

Training and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2025

Voting Members: Mitch Burghlea, Melanie Lewis, Kevin Hennessy, Connor Toney, and Megan Moore

Non-Voting Members: Josh Thomas, Melanie Lewis, Alba Vogland, Isaac Brown, Andrew Dunn, Abernathy, Zach Folsom, Jason Hagen, Dena Adame, Levi Valdois, Otieno Stanford-Asiyo

Guests: Josh Planton

1. Announcements and Introductions

- a. Mitch called the meeting to order at 10:00AM and introductions we made. A quorum was confirmed.
- b. Motion by Alba to approve the minutes from January 8, 2025, and 2nd by Megan. Motion passed.
- c. Mitch reminded the members that at the prior meeting, a call for a new committee chair was announced, but no one has stepped forward at this time.

2. Old Business

- a. Discussed the Locator Training status for remainder of 2025, and plans for 2026.
 - Josh noted that currently there is a contract with Bob Nighswonger to facilitate locator training on an as needed basis. The original budget for this was not to exceed \$10K, but Josh noted that they knew that amount would not be able to cover all the classes in 2025.
 - Josh confirmed he has the spending authority to cover Bob supporting two final training courses in Stayton and Eugene later this year. He also confirmed that this will not trigger any competitive bid processes.
 - Mitch noted that Josh has been trying to schedule multiple trainings close together to avoid additional travel costs for Bob.
 - Josh shared that if the group would like to extend the contract with Bob into 2026, it will require OUNC to open the opportunity for bid. Going forward, however, OUNC could put in place a 2-year contract with possibility of extension to avoid having to send the contract out for bid every year. He went on to note that there have been positive responses from those who have participated in the training.
 - Josh made it clear that the contract will also have a straightforward offramp option should OUNC decide Bob's services are no longer needed prior to the end of the contracted period.

- The group discussed a \$20K line item in the budget to cover the locate training classes in 2026. Mitch and Josh agreed to talk offline about the budget request. Mitch noted that in addition to the locate training, OUNC has training course which Josh leads, and an online excavator course which only has a small maintenance budget.

3. New Business

- a. Support for Southern Oregon Builds Pre-Apprenticeship program, Instructor/Coordinator Shawn Wonnacott
 - Josh shared that he had been put in contact with the Southern Oregon Builds Pre-Apprenticeship program which has an accredited course which captures students prior to them beginning their careers. Josh reviewed an outline of OUNC's possible engagement with the program.
 - The group was positive about the potential impact this training could have on new recruits in the industry.
 - Josh offered to build in the dormer costs to the budget and come back to the group if any additional costs are identified as part of this engagement.
- b. Possible transition to Common Ground Alliance training modules and learning management system.
 - Mitch suggested that instead of OUNC trying to create their own training modules, they focus on utilizing the training modules that the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) has already been publishing. If there are any gaps between CGA's modules and Oregon specific training needs, those could be addressed by OUNC. Mitch went on to specifically note the Excavation 101 training as an example where this rollover could happen.
 - Josh mentioned that the OUNC programs will need to be updated or overhauled soon, so from a timing perspective this change would be ideal.
 - CGA's training doesn't currently offer CEU credit, but Josh will check to see what the timeline would be for such accreditation to happen. Josh was not sure if any back-crediting of CEU's would be available for anyone who takes the training between now and the time at which accreditation of the modules occurs.
 - Josh will reach out to CGA to confirm their timeline for the program. The group was okay with waiting until such time as accreditation occurs to add the modules to the OR811 website.
- c. Budget priorities, numbers for 2026; Safety Summit?
 - i. Josh shared the 2025 Budget.

- ii. Mitch expressed interest in hosting a Safety Summit in 2026, sharing his recollections on the costs of the last event, which were mainly covered by sponsorship fees.
- iii. Melanie raised concerns with OUNC's capacity to plan such an event, to which Josh noted that they would likely have to rely heavily on OCC to support or find a vendor to support event coordination.
- iv. The group agreed that they would need around 10 months to plan such an event.
- v. Josh, Mitch, and Alba (as the Budget Committee Chair) will work offline on computing a proposed budget breakdown for the event based on the prior event actuals.

4. For the Good of the Order

- a. Training log status, updates; Oregon 811 Training Corps
 - i. Josh shared that OUNC trainings in 2025 have now reach over 1000 people.
 - ii. In addition to the Stayton and Eugene trainings, Josh has scheduled another training in Tigard on October 7th.
 - iii. Josh noted that he is also finding that the training offers a two-way communication channel for those working in the field to report back on what they are seeing, which then can be addressed in future training. He is also making his training slides available to others, so there is a network of available individuals who can support training.

5. Next Meeting – TBD

Meeting adjourned at 11:17AM

Minutes submitted by Josh Planton on 09.11.25