



**Date:** June 11, 2010

**Location:** 7500 West Broad Street, Henrico, VA

**Purpose:** Central Virginia Local Damage Prevention Meeting

**Chairperson:** Kim Cranmer, Verizon

### **Meeting Summary:**

**Introduction:** Kim Cranmer of Verizon introduced himself and welcomed all twenty one persons in attendance. He shared his goals for the Central VA DPC- get together, discuss issues, share information and solve problems at the local level.

**Focus:** Morna Ellis of Commonwealth Mediation Group shared a presentation on the Underground Utility Damage Cost Mediation Program. She explained the benefits of mediating a dispute rather than going through the litigation process. Morna explained how the two parties mutually determine the outcome in a confidential way. Also, the Program has been designed to maintain partnerships between utility operators and contractors during utility damage cost recovery.

One attendee stated that his company (utility operator) has tried mediation a couple of times but the contractor decided to pay for the damage in each incident. It was recommended that the utility operators be more proactive in offering mediation to the contractors.

To understand more about this program, information can be found at [www.va811.com](http://www.va811.com) on the Excavators' Home page under Links- Mediation.

**SCC Update:** Carl Dale gave an update on the 2010 Annual Damage Prevention Conference. He shared the web address for the blog has been created for stakeholders to share comments or concerns (<http://vadamageprevention.blogspot.com/>). Carl solicited volunteers for the 11 different committees that have been formed. These committees will implement ideas, draft language for Best Practices and possible legislation, study the creation of new ticket types, review existing ticket types, draft various remedial actions for the Advisory Committee to consider during settlements.

**VUPS Update:** Tracey Lamb, Public Awareness and Training Coordinator, shared information on the Damage Education Awareness Program (DEAP) offered by V.U.P.S. It was recommended that contractors use this application to compile their data for educational credit to offset settlement fees. One of the attendees stated that the educational credit could be worth up to a \$200 reduction fines. Information about VUPS on FaceBook and Twitter was shared with the audience.





Some upcoming events were shared.

- Web Ticket Entry Training (June 22)
- Train the Trainer (June 23-24)
- Fredericksburg DPC Meeting (June 24)
- Advisory Committee Meeting (July 7)

The attendees were reminded to email their plans for 2011 educational campaign plans to Tracey Lamb or Steve Light (email addresses were provided). Also, the change in policy for suspending tickets was shared. The time that a ticket can be suspended has been extended to give the caller more time to provide the most accurate information about the dig site. In the past, tickets could be suspended for 24 hours.

**Roundtable Discussion:** An attendee (utility locator) asked what should he do about receiving emergency tickets and the contractor has completed the work before he has a chance to mark. He stated that this has happened on several occasions and he is concerned. Another attendee (utility operator) spoke up and stated that in an emergency situation they have to take care of the situation quickly. After looking at 20VAC5-309-90- emergency excavation or demolition, this part of the Administrative Code applied to the utility operator's situation during their emergencies involving their own utility. The utility locator stated that his problem did not involve a utility operator but a certain contractor. It was recommended that the utility locator try to educate the contractor. If that doesn't work, he can call the State Corporation Commission with an informal complaint or file a DPA-1.

It was recommended that everyone should attend at least one Advisory Committee Meeting to get a better understanding of the settlement process. Another attendee recommended that contractors should send at least one employee to the Train the Trainer class, with the next one being held on June 23-24. Carl Dale with the State Corporation Commission provided the contact information for this two-day class.

**Closure:** Kim thanked everyone for their attendance. With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place in August 2010.

Submitted by  
Tracey Lamb

Public Awareness and Training Coordinator  
Virginia Utility Protection Service, Inc.  
Richmond-Central Virginia Region

