

## **Drain Tile Meeting Results 5/16/2013**

### **How useful was the opening presentation to you?**

Very Useful – 54%

Useful- 33%

Somewhat Useful- 13%

Not Useful -0%

### **How useful was the audience interaction to you?**

Very Useful – 83%

Useful – 13%

Somewhat Useful – 4%

Not Useful – 0%

### **How well were the important issues covered?**

Excellent - 46%

Good – 54%

Fair – 0%

Poor – 0%

### **Did the meeting meet your expectations?**

Yes – 100%

No – 0%

### **In general, how would you rate the overall balance of this meeting?**

Excellent – 54%

Good - 46%

Fair – 0%

Poor – 0%

## **Part 1:**

### **Moderator Question: What is the Problem?**

- Need to deal with farmer/landowner independent mindset.
- Perception that farming activities are exempt.
- Perception of low risk because, small job, knowledge of land, often in a hurry.
- Excavator and landowner rely on others for ticket.
- Often excavator's use old out of date tickets (example – excavating off a 5 year old ticket).
- Lots of tiling is done by small/part time businesses, intense pressure to get tile in ASAP.
- Excavators often believe agriculture exemption applies to deep tilling and tiling.
- Problems with irrigation well and power supplies, probing, ditching.
- API conference - average age of farmer is 57 years, 70% of ag. land will change hands in next 10 Years.
- Often part-time business, do tiling for neighbors.
- White flag problem – excavators ignore on purpose because no enforcement occurs.

## **Part 2:**

### **Moderator Question: What has been done about the problem?**

- Weekly aerial flights (doubled).
- Send information to MNOPS for investigation.
- Implement dealers are often receptive to 811 packages on rental and sale equipment.
- Intense aerial – twice per week.
- 400 violation instances in spring 2012 – 8 week season – 15 one-call violations.
- Plane flyover informational drop.
- Plane has 811 ID on wing, people look-up and notice.
- Manufacturers willing to put stickers on equipment and websites/screensavers.
- County fair booths.
- Farmer focus meetings with operators and farmers – appear to be helpful in Douglas County.
- North Dakota – new regulations on GSOC – exempts soil borings.
- Drain tile informational mailings.

## **Part 3:**

### **What can be done about the problem?**

- Increased fines for repeat offenders.
- Dealers are often receptive to 811 packages on rental and sale equipment.
- Pipe vendors willing to include 811 on billing statement.
- CGA has good farmers program and children's programs.
- Incentive program for tilers using one call system correctly.
- Look at attendance at fairs collectively.
- Aggressively enforcing one-call laws.
- Propose to recognize good excavators at DP meetings (positive reinforcement).
- Discuss issues and get insurance companies involved.
- Charge back costs to investigate incidents to excavator.
- TV campaigns.
- Farmer specific programs.
- Publicize positive examples.
- Public service announcements – gas station TV.
- Require license to excavate.
- Mandatory (or optional to fines) and training for violators.
- Public campaign –notify people/neighbors to report questionable behavior.
- Take survey – Why didn't you call?
- Informal incentive program \$50 gift certificate for reporting violator.
- Update GSOC webpage include agriculture page; farm tap, drain tile, fence post, and well examples.
- Sent out farmer/employees to talk to landowners.
- Provided training to DNR to pass on to loggers.
- Make training class required to operate trenchers etc.
- Farmers (like railroads) feel they are exempt from everything.

- **Participant meeting evaluation comments:**
- Good meeting would like to get more information on why farmers would not call in a ticket.
- Very good meeting positive. Add more positive enforcement – give rewards to people who call and follow the rules above and beyond. At local damage prevention meetings honor those folks. Enforce white flag rule.
- Sub and smaller groups would be helpful.
- Subcommittee with action items.
- Good opening meeting. Not an easy topic. Public Awareness to landowners and those leasing the farmland is essential.
- Very good discussion and ideas. What about presentations to grade schools in farm communities.
- It's always good to exchange ideas. There is a definite need to look at how the message/method is presented. Behaviors need to be changed, enforcement addressed and collaborative safety efforts should be increased.
- Yes this is a subject that needs to be addressed and it will take a lot of input to get the word out. It is a work in progress.
- This is a great start.
- I don't think increased campaigning on 811 is necessarily the answer – people know about it, just choose not to for whatever reason. We need to implement “scare tactics” or a message to scare them into using 811. Also, penalties are a must! Whether it is hefty fines or confiscating equipment. Hit them where it hurts so they get the picture of how serious this issue is.
- Great meeting, glad you hosted it.
- Great meeting, great & relevant audience needed discussion! More and different stakeholder groups.
- Summarize and document ideas and share.
- Hold meeting at MNOPS conference? Subcommittee idea is ok \*\*\*\* will help.
- \*\*\*\* would support a sub-committee to further pursue this idea.
- I feel the message is everywhere and 95% know the 811. They choose not to follow them. The only way to make people follow the rules is to enforce them. More presence in the field from the agency would help. Also bring drain tile contractors to the table.
- Like the idea of a collaborative advisory campaign with all transmission pipelines, MNOPS and GSOC participation. Can one-call fee or a portion of them go to advisory campaign? Would like to have an actual drain tile contractor here for their side of the story, now that this initial conversation is done. Introductions of everyone in the room, most of us know everyone, but not all.