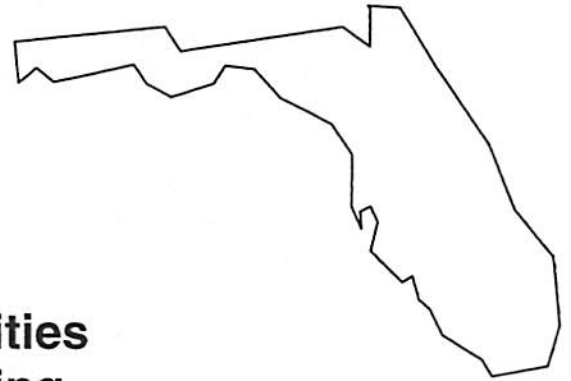


Established 1932



Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee

Coordination Through Cooperation

MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 1997
Panama City Beach, Florida

Chairman
David E. Pellico
561-838-1752

Vice Chairman
John Jernigan
813-664-6161

Secretary
William Hetherington
941-656-2157

Historian
Tom Duggar
904-599-1543

Chairman David E. Pellico called the fall meeting of the Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee to order at 8:35 a.m. with 60 representatives/members in attendance.

Chairman Pellico announced that the Steering Committee voted to appoint John Jernigan Vice Chairman. He will be replacing Jacqueline Beebe. He then called for self-introduction by the attendees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Bill Hetherington

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the Summer Meeting held in Marco Island on August 1, 1997, as written.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Tom Duggar

Fifty Years Ago – November 14, 1947 - Cherokee Hotel, Tallahassee, FL

Chairman - E. M. Menendez, Southeastern Telephone Company

Secretary – V. R. Parrack, Florida Power Corporation

Attendance: Telephone 5, Power 4, DOT 1, Railroad 1, Florida Forest & Park Service 1.
Total of 12.

The State Road Department discussed the subject of short notice sometime given by contractors to the pole-using companies in the case of highway relocations or widening. There was discussion on the possibility of coordination between this committee and the State Road right-of-way group by which information notices of generalized projects could provide fairly long range notice at least by area.

Mr. Menendez referred to a sample joint-use agreement form recently issued by the REA. A copy of such agreements was exhibited; one for power line carrier facilities and one for joint use of wood poles.

A sample of the new cable being installed between Jacksonville and Miami was passed around. It contains eight coaxial cables and a number of program conductors and is installed in clay conduit through towns and plowed directly in the ground across country.

Twenty Five Years Ago – November 3, 1972, Cape Coloney Motor Inn, Cocoa Beach, FL
Chairman – Larry Housel, J.E. Greiner Company
Vice Chairman – W. J. Hopgood, Florida Power & Light Company
Secretary – Andy Palmer, Southern Bell
Attendance: Telephone 12, Power 12, Gas 1, DOT 6, Consultant 1, Cable TV 1, NASA 1, Counties 3, and Cities 2. Total of 39.

A motion was introduced and passed to approve the recommendations of the Utility Space Allocation Subcommittee. Implementation of the program was deferred pending a report on the matter by the American Public Works Association. Mr. Vern Brown plans to attend a meeting of the A.P.W.A., where the recommendation of the research foundation committee will be presented. Since the recommendation of the A.P.W.A. will be a major factor in determining what is adopted by the Federal Highway Administration.

The D.O.T. advised the committee on the status of the Utility Accommodation Guide regarding the revisions proposed by the committee. The subcommittee met with the D.O.T. The major items of concern involved the gas industry. A conference with the F.H.A. is expected in two weeks. A motion was passed that at least one member of our committee be allowed to be present in the upcoming meeting with the D.O.T. and F.H.A. in order that the special problems of the gas industry could be adequately presented.

The chairman read the minutes of a special meeting of our organization held in Tampa regarding implementation by the utility companies of the new Florida Manual on Traffic Controls and Safety Practices. A subcommittee was formed to secure a delay in the implementation of the new requirements. A letter was sent to Mr. Walter Revell, secretary of the D.O.T., requesting a delay in implementation. A letter back from Mr. Revell denied the committee's request for a delay. However, the D.O.T. did offer to hear the committee's comments and make revisions as soon as possible.

Mr. Lee DuGoff, Assistant Technology Utilization Officer at the Kennedy Space Center, was the guest speaker. He gave an interesting and informative talk on technology and products which have been developed by the space program and are available for use by industry or private citizens.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Hamid Zahir

The balance is \$2,031.97 before expenses.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE – Ken Weldon

Activity Priority Survey Report – Mr. Weldon presented a handout of survey results, noting that the priorities of the utility industry and the FDOT must sometimes differ in deference to workload and the effect of one project on another. He noted that “The FDOT Priority is an attempt to work on items in the order the Utility Industry prioritized them except when and where this office has no control.” He urged those with further concerns to communicate with him through e-mail. A partial list of priorities includes:

<u>Priority by the Utility Industry</u>	<u>Adopted Priority by the FDOT</u>
1. UAM Rewrite/Adoption	1. In-Forms UAM Rewrite/Adoption
2. Utility Permit Rewrite	2. Utility Permit Rewrite
3. Plans Preparation Manual Utility Rewrite	3. Plans Preparation Manual Utility Rewrite
4. Clearing and Grubbing for Utilities	4. Clearing and Grubbing for Utilities
5. Landscaping Guidelines	5. Landscaping Guidelines

Letter From FHWA - Mr. Weldon will keep the membership informed of the status of an October 31, 1997, letter stating that the DOT did not have adequate information to address utilities on limited access right-of-way and provide the DOT with specific guidelines on what they wanted to look at.

Project Status Report -

- Department of Environmental Protection (Florida DEP Greg Parker-Drinking Water Section) is challenging the FDOT on the use of conflict manholes. DEP has not responded in accord with their commitment to resolve the issue by September 1, 1997; therefore, this remains a pending item. Mr. Weldon requests that members write the DEP through Greg Parker on this issue to inform them that others besides DOT are interested in this issue.
- In-Forms The Central Office Forms and Procedures Office has concerns that the State Utility Office is in violation of Policy and Procedure for not requiring the use of the In-Forms as opposed to WordPerfect-generated documents. There is a meeting scheduled for December 1, 1997, by Assistant Secretary Carlile which hopefully will resolve this issue.

- Educational Proposal by District V Utility Engineer, Richard Taylor Mr. Weldon has been asked to review and comment on a proposed standardized educational program for training/certification of utility engineers which could eventually be offered to the utility industry.
- Senate Transportation Committee This committee is reinvestigating the FDOT on time extensions and cost overruns, specifically as it relates to utilities. Mr. Weldon is requesting input from FUCC members on what good-faith efforts can be offered.
- RRR Programmatic Exception A meeting is scheduled with FHWA on November 17, 1997, at which time Mr. Weldon will try to establish a programmatic exception relating to RRR projects where existing facilities do not comply with current criteria for offset horizontal clearance. A document would state that if these conditions exist, no further documentation is necessary.
- Attendance at Additional Meetings Mr. Weldon is making an effort to attend various committee and task team meetings, specifically contractors' meetings, to bring up FUCC issues and may need member support to continue this effort.
- Utility Accommodation Manual and Permit This item is on hold until a response is received and evaluated on the proposed RRR Design Offset Criteria. The District Secretaries have a scheduled meeting on November 12, 1997, which hopefully will resolve this issue. In response to a question, revisions are being submitted for various parts of the manual, and Mr. Weldon expects the manual workshop to take place in February.

Steve Tidwell - Mr. Tidwell will be leaving DOT as of November 12, 1997, and was recognized for his valuable contributions of assistance and knowledge to the FUCC.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - Chairman Pellico

Chairman Pellico thanked M&T Consultants and FUCC members for putting together a good meeting. He also recognized three contributing sponsors: Gulf Power, Tampa Bay Engineering, and M&T Consultants. Mr. Weldon announced that in the future, DOT personnel will be attending the FUCC meetings as participants in lieu of meeting separately prior to the FUCC meeting.

FDOT DISTRICT REPORTS

District I - No written report was provided.

District II - No written report was provided.

District III - Donna Nichols

The Third District Utility Liaison Committee Summer Meeting was held August 22, 1997, in Panama City. There were 55 members in attendance.

Chris Black gave an update on the August FUCC meeting. Brian Blanchard gave an overview of innovative contracts and those projects in our area to be bid using these methods. Fred Simmons, Central Office, reported on the Task Team status. Bill Heath, Sunshine State One Call, gave an update on legislative items. Tommy Barfield presented the five-year work plan, emphasizing that there was \$138 million budgeted for 1998 for the Third District projects.

District IV - Rocky DePrimo

District IV continues to hold monthly utility meetings. Mailouts are done monthly with information and updates of active projects within an 18-month window. The district holds training classes for the industry.

District V - No report.

District VI - No report.

District VII - No report.

UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER REPORT - Dan Buol

Year to date October 31, 1997

Tickets	744,611
Transmission	4,807,877
Phone Calls	401,406
Speed of Answer	22.46 seconds

The Call Center is in transition to an in-house operation. This will be completed January 1, 1999.

Dan Buol will be retiring January 1, 1997. David Schluter will be taking his position. Mr. Buol asks the support and assistance of FUCC members to Mr. Schluter and thanks them for their support and assistance to him over the years.

GUEST SPEAKER - Jim Ely, Director of Florida's Turnpike System

Mr. Ely shared that the Florida Turnpike System is the largest system of toll roads in Florida. It opened on January 25, 1957, from Miami to Fort Pierce as the Sunshine State Parkway. The next segment from Fort Pierce to Wildwood opened in the early '60s; and two more segments, the BeeLine West in Orlando and the Homestead Extension from Miramar to Florida City, were opened in the early '70s. It is now the largest system of toll roads in Florida, including the Sawgrass. Some of the projects opened since 1990 are the Seminole Expressway Project I around Orlando, Veteran's Expressway in Tampa, and the Southern Connector Extension, connecting I-4 with Celebration. The current system is 376 miles in length statewide. Current projects are Polk Parkway in Lakeland, Suncoast Parkway One connecting Veterans' Expressway with US98, and Seminole Expressway Project II which will complete the Eastern Beltway around Orlando from I-4 to I-4. This will make the system 449 miles in length.

The Florida Turnpike System is also the Turnpike District of DOT, held to the same standards and regulations as any other DOT district. It differs, however, from other districts in that it encompasses the whole state of Florida. This makes it more feasible to use the private sector for services such as design, construction oversight, maintenance, and toll collectors. The Turnpike System is self-financed by tolls, concessions, and revenue bonds. Bonding capacity has been increased to \$3 billion with \$1.3 billion currently outstanding. No taxes or federal funds are used at this time. They are currently looking at using federal funds in combination with other funds in order to build more projects. Tolls will be collected as long as bonds and the need for expansion exist.

An informative DOT video, "Florida's Turnpike - Building on the Past and Preparing for the Future," was shown. Mr. Ely displayed transponder shown in the video that will eventually allow patrons all over Florida to proceed through toll booths without stopping, and will debit a credit card or an established account for the toll. Current forms of payment and receipt processes will still be available.

The legislature recently passed Senate Bill 2060, which removed the requirement for interchanges to pass a test of feasibility. This will allow the building of more interchanges, particularly in south Florida. Although funds are spent systemwide for the benefit of all users, the legislature has asked that funds collected in south Florida, about 48 percent of revenues, be reinvested in south Florida. All funds collected must be reinvested in the System. The legislature does not allow tolls on the Federal Interstate System.

Other Items of Interest:

- A Patron Advisory Council of regular Turnpike patrons has been formed and meets quarterly to advise and inform administrators on views of the actual user.
- The Florida Fiber Network Program will allow the private sector to run fiberoptic cable on interstate and turnpike system right-of-ways at no cost to the State; however some fibers could be used by the State.
- The High-Speed Rail is not expected to significantly affect Turnpike revenues.

- TEAM Florida (Transportation and Expressway Authority Managers of Florida) has been formed to promote partnership and discuss common problems and interests associated with toll roads.
- Florida's Turnpike System has the safest rating of any limited-access facility in the state. The installation in 1992 of inverted rumble strips reduced the number of accidents significantly.
- The System has 126 troopers, all funded by the Turnpike System.
- AAA - Nominated the Turnpike as one of the top ten roads in the United States.
- Although there was talk of the Turnpike System buying the Midbay Bridge, there is no plan to do so at this time.

TURNPIKE UPDATE – Jim Haynie
He gave an update on turnpike projects.

INTEREST GROUPS REPORT

Power – Chuck Easterling
Twenty-two members were in attendance.

Topics of discussion:

- Department of Business and Professional Regulation
 - Rule GIG-6 – third-party contractors for utilities to be licensed for construction
 - NEC knowledge rather than utility knowledge
 - Utility forces exempt on own facilities, but problems may occur during emergency restoration.
 - “Forces” interpretation
- Highway Beautification/Landscape – clarification
 - Landscape plans to restore vegetation
 - New amendment to allow utilities to be governed under UAM
- Permitting discrepancies between districts
- Alternatives to guardrails?
- UAM

Telecommunications - Armando Hernandez
Fourteen members were in attendance. The meeting opened with self-introductions.

The first item was a discussion and update on the status of the moratorium that Broward County and other municipalities placed on the communications industry, specifically regarding right-of-ways.

The second item for discussion concerned the railroads. Earl Christian (Bell South) talked about his experiences with the Florida East Coast Railroad and the fact that the railroad is increasing their annual fees for crossings. Bell South prepared a countywide agreement for the existing and future requirements and met with FEC. FEC listened to their proposed agreement but no decision was made. Money seems to be an issue. Bell South prepared new proposals since that time and is ready to present them. Florida Power & Light company is currently talking to FEC, but no information is available at this time.

The third item involved ILECs (Incumbent Local Change Carrier) and CLECs (future telephone providers). A lively discussion ensued.

Underground – Mike Farmer

No report.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

UAM/Standards Review – Arlene McGee for Tom Kennedy

Following the July 31, 1997 subcommittee meeting, the response to FDOT was developed and sent to subcommittee members for review and submitted to FDOT on August 25, 1997. The subcommittee met on November 6, 1997, to look at drawings that identify the RRR target areas and discuss the overall proposal further. The RRR proposal is still being reviewed by FDOT, and we anticipate further discussions. Results on the RRR proposal and revisions to the UAM may be ready by January or February 1998.

Joint Use – Mark Sweet

No meeting to report. Those interested in participating on the Joint Use Subcommittee are requested to contact Mark Sweet with a list of topics/issues to be addressed. A signup sheet has been placed on the registration table for this purpose. Proposed topics include joint use attachment identification tagging and participation in the National Joint Use Notification System (NJUNS).

Electronic Permitting - Bill Hetherington

Final presentation of Electronic Permitting will be held in the Bartow office of District I on December 9, 1997, at 10 a.m. and plan to have the CD ready at that time. The FUCC web site is www.fucc.org. The IP address is 207.30.96.30.

FDOT Pay Items – Carlos Solis

No report.

By-Laws Review – Jan Sands Ash

No report.

CADD Transfer – Jan Sands Ash

No report.

Conference Planning – Betsy Becker

No report.

Membership – Dan Buol

They are trying to improve the distribution using the Sunshine Newsletter. If members have any mailing lists to be added, see Mr. Buol.

Steering – David Pellico

The issues discussed were replacement of the vice chairman with John Jernigan, the agenda that would be given out prior to interest group meetings, membership. Sunshine One Call agreed to contribute \$1,000 for the next meeting. The bylaws were briefly touched on.

Chairman Pellico presented a gift to Hamid Zahir in appreciation for all his work last year as chairman.

With no further discussions or comments the meeting is adjourned by Chairman Pellico.

The next meeting will be held in Orlando/Kissimmee on February 5th and 6th, and will include a demonstration of flowable fill presented by Florida Concrete Products Association.



William F. Hetherington, P.E.
Secretary, FUCC