

# **Oregon Joint Use Association Standards Committee**

Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. A quorum was present:

## **Members Present**

Gary Lee (Chair), Charter Communications  
Dave Chaney, Accent Inc.  
Scott Jennings, Verizon  
Tamara Johnson, Springfield Utility Board  
Jeff Liberty, Bend Broadband  
Gary Payne, Qwest  
Rob Kolosvary, UAM  
Mary Mason, Central Lincoln PUD  
Gary Putnam, PUC Staff  
John Wallace, PUC Staff

## **Members Not Present**

David Asgharian, PacifiCorp  
Jim Corwin, Verizon  
Jim Flu, PacifiCorp  
Scott Wheeler, Comcast Stan Cowles,  
Qwest  
Michelle Ness, Central Lincoln PUD

## **OJUA Staff**

Genoa Ingram

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 4, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

## **PDA Software Evaluation**

Chair Lee reviewed the modified PDA software evaluation form (EXHIBIT A). Dave Chaney commented that some companies use a “confirmation approach” to inspection based on data already captured as opposed to starting from scratch on each pole. The benefits include the ability to inspect more poles per year and to prevent storage of excess data. Gary Payne noted that one negative factor is if data is overwritten. In the past, this has resulted in an inaccurate change of ownership in the data, among other problems. He suggested that having the option of supplemental notations or security measures would be possible remedies.

Gary Payne recalled that the initial scope was to collect the information on the form with the codes required; however, the purpose of the form seems to have expanded. Tamara Johnson added that the form should be a tool for helping utilities narrow the field based on their individual requirements. The focus should not be on the OJUA developing software, but developing a tool to assist companies in evaluating software based on their own needs. Committee members agreed that since software is a moving target and industry is constantly changing, evaluation factors should include the ability of companies to keep current with industry needs. Rather than review allow vendors, the

OJUA could publish an evaluation guideline tool and publish a list of vendors that provide needed services so companies can select based on their needs. The form should represent a list of suggested questions to be used as guidelines. Gary Payne clarified that the form was not for the sole use of the vendor, but to spark questions for questions from companies seeking vendors.

Chair Lee felt that the first page was self-explanatory. However, questions on the second page (integration mapping) could result in a myriad of responses. However, he expressed his preference that vendors submit the form rather than request a demonstration. Gary Payne commented that it is difficult to score when the software is constantly changing. Dave Chaney added that building the software is only the beginning; when a project was originally started, there was a void in available software. That void has now been filled. Committee members recalled that it had removed this item from its agenda but the Board had asked that it be addressed. Chair Lee agreed to provide the final form to the OJUA Board and seek direction. He indicated that he liked the ability to import existing documentation (data base synchronization).

Committee members advised that the form should be as clear as possible and discussed that the form could be pre-populated with existing data but there was a need to define what information should be included. Dave Chaney explained that the difference between initiating an export (creating a report) and data base synchronization is that the latter allows for information to sync back and forth between two parties. Chair Lee asked Dave Chaney to assist with clarification of the form. Jeff Liberty asked that the ability to interface with a work management system be considered.

### **Construction Practices**

Gary Payne and Tamara Johns provided an update of Group A's activities, reporting that the Subcommittee was on schedule and close to final production: the Framing is complete, and the Equipment section is near complete. They added that when the Equipment chapter is complete, the group will disband. They will not meet today. Chair Lee asked that Group A meet at the June Board meeting.

Chair Lee reported that Group B had not met regularly and was seeking work products from previous Committee members who are no longer active. The Subcommittee is currently collecting photos of risers and arms. Dave Chaney requested the PowerPoint demonstration created by Rob Kolosvary. Chair Lee and Jeff Liberty will meet immediately following today's meeting to transfer photo files from Jeff. Chair Lee reiterated that the goal is to have the manual completed by end of year.

### **Prioritization of Repairs**

Activities are currently suspended, although the committee has not been dismissed. This item is to be removed from the agenda until further notice.

### **Mapping**

Chair Lee reported that K&B Engineering has updated the maps as requested but there were still changes remaining. OJUA Staff reported that a status report had been requested earlier in the week. Gary Putnam asked if Comspan had been contacted regarding their service areas. Chair Lee responded that it was his understanding that they were reevaluating.

David Chaney reported that he has published the legacy maps and they are accessible on the website. As to whether those maps should be on public domain or members only, Chair Lee will pose that question to the Board in June.

### **Pole Identification Matrix**

Staff reported that there had been no additional responses to the tagging survey since last reported on March 4; however, the request continued to appear on the OJUA website. Chair Lee asked that non-responsive companies be listed, with information regarding the last contact attempt and the name of the individual contact.

### **Standardization of Pole Attachment Application Form**

Deferred

### **Loose Wires**

Chair Lee distributed a document distributed by PGE relating to loose wires (EXHIBIT B). Gary Payne noted that loose wires seemed to be a problem primarily of communications, although power also experiences problems. Committee members discussed that the application of the loose wire scenario was often vague: original discussions centered around communication wires as they were being documented for safety violations. Both cable and communications have used clips as remedies; wires have never been installed in terms of bolting to the pole. E-Clips and Drive rings are currently the primary practice and they are not intended to be tight. It has now become a safety issue and is sanctionable.

Committee members discussed how the method of inspection (pulling on the wires) contributes to loose wires. Chair Lee said he hoped to be able to document previous installation methods and then use recommended installation practices that would conform to current code. Tamara Johnson cautioned the OJUA about telling companies how to inspect; but if you have to pull on the wire in order to loosen it, then it should not be counted as a violation. Jeff Liberty suggested compiling a list of recommended remedies using the “*including but not limited to*” approach. John Wallace stated that the code only requires securing top and bottom, not every few feet; yet if there is visible slack, there is a problem. He added that no inspector should pull on the wire. Committee members agreed that it would be best to suggest non-binding but recommended construction “best practices”.

Chair Lee reviewed the PGE Loose Wire Discussion documentation, noting that a previous edition had been limited to power conductors. He recalled that communication wires had first been addressed beginning 1997. Gary Putnam cautioned about making a

policy rule that sets a standard. John Wallace agreed, adding that telling companies how to attach is very subjective. He questioned how pervasive the problem had become. Committee members responded with various examples of disagreements regarding loose wires. Rob Kolosvary indicated that he would like to see examples of disagreements on loose wire issues and questioned what percentage of citations are in question.

Chair Lee discussed examples of citations and under what conditions they can be grandfathered. Committee members acknowledged that citations should be written when a wire is “dangling in the wind” but all agreed that there could be varying definitions of that condition. John Wallace agreed to provide information with regard to grandfathering. Gary Payne suggested that the Committee identify “real life” examples to be evaluated by committee members. Gary Putnam again cautioned that a ruling from the Committee would be inadvisable and a suggested best practices would be preferred. Rob Kolosvary suggested that perhaps better communication with those writing the violations might be helpful. Chair Lee agreed to put the issue on hold pending feedback from the PUC safety staff. He stated that the goal is to standardize a definition of what constitutes a loose wire.

**Error Rate**

Deferred.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the OJUA Standards Committee was scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 10:00 a.m.

**Adjourn**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.