

Safety & Staff Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2024

SAFETY IS A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Ratermann, Dylan Beckham, Sandi Clark, Meg Petrillose, Scott O’Neal, Virgil Farnen, Daniel Cunningham, Jason Horton, Wendy Wieggers, Kevin Sublett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wyatt Rice, Joe Foster, Roy Freeman

Minutes Approved: On a motion by Virgil and a second by Tom, the group moved to approve the March 2024 Safety Minutes as presented. Members present approved, Kevin abstained. Motion carried.

Pests & Insects in the Field: Daniel Cunningham reported on bees, wasps and other pests present in the field. He explained first inspect the work area, wear light colored and smooth finish clothing, and keep work areas clear of discarded food or open drink containers to avoid attracting insects. He stated that bees and bumblebees like to build nests in trees and leaves. Daniel described bee stings and the importance of removing the stinger quickly; he noted that bee stingers can inject venom that can cause pain and swelling. Wasps can retain their stinger and can sting many times. Signs of a severe reaction include severe chest pain, slurred speech, and severe swelling; if this happens, staff should seek medical attention immediately. Anyone with a bee or wasp allergy should consider wearing a medical alert bracelet, necklace, or wallet card. Workers with a history of severe allergic reactions to insect bites or stings should carry an Epi-Pen if proscribed, and should consider warning their co-workers. The group discussed the pros and cons of keeping an Epi-Pen on site.

Tom Ratermann explained that in an emergency, call 911, and keep wasp spray in each truck. Virgil Farnen stated if you don’t have any wasp spray, stop and get some. Farnen also mentioned keeping an eye out for Black Widow spiders, as he had encountered them before. He quoted, “look around before you reach around.”

Cyber-Security Training from Ninjio Dojo – “Garbage In/ Garbage Out”: The cybersecurity video reviewed the input risks (sensitive data input can be stolen by hackers), and output risks (information generated is wrong or biased) associated with using public generative artificial intelligence (GAI) models. Extreme caution must be taken while using such tools. The public GAI models can present artificial intelligence hallucinations in the output data sets; the AI may generate erroneous output data because it’s either based on poor context from the user, or because it has bad information in the data training base. Public GAI is also susceptible to attacks from hackers.

This five-minute cyber-security training was required for all Boone Electric network users, though it was not directly applicable to BCRSD employees.

Equipment Safety: Crew reported Twin Lakes needs a new gate. The loose roof at Rayfield’s carport was repaired. Midway Crossing’s handrail was replaced. Kinkade and Highfield Acres need fences replaced. The City of Ashland may rent confined space equipment from BCRSD, but gas meters must be replaced before this can continue. The group discussed confined space equipment and processes.

Accidents or Near Misses: There were no accidents or near misses.

Status of Work-In-Progress:

- ACC Security & Alarm Sensor Cleaning – Completed 8/28/2023
- The driver’s license review was completed December 2023.
- The 911 WWTO Address Posting – None pending for April
- BCRSD to clear weeds from the liriopie in front of office.

Other Business: Office Announcements and Project Status Updates

- Daniel discussed works in progress.
- The BCRSD has advertised for bids for the Bolli Road NID project.
- Daniel discussed Pike St. in Rocheport - BCRSD is no longer building a wall, but upgrading the pump station.
- Wendy passed out a letter regarding retirement funds, payments are being applied the same day as payroll.
- She noted she has various blank employee forms, including: work comp, long-term disability, and FMLA leave, currently on top of her cabinet, if anyone needs one.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes Approved By: _____
