donna Albert will complete the application for a table at WSAC Conference.

3) **Review of Pipeline Safety Trust Testimony, and Support Letter**

The committee discussed Recommendation #1 from the Pipeline Safety Trust's 2018 Pipeline Safety in Washington State report. Donna Albert discussed the draft letter in support of the recommendations made by the Pipeline Safety Trust. The letter was shared with the committee and approved to be sent by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEM: John Trier will format the letter and submit it for signature and distribution.

4) **Discussion of Recommendation #2 - CCOPS Structural Issues**

Donna Albert and Albert Chang led a discussion about potential structural issues which could affect the committee. The first item discussed was the number and frequency of meetings which the committee had updated the bylaws in January to update the meeting frequency from four times per year to six times per year. The second issue identified with getting a quorum discussed options for continuing remove or hybrid meetings. Marina Rathbun discussed some of the possible logistical challenges the UTC might have with administering a hybrid meeting with some members travelling to the UTC building and some participating remotely. The committee members discussed potential options and agreed that they would revisit the number of remote and in-person meetings at the November meeting when the 2024 schedule was set. The committee also agreed that occasional subcommittee meetings, such as the outreach committee, was a good way to keep things moving between meetings.

The committee discussed challenges with keeping expertise of Pipeline Safety in the committee. There can be a long time to get new members on board up to speed, and often has to rely on industry insiders or the UTC for technical knowledge. Marina Rathbun brought up how RCW 81.88.140 established the committee and did not set a requirement for voting members to have industry experience, and provides that the committee may set up technical advisory committees. John Trier also confirmed that the same statute sets the three-year term as well and any change to the term length would require a change in the law. The committee discussed recruitment challenges to find individuals with a technical background to apply for committee positions. Amanda McKay mentioned that the PST had a new Community Engagement Manager it was bringing on that may be able to help with putting out the word about CCOPS recruitment.

5) **Discussion of Recommendations #3 & #7 – Public Outreach and Model Consultation Zone Ordinance**

Donna Albert went over the MRSC consultation zone model ordinance, and referenced the MRSC website. She recommended an item for an upcoming meeting to have a further discussion / presentation of the MRSC materials.

6) **2023 – 2024 Workplan Construction**

Donna Albert suggested adding two recurring items for each meeting: Outreach committee report, and discussion of legislation, rulemaking, pipeline safety issues, or upcoming events (current events). A list of discussion topics or presentations for meetings between September 2023 through July 2024 was provided. The committee will make any changes between now and the September meeting then vote on a final version of the workplan. Donna Albert suggested that the UTC and Ecology updates could be distributed in advance of the meeting and that the committee members could review the reports before the meeting and be ready with questions during the meeting. The group had a discussion about what kind of updates could be made to the UTC and Ecology presentations.

7) **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 committee discussed the WAC 173-187 rulemaking and Scott Zimmerman let the committee know that the rulemaking was required due to a change in the law and directed the committee to the Ecology website for an additional explanation of the basis of that change.

8) **UTC Update**

- Scott Rukke provided an update on the rebuilding of the Pipeline Safety Program. Dennis Ritter has been made permanent Chief Engineer, Scott Rukke is also permanent as of July 12, 2023. The program has two new engineers Jason Hoxit and Tom Green. Pipeline Safety fees are on the agenda to be approved at the July 27, 2023 UTC Open Meeting. Scott Rukke also brought up the emergency rulemaking to modify pipeline safety fee methodology as it currently requires damage prevention fees to be offset by pipeline safety fees. An update on McCain Foods was provided, McCain has replaced all of the noncompliant pipe and will be ready to go into operation later this year and suggested further discussion about biogas operators as a potential future topic of discussion for CCOPS as well as getting out information out to other green energy small facilities. The UTC provided recommendations to the Governor's office for reappointments on April 18, but has not yet received any new information.
- Damage Prevention update including 48 new investigations opened this year, seven penalty assessments totaling \$52,500 issued to date. Scott Rukke provided the members with information about the change to the excavator warning letter process and removal of a second warning letter prior to initiating a penalty assessment for damages caused by excavators without providing the required notice prior to excavation.
- Donna Albert inquired if the program was adequately staffed and funded. Scott Rukke agreed that it was, but did tell the committee that we need to

do a rulemaking for gas and hazardous liquid to update the rules to be more in line with current technology as there had not been a full rulemaking since approximately 2007. There is a concern that the rulemaking will require a lot of staff time to work on which can be a bit of a drain on the inspection activity. There are no concerns about program funding at this time.

- Amanda McKay had a question regarding a CNGC upgrade project to replace a segment of lateral transmission pipeline between Sedro Woolley and Burlington from an 8 inch to 20 in line. The UTC has a construction inspection set up for the project and has Derek Norwood as the lead inspector with Tom Green assisting. There was a question about demand and effects on consumer pricing/rates. The Pipeline Safety program does not review utility rate impacts, but is only concerned about the safe operation of the facilities. The UTC does have a section which will review any construction costs and rate impacts separate from the Pipeline Safety component.

9) **Public Comment**

Amanda McKay was the only member from the public present. There were no public comments made.

10) **Review of Action Items, Future Action Review and Other Business**

- John Trier and the Committee reviewed the 2023 FAR for updates for upcoming meetings.
- Donna would like to have the presentation for MRSC guidance and Amanda McKay mentioned Carl Weimer was willing to provide a presentation. A presentation was added to the September 2023 meeting agenda.
- Discussed 2024 meeting scheduling and setting up a poll for members prior to the November 2023 meeting.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.