



Minutes of NULCA General Meeting

7th October 2011, Francis Drake Motel, Newcastle

1. President welcomes all and opens meeting at 12:39pm
2. Apologies: Shirlee Cook, Anthony Johnstone, Dominic Puiu
3. Correspondence in;
 - a) Anthony Johnson – informing members that there are new executives.
 - b) Ben Minutoli – meeting dates for 2012
 - c) Maureen Lewis – OHSE management plan, SWMS / JSA
 - d) Shirlee Cook – reduced sites in Victoria that accept slurry from vacuum trucks
 - e) Sylvia Robinson – whose photos for the membership cards
 - f) Steve Fraser – Newcastle meeting
 - g) Shirlee – Vac Jet / Drain Chem coming to November meeting
 - h) Ben – exclusivity of sponsors at meetings
 - i) Ben – UK utility survey
 - j) Shirlee – Justifying her role with NULCA
 - k) Matt Keppich – Position vacant advert on website
 - l) Shirlee – NULCA accounts
 - m) Shirlee – Coates training
 - n) Steve – Gas co letter – 4/8/11
 - o) Shirlee – Courtney Marson has volunteered to help on working parties
 - p) Shirlee – yellow pages advertising, keep as is or make more personalised
 - q) Steve – sending out another invitation reminder
 - r) Shirlee – Melbourne meeting venue confirmed for 25th November 2011
 - s) Anthony – new roles and tasks within the committee
4. Correspondence out;
 - a) Anthony – Maureen – stating the email will be added to correspondence and also suggested she add it to the forum. Also that he no longer was secretary.
 - b) Shirlee – Sylvia – explaining about company nominated representative and associate member
 - c) Ian – Steve – re gas letter and who exactly will it be installing transponders
 - d) Ian – Nick Zembillas – removing reference to him being a board member of NULCA Australia or USA
 - e) Ian – Steve – invitation reminder sent out

5. Business arising from correspondence;
 - a) Ian Lambert explained how Telstra deem pits to be work spaces for their staff not confined spaces which contradicts Workcover's view, he is awaiting clarification.
 - b) The President explains about companies only having 1 representative member and that all other staff are associate members.

6. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report was printed and distributed amongst members to peruse.

7. President's report

Ian gave a report on the progress of the standards committee and the problems that arise. It is very hard to reach consensus on most matters everyone has their own ideas including himself, although his ideas are for the locating industry in Australia as a whole and not for large corporations to take over. He is trying to steer the committee towards individuality and not follow the US standards. It is also hard with terminologies in the US standard as some terms have different meanings. He has spoken to NULCA USA on the matter and was informed that they were not even consulted during the US standard drafting process. At least we have. He has asked if anyone has any thoughts or ideas to put them forward now as we will not get another chance. You will get to voice your opinions when it goes out to the public for comment and then the committee has to review each one (or group them into similar areas) but that doesn't mean there will be major changes.

8. General business;

- a) Steve Fraser raised the issue concerning Jemana gas. He asked that his letter be read out to the members present. Once read out a discussion on the progress of the letter, the issues concerning gas locating were discussed. Some of the points brought up included, the standard AS/NZS 5601.1:2010 gas Installation and whether gas pipes should have tracer wires or must have tracer wires. The quality of the gas plans that are given out. Getting access to the gas companies individual house service plans. In the end it was agreed that simply sending letters to gas companies about issues we are facing would not get the answer we need. Instead a collection of data from wrong plans, no trace wires and poor installation should take place. Once we have a good array of data from many different companies and areas around Australia then we would have a greater chance of getting this issue looked at.
- b) Ben Minutoli informed the members that the committee were looking into our yellow pages advertising and that it would be highly likely that NULCA would cancel all advertising through yellow pages as we were not getting value for money
- c) Steve Fraser asked Chris Syndamen, a representative of Ausgrid who was present at the meeting, how to differentiate 11kv & 33kv cables on their plans. Chris explained how as an Ausgrid employee he received different plans than those they issued through DBYD, but that with the plans we receive you can differentiate between the two of them by their colour and that also 33kv lines have a brown circle around them. He advised that all plans should always be printed in colour.

9. Guest speaker

The guest speakers and sponsors for this meeting were from Vermeer. Peter Gialouris the local area manager introduced Dave Gasmovic, president of McLaughlin Boring Systems, USA. Dave exhibited their current locator and went through its features. After 15 minutes of Q & A on the unit the members and guests went outside for a demonstration. Whilst outside Vermeer also demonstrated one of their trailer non destructive digging units.

10. The meeting was then declared closed at 5:00pm and members and guests were invited to head to the bar where a more casual discussion continued on in relation to locating issues that some are dealing with and some different ways locators around the country are dealing with those issues.