

## **IRWA PIPELINE COMMITTEE REGION 7 REPORT**

By Rona L. Sanchez

I've attended two Pipeline Committee Meetings since being designated as the Region 7 Pipeline Committee representative. One in Charleston, South Carolina on September 20, 2007 and one in Miami, Florida on January 17, 2008. Below are the meeting minutes and I've highlighted some of the more interesting information for those in the pipeline industry.

### **IRWA INTERNATIONAL PIPELINE COMMITTEE MINUTES for SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING**

September 20, 2007

Charleston, South Carolina

#### **Call to Order**

Steve McDaniel, presiding as Chairperson called the September meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He thanked Contract Land Staff for sponsoring the meeting and the Hospitality Room on Wednesday evening.

#### **Introductions**

Each of the members and guests introduced themselves. There were 26 members and 3 guests present that signed the Attendance Roster.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Steve asked that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved as written and posted. The minutes were approved as presented.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

David Sinclair reported that, as of September 20, 2007 the PLC account balance was \$12,193.13 with no foreseeable expenditures through the end of the year.

#### **Region Reports**

Region 1 – Neilia LaValle reported that Chapter 57 was hosting the R/W Agents Development Course with Fred Clark as the instructor.

David Sinclair reported that he would be teaching the R/W Agent's Development course in Indiana and that he was aware that a script to move it from CD to an online course is being written with the goal of having it ready by February.

Region 2 - Steve Hartman reported that the Chapter 35 Annual Education Seminar and Golf Tournament would be held October 4 & 5.

#### **International News & Information**

Steve McDaniel reported that starting in November of this year, membership dues can be paid online. Also, renewal notices will be sent out by HQ in November.

As of the June meeting, our new International President is Jim Struble with Faith Roland serving as VP. HQ has set aside \$10,200 for bonus incentives for Chapters hosting classes with 25 or more students in attendance. IRWA Course Facilitators can now download course presentations from the IRWA website. And, the IRWA now has a Google search engine.

### **Annual Conference**

Seattle was chosen as the annual conference location for the year 2012. Steve reported the topics for the PLC presentations for the 2008 Annual Conference need to be finalized and provided to HQ by November 1. The Sub-Committee participated in a conference call in August to come up with topics. The resulting topics for the 2008 Conference will be "Pipeline Right of Way 101"; Major Projects – a presentation by Chesapeake Energy regarding its project in the Barnett Shale area; and the Esoteric Chicken Pluck'n panel discussion. Ken Claggett will serve as moderator for the panel discussion.

### **Public Real Estate Symposium (PRES)**

Val Hatley reported that PRES will be held in Dallas, TX again on February 12-14, 2008 at the same hotel as last year. Registration for members is \$395 and \$445 for nonmembers. The format is being revised. International Committees are being asked by HQ to meet in conjunction with PRES.

### **Guest Speakers**

David Jones with INGAA provided a presentation entitled "Summary of Workshops."

- New workshops are being developed that focus on safety due to recent deaths of pipeline contractors. We need to educate our members about the legal right of way issues, operational issues, and precautions needed when working on pipelines that parallel existing pipelines.
- Other discussion focused on legal/compliance
  - A. The move to "corridor" pipelines has less environmental impact, but creates unique circumstances.
  - B. Public not concerned unless accident or if the pipeline is in their backyard.
  - C. Difficulty in getting temporary working space (safety issues) with FERC requirements.
  - D. Re-vegetation – Pipeline industry needs to do their own re-vegetation instead of paying landowners to do it. If the landowner pockets the money instead of spending it on re-vegetation it creates erosion problems down the road.
  - E. Tree clearing – management is not consistent there is no clear policy
  - F. Encroachments on pipeline rights of way.
  - G. Tree root damage – need to develop a position paper. Wet roots may cause cathodic protection problems.
  - H. It is difficult to develop a minimum standard for aerial patrol due to various O&M policies. The "canopy" is the first budget cut.
  - I. Posting of eminent domain issues on INGAA website.
  - J. Companies deal with right of way clearing on a case-by-case basis due to landowner desires. Companies usually have a standard, but allow exceptions. This may create future issues related to the precedence being set now.
  - K. There is no industry recognized standard for landscaping, native vegetation, or One Call. (Model is State of Virginia).

- L. Other problem areas: not able to keep up on patrols, variations in signage (locating and marking pipelines).
- M. Herbicide use on rights of way.
- N. INGAA developed draft “Best Practices”
- O. Title company requirements on easement disclosure.
- P. Documentation of conversation w/software package (critical for legal disputes)
- Q. Security issues with parallel pipeline construction.

### **Subcommittee Reports/Special Topics/Old Business**

#### **PIPA (Pipeline Informed Planning Alliance)**

Terry Mock, Sub-Committee Chair, reported that there is some concern about the close association of the PLC with PIPA. TRB 281 Study – members of the PLC met with this group and will follow up prior to the next PLC meeting. PHMSA and the Pipeline Safety Trust have invited the PLC to attend their next meeting in New Orleans. Terry noted that the PLC needs to get more actively involved and engage in these meetings. Alan Wurtz noted that the pipeline companies need to get more involved. Discussion ensued as to the PLC role in the PIPA initiative and if we should take the lead as facilitator to get industry trade organizations involved to ensure that the process has genuine right of way input.

#### **AOPL/API Study Team**

James Sanford, Subcommittee Chair was not present to present a report.

#### **Pipeline Short Course and Federal Projects Course**

Ed Peck, Sub-Committee Chair reported that the next Pipeline Systems Class will be held April 26, 2008 to May 2, 2008 in Durango, CO at the Doubletree Hotel. The Managing Major ROW Class will be held February 25-29, 2008 in Phoenix, AZ at the BLM National Training Center.

### **New Business**

Steve called for any new business for discussion or action by the PLC.

Charles Holmes asked about others experience with paying for the lease of extra workspace for new construction. In general, the members present do not pay for additional workspace.

Terry Mock reported that the “Pipeline Safety Trust” is calling for liquidated damages of \$1,000/day – see their web site, <http://www.PSTrust.org/> for more information.

### **Members**

#### **On the Move/Removal of Inactive Members**

September is when the PLC Roster is reviewed for membership participation. The following members have not participated in any meetings or other PLC activities for over a year. They were contacted as to their intentions for future participation. The following members have been removed from the PLC Roster as they have indicated that they would not be able to attend future meetings:

- Deb Bemenderfer
- Andrew Languille
- Macon McDonald
- Gary Metz
- Steve Nelson
- Tim Thompson

### **Introductions/New Members**

There were no new members to either introduce or vote on for membership at this meeting.

### **Guests in Attendance**

- ☺ Patrick Brady, Supervisor- Land Department, El Paso Corp. Colorado Springs, CO
- ☺ Larre Sloan, Vice President, Paragon Partners Ltd., Tulsa, OK
- ☺ Mark Roby, Vice President, Coates Field Service, Houston, TX

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- The 2008 January PLC Meeting will be held at the Don Shula Resort on January 17, 2008. Coates Field Service will sponsor this meeting.
- The 2008 April PLC Meeting will be in San Antonio, TX on April 17, 2008. James Stegall with Valero will sponsor the meeting.
- The June PLC Meeting will be held in Austin, TX in conjunction with the Annual Conference.

The meeting was adjourned.

## **International Pipeline Committee Winter Meeting**

**Thursday, January 17, 2008  
Miami, Florida**

### **Call to Order**

*S. McDaniel*

- **Introductions**  
*Special Thanks to Coates Field Services  
for sponsorship of this meeting*
- **Review Agenda**
- **Approve Minutes of Fall Meeting**
- **Treasurer's Report** *David Sinclair*
- **Local Chapter / Region News** *Region Rep.*

### **International News & Information**

*S. McDaniel*

International has suggested a change from Pipeline Committee to Pipeline Council. The members questioned the reason why we would want to do this. There are concerns about financial support for some of the committees and about the focus on educational purposes only. IEC thinks it will be more efficient. The pipeline committee is the only committee that the IEC does not appoint directors and assign terms, etc. What is the committee's liability if we are not under the IRWA umbrella? Questions also arose about mandatory dues.

### **Annual Conference**

*S. McDaniel*

- 1. Austin, Texas 2008**
- 2. Review Presentation Topics**

