

NC UTILITIES COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Raleigh, NC
March 10th, 2009

Call to order

The March meeting of the NC UCC was held at PSNC in Raleigh. Mark Hannah chaired the meeting, and thanked Sandra and Glenn for allowing us to use their facilities. Thirty eight people were in attendance.

Old Business

There was a correction on the January minutes from Tarboro about the NC DOT flagging certification date moving back to July 2010, and all other aspects moving back accordingly. With that, the minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Treasurers Report

It was reported there was a balance of \$8,565.99, with no outstanding invoices.

Committee Reports

Finance committee:

Ron Fairbanks researched getting more signs for the UCCs to distribute across the state in active developments. The two sided signs would cost app \$1200-\$1500 for 200. George Glenn requested a list of where the signs would be placed. George made a motion for the NC UCC to purchase the signs for \$1200-\$1500 for 200, which was unanimously approved. Ron Fairbanks would order the signs, which would take about four weeks to be delivered.

Foothills UCC requested \$100 to replace their banner used at their local UCC meeting. George Glenn made a motion for the NC UCC to donate \$100 to the Foothills UCC towards the purchase of a new banner, which was approved.

Nomination Committee

This committee was meeting after the March meeting to nominate a secretary.

Presentation

The city of Raleigh Fire Dept gave a excellent presentation from their HazMat unit, which included their fire truck as display. The presentation was informative, with much audience interaction.

New Business

There was discussion about the NC DOT Flagger Certification date moving back to July 2010.

The group discussed a conflict with the September 8th date of the NC UCC meeting in Roanoke Rapids. There was a motion made to change the meeting to September 15th, which was approved.

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Reports

NC DOT

David West of the DOT brought up his concerns about boxes and cabinets being placed in the DOT Right of Way. He told the group that they are not allowed in the right of way. However, pedestals are allowed to be placed on the back side of the R/W.

Steve Traxler, Area Utility Agent spoke to the group about upcoming projects, and how the DOT has not released the list of what projects will be let at this time. He discussed the DOT's desire to have all utilities relocated before the project's let date.

Steve also told the group that there will be about 800 million dollars coming to the NC DOT in the next few months in the form of stimulus money, and they have to allocate half that amount within four months from receipt, which means there will be a lot of activity soon from the DOT's standpoint.

Steve told the group that work is continuing on establishing policy on Permanent Utility Easements (PUEs). Moving forward, R/W Group purchases land and incorporates the PUE. The policy memo can be viewed at;

<http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/policymemos/RW/PUE.pdf>).

Steve was asked to provide info to the group on the 2009 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). He stated a representative would talk to the group at our July meeting in Hickory.

NCOCC

Ron Fairbanks reported for the NCOCC. Ron pointed out that activity is down 22.3% YTD with transmissions being down 23.5%. The Center is watching expenses closely, and controlling spending.

Eighteen counties had their maps converted last month over to the NC One Maps.

Future enhancements being looked into are text messaging and enhancements to their IVR system.

The telephone conversion at the Center is going well, meeting weekly with their service provider.

Membership continues to grow across the state, with Blue Ridge EMC, and the towns of Yanceeville and Bridgeton becoming members.

The NCOCC will hold a "locating certification" seminar in High Point June 22nd-29th. This is being targeted to in-house locators. More information will be available on the website, and Ron will let the group know how to sign up.

RAILROADS

No report

POWER COMPANIES

Dominion Power; Lola Ausby reported there were 200,000 subscribers out from a recent winter storm. They are updating their management system.

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GAS COMPANIES

PNG is doing atmospheric corrosion checks, sending a representative to look at every meter in their system. They are also taking GPS coordinates at every location. Colonial Pipeline is doing a few relocations for the DOT. They reminded the group, and asked to get the word out that they must have a representative on site during work near their facilities. Tom West asked the DOT to make courtesy calls when even doing small jobs, like cleaning out ditches.

PHONE

AT&T Brian Groome told the group that AT&T's U-Verse has picked up over one million subscribers in 9 southern states. Their northern 13 states were in the midst of union negotiations.

Brian explained why "pits" were dug in neighborhoods and left open for up to 10 days to tie in their facilities. There was concern mentioned about AT&T's contractor calling in repeat locates, which Brian would investigate. Brian also stated that their company's cuts had been drastically reduced.

CONTRACTORS

Jim Lowry from NCAGC told the group that contractors were busy looking for work, and that public bidding had increased dramatically with many jobs having over 20 bids. A lot of this is due to out of state contractors looking for work in our area. Tom noted that these jobs must include proof of safety and regulatory compliance.

Jim also told the group of an upcoming seminar at the Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord regarding Electrical Safety on March 13th.

CATV

Bruce Sheldon reported that, along with the other utilities, residential new build has been slow in the east.

LOCATING COMPANIES

Utiliquest requested information be forthcoming on the stimulus money the state will receive for projects.

UCCs

Carteret County UCC will have their contractor breakfast April 8th, 7 am at the Golden Corral in Morehead City.

Foothills will have theirs April 7th.

Harnett/Rowan Counties will have their meeting March 17th.

Mecklenberg will hold theirs April 28th at PNG's kitchen.

Upcoming Meetings;

April 29- May 1	Litchfield Beach	SC/NC Joint Meeting
July 14	Hickory	Duke Energy*
Sept. 15th	Roanoke Rapids	Dominion Energy*
Nov 10	Wilmington	Piedmont Natural Gas*

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