

REGION X CHAPTER VPPPA

July 22, 2013

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/Agency MEETING

URS BUILDING BOISE, IDAHO

Region X Board of Directors

Chairperson- Bonnie Anderson, CWI, (208) 351-2962

Vice-Chair- Michelle Steeler, URS, (208) 386-5829

Secretary- Rocky Simmons, MSA, (509) 308-0777

Treasurer- Terry Schuebert, INL, (208) 526-0887

Director- Site with a Collective Bargaining Agent- Liz Norton, WRPS, (509) 308-9073

Director- Site without a Collective Bargaining Agent- Brian Stevens, BP, (907) 659-6700

Director at Large- Don King, Washington Closure Hanford, (509) 372-9141

Director at Large- Tim Taylor, Conoco Phillips, (509) 995-5967

Director at Large- Jeff Carlson, Conoco Phillips, (907) 659-7590

Attendees: Bonnie Anderson, Michelle Steeler, Rocky Simmons, Don King, Tim Taylor, Jeff Carlson, Liz Norton, Brian Stevens (via call in) excused: Terry Schuebert. Agents; Mark Hurliman- Oregon, John Geppert- Washington, Sharell Lien- Oregon, Carol Henning- DOE, Sharon Perkins- Washington (via call in).

Meeting was called to order at 4:15 with a quorum.

Safety Share: Bonnie re-shared the scaffold incident with the group. Jeff Carlson also shared an incident he witnessed on fishing excursion. A sea plane nipped a guide wire on a fishing boat during take-off. The plane plugged into the water with three folks on board and luckily everyone survived. Jeff wanted everyone to be reminded to stay focused on the safety briefings we received. In aviation, not all seat belts are the same and most likely these folks were very cognizant of that – the use of the seat belts likely contributed to saving their lives.

Injury trends

- DOE, Carol Henning. Carol reported downward trends for injuries in the DOE. Recordable and DART rates are changing due to focus processes. Heat stress tools are in place and being used. Vehicle fender benders are up. The Hanford site VPP champions did win the National Outreach Award this year. More focus need with management engagement in the field – with observation practices.
- WA, John Geppert. John stated fatalities and injuries are down for construction. VPP rates (criteria trending is better).
- OR, Mark Hurliman. All the trending is down especially soft tissue injuries.
- AK, Jeff Carlson for Bill Nickerson. Hand and soft tissue injuries are up. But they are still working first aid and accident reports looking for opportunities to improve. Current programs are in place for these types of injuries are in place and the teams are using them to the best of their ability. 12 VPP sites, Bill Nickerson's time in the field has increased. Jeff reported some emphasis on following procedures versus tribal knowledge and they are revisiting their LOTO or Energy Isolation procedures.

What can the Region X board do to help the states?

- More safety & health worker/education opportunities at the annual summit.
- Clarify incentive program from Dr. Michaels so it is a clear interpretation.
- Too many backlogs for recertification. The agencies will need some help to catch up. Bonnie will relay message to the national office.

Reports from OSHA VPP: OR, Mark Huliman reports one new application, conducting one onsite review now and has approved three sites and one withdrawal. 22 STAR and 4 Merit. WA, John Geppert, 28 STAR sites. Companies are doing more prep work for recertification's. Companies are signing on for best practices webinars and not all are VPP sites - validating continuous improvements opportunities, utilizing target topics, using a mentor program proving very efficient.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Rocky Simmons, Recording Secretary

Approved: 