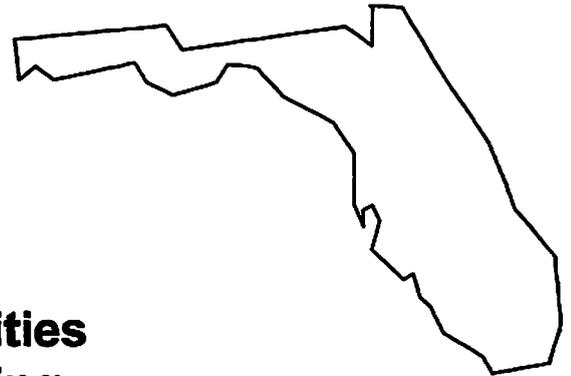


Established 1932



Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee

Coordination Through Cooperation

MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 1998

Orlando/Kissimmee, 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 Winter Meeting of the Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee to order at 8:36 a.m. with 90 representatives/members in attendance.

Dan Buol will be coordinating the Underground Damage Prevention Convention in December in Atlanta. He handed out literature about the convention. He also indicated that anyone interested in having a booth or participating would be welcome.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Bill Hetherington

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by a majority vote to waive the reading of the minutes of the Fall Meeting held in Panama City Beach on November 7, 1997.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – John Jernigan for Tom Duggar

Fifty Years Ago – February 6, 1948 – Tampa Terrace Hotel, Tampa, FL

Chairman – E. M. Menendez, Southeastern Telephone Company

Vice-Chairman – B. B. Galloway, Winter Park Telephone Company

Secretary – V. R. Parrack, Florida Power Corporation.

Attendance – Telephone 10, Power 6, Railroad 1. Total of 17.

Mr. Wilkerson, with Seaboard Airline Railroad, described a cable his company was laying between Valreka and Wildwood which was to be laid 42 inches below the surface and

5½ feet from the track center. Upon inquiry as to lightning protection, Mr. Wilkerson advised there was no ground shield wire. Mr. Warth, with Southern Bell, referred to several underground cable failures within his experience resulting from lightning and referred to low ground resistivity found in Florida as being very favorable to underground cable from a lightning standpoint.

Mr. Galloway, with Winter Park Telephone, mentioned the possibility of obtaining quantities of war surplus telephone cable now stored on certain islands. He requested anyone interested in obtaining such cable to get in touch with him. Mr. Warth referred to a new type of non-leaded cable about to be used by Southern Bell called Alpath. It has synthetic insulation (polyethylene) and a corrugated aluminum shield. Future cable is expected to carry a corrugated bronze covering.

Questions were brought up about the standard REA easement agreement and whether this easement covered only the electric power lines or whether it would also cover telephone circuits which might be attached. Mr. Snith, with REA, replied that the joint-use contract did not guarantee joint easement use but that whether or not the easement would cover telephone circuits would be a matter of legal interpretation.

Twenty Five Years Ago – February 2, 1973 – Causeway Inn Beach Resort – Tampa, FL
Chairman – Larry Housel, J. E. Greiner Company
Vice Chairman – W. J. Hopgood, Florida Power and Light Company
Secretary – Andy Palmer, Southern Bell

Mr. Ken Brown gave a report on the subcommittee appointed to secure revisions to the Florida Department of Transportation Manual on Traffic Controls and Safe Practices. Mr. Brown reported that the subcommittee is still attempting to secure revisions on various requirements which are more stringent than the federal regulations and impose undue hardships on utilities.

A report on the Florida Utilities Accommodation Guide stated that the proposed revisions governing the gas industry still have not been resolved. The State Department of Transportation reported that the manual is being revised and that our organization will be satisfied with the new revisions. A motion was introduced and passed that the subcommittee be authorized to act for the Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee in their negotiations with the Department of Transportation on this matter.

Mr. W. Staten, with Offshore Power Systems, gave an interesting talk on his company's operation and its impact on the Jacksonville area and the power industry.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Hamid Zahir

The balance after the Fall Meeting is \$54.54. There will be an audit of the financials conducted after the Winter Meeting.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE – Ken Weldon

Mr. Weldon reflected on the accomplishments of the State Utility Department in 1997. The list included 19 specific accomplishments including some of the following:

- Completion of the RRR manual final draft
- Revision of the relocation schedule
- Addressing the In-Forms situation
- Participation of claims/review the draft legislation
- Addressing the various Florida landscaping issues in the UAM
- Establishing a process for utility participation in JPA projects
- Resolving issues from Florida comptroller's office
- Review of utility specifications and utility user's guide from FDOT

GUEST SPEAKER – Mr. Tom Barry, Secretary of Transportation

Chairman Pellico introduced Billy Hattaway, who complimented Ken Weldon on his accomplishments with the utilities. He then introduced Mr. Tom Barry, Secretary of Transportation. Mr. Barry introduced Frank Carlile, who is the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy.

In general, Mr. Tom Barry described the current legislation pending that would affect FDOT and the utilities. Specifically, he spoke about the tremendous volume of work being done in roadway expansion and maintenance throughout the state. FDOT previously received complaints about the lack of road improvements but is now getting complaints about the amount of roadwork being performed. In addition, the FDOT must address the limited access issue. Historically, the FDOT has always resisted most joint-use of the ROW; but we must now look at the big picture, including allowance of utility access when it serves the public or makes sense to reduce environmental impact. This is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The FDOT is also moving forward on a joint fiber proposal with industry. In this joint proposal, the FDOT has granted telecommunications provider access to the turnpike limited access corridor in return for use of a designated number of fiber-optic cables to assist the Department in their intelligent road system.

There are several bills currently pending that will affect the utility industry, and Mr. Tom Barry recommends that the utilities be aware of some of this legislation. One that he specifically referred to was concerning business damages. Currently under the eminent domain statute, these damage claims are limited; however, there is activity on legislation which would weaken the current statute. Also, damages related to utilities could be passed on to the utility. This type of legislation may appear to be harmless; however, the Secretary illustrated his point with an example that the DOT was recently sued and had to pay several million dollars when a drunk driver killed a bicyclist. The standard 12-foot lane was only 11 feet 4 inches because of striping.

The Secretary also discussed the joint and several liability issue that the Department is exposed to. He emphasized the current legislation, currently four house bills and one senate bill, of damage claims during construction under eminent domain. He recommends that the industry watch this legislation very closely.

He also spoke about moving forward with the UAM. Although we have not resolved every issue, we must move forward and continue to make progress.

In conclusion, Mr. Tom Barry emphasized the commitment by FDOT to work with industry to resolve utility issues. At this point, the Secretary answered several questions as highlighted below.

- Q. Carlos Solis: What is FDOT's position on expanded use of JPA agreements?
- A. The FDOT will continue to expand the use of JPAs where appropriate.

- Q. Tom Kennedy: Alternative trails, etc. Does the Secretary view these corridors as strictly transportation corridors, or are they infrastructure?
- A. The Secretary explained that that was a difficult question to answer because of the condemnation issue restricting the ROW taking as it must be justified "necessary," but the definition of necessary is a moving target.

- Q. David Kuhlman: Appreciates Ken Weldon's work on the clearing and grubbing issue, but there are still a couple of issues that they would like to meet with FDOT about, specifically, the RRR manual. FP&L would like to discuss more tolerance on the RRR issues; do away with criteria and replace guidelines.
- A. The Secretary appreciated the offer and emphasized that, on the UAM, we should get it passed through.

- Q. What is the status of the high-speed rail?
- A. 8.25 million riders are now projected, but federal assistance is needed to get money to reauthorize rail. The federal government has delayed the appropriate measures for the rail to move forward. They are now anticipating March 1998 as the time frame for reauthorization. They are approaching the high-speed rail as an alternative to commuter flights to increase the ridership.

- Q. Stan Nurnenberger: Clarification is needed on the legislation concerning these damage claims.
- A. The Secretary reaffirmed that this would greatly expand the ability of businesses to file for damages during construction projects involving restricted access. Impacts for inaccessibility would allow claims against the utility.

- Q. Mark Sweet: What is the standing on the liability/cost-effectiveness of the RRR as currently written? Mr. Sweet has concerns on the RRR manual and the clear zone and again suggested a meeting. FPL and FPC both raised the issue of RRR guidelines. The FDOT must be willing to work with the industry.
- A. Again, the Secretary appreciates the offer and will support discussion with the industry.
- Q. Betsy Becker: What states are involved in fiber projects?
- A. Maryland, Minnesota, New York, and Kansas have been involved in projects such as this. The Florida fiber proposal is scheduled for RFP release in March as advertised in the *Florida Administrative Weekly*. Information on this proposal, as advertised, can be accessed on the Internet.
- Q. What is the status on limited-access ROW?
- A. The FDOT may allow access on limited-access highways under some conditions such as when a path through parks or environmentally sensitive lands is detrimental. The decision to allow use on limited access or restricted ROW will be made on a case-by-case review.

Chairman Pellico presented the Secretary with a speaker appreciation plaque.

FDOT DISTRICT REPORTS

District I – Jerrold R. Whitt

The District I Spring Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11, 1998, at Mariner's Inn in North Fort Myers, Florida. We are looking for speakers in several areas, including one from FEMA. Notices should be out in the near future.

District II – Vince Camp

The District II Utility Liaison Committee members will be meeting this month to discuss a June meeting. We will meet at Holiday Inn at I-75 & U.S. 50. We plan to have vendors once again providing demonstrations and booths/exhibits and specialized training in the afternoon. Road builders will specifically be invited. It is also hoped that Mr. Bob Burleson, President of FTBA, will attend.

District III – Donna Nichols

The next District III meeting will be in Panama City, and the speaker will be District Secretary Prescott.

District IV – Rocky DePrimo

District IV continues to mail its monthly production and letting lists to all utility owners within its service area. Yearly training classes are offered to utility company representatives. The training is offered in FDOT/utility coordinating process.

District V – Richard Taylor

On January 20, 1998, District V had their annual full-day workshop at the Altamonte Springs Hilton. There were approximately 175 in attendance. Guest speakers were Mr. Ken Weldon, Mr. Ken Leuberalbert, Mr. Steve Wigle, and Mr. Bill Richards.

The morning's agenda highlighted the Department's new process of letting projects, "Alternative Contracting." The goal was to inform everyone of how they work and the impact that they may have on the utility owners.

General issues discussed during the afternoon session were:

- State Senator Lee's involvement and issues he would like to have reports on.
- What assignments Central Office has pending.
- How to work smarter when filling out a Utility Relocation Schedule.
- Plans review, common mistakes.

The next meeting will be held sometime in January 1999.

District VI – No report.

District VII – Hank Humbert

District VII Utility Liaison Group met in Citrus County at the Plantation Golf and Tennis Resort on September 19, 1997. Approximately 120 attended. Guest speakers included District Secretary William McDaniel, P.E., State of the District Address; District Director of Production Kenneth Hartmann, P.E., update on District Work Program; Mr. Gene Branagan, Central Office, update on the FDOT's new project numbering system; and Mr. David Grant, a local news TV weather forecaster.

The next meeting will be March 13, 1998, at Bayside Center in Clearwater. Topics will include In Forms; FDOT Representative/Contractor, Innovative Contracting (Q&A).

Chairman Pellico handed out sponsorship awards and thanked the sponsors: Florida Concrete & Products, Geotrack, Sunshine State One-Call, Time Warner, and Tampa Bay Engineering. He also thanked Dennis and Margie Labelle for making all the arrangements for the meetings.

TURNPIKE UPDATE – Jim Haynie

The Suncoast project is ongoing. It will be advertised and let in 1998. The DOT Turnpike office will be moved from Tallahassee to the Turkey Lake Service Plaza in Orlando. It should be ready by January 2000.

UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER REPORT – Bill Heath
Call Center Statistics – Year Ending 12/31/97

Tickets	870,463	14.54 % increase over 1996
Transmission	5,714,572	18.23 % increase over 1996
Phone Calls	462,646	5.38 % increase over 1996
Speed of Answer	22.24 seconds	
Total Members	431	
Associate Members	71	

Call Center Statistics – January 1998

Tickets	70,902	0.63 % increase over 1997
Transmission	517,335	17.97 % increase over 1997
Phone Calls	36,708	(10.69)% increase over 1997
Speed of Answer	26.03 seconds	
Total Members	447	
Associate Members	74	
Record-Breaking Day	January 20, 1998	5,284 Tickets

The 23rd Annual One-Call System and Damage Prevention Symposium, sponsored by APWA, OLSI, and British Columbia One-Call Group, will be held March 29 – April 1, 1998, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

INTEREST GROUPS REPORT

Power – Chuck Easterling

Twenty-nine members were in attendance.

Topics of discussion:

- With Ken Weldon of FDOT
 - Pole relocation Joint Project Agreements
 - Utility Tree Trimming – prior to activity by FDOT
 - RRR Proposal/Guidelines
 - Utility Accommodation Manual
- Problems with counties/municipalities requiring relocation at utility's own expense, even when the utility is on a platted utility easement
- Lighting issues – NEC vs. NESC
- CSX issues of clearance

Telecommunications – Betsy Becker

Twenty-one members were in attendance. The meeting opened with self-introductions.

Discussion was continued on the Broward County moratorium issue. Of 28 municipalities, 26 are trying to increase fees to place new facilities. This is currently tabled, but the utility companies are keeping an eye on this.

The second item of discussion concerned the railroads and the yearly fees and application fees that they are now charging. Rich Harm, of Sprint, and Dennis Black, of Time Warner, made comments about the massive increases in the contract renewals and the initial charges for permit applications. CSX is charging not just for the crossing, but are charging for inner-duct, cables, fiber, dark or active. Richard Harm stated that there is a Florida statute that states that the telephone company has rights to condemn property. Sprint has not used this yet, but the possibility is there.

David Crum, of the Florida Public Service Commission, talked about the purpose and importance of the information that the PSC requests from the utilities in times of emergency; for example, the storm of February 2 and 3, 1998.

John Jernigan, of GTE, talked about his company's policy on handling CLEC usage of GTE's empty ducts.

An open discussion was held on potential training presentations that the Telecommunications Interest Group could present to the combined group. This has been changed from the May to the August meeting.

Underground – Steven Tidwell

Twenty-six members were present.

Pinellas County is using Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) very effectively to clear "conflict" areas. They give utilities 30 days to mark horizontal locations, then the county does SUE to get vertical locations. Discussion continued on the four aspects of SUE: records research, surface locates, sub-surface locates, and data management.

Tampa Bay Engineering notified the group of the ongoing JPA research project and requested input on a survey questionnaire. A report is to be submitted in June.

A lively discussion on JPA successes and problems brought out common issues such as:

- Price – contractors' control of sub-contractors
- Engineering expertise of FDOT designers to do utility work
- Money – how to handle refunds, etc.
- Problems with negotiating agreements
- Need for training inspectors, engineers, etc.

Other topics of discussion:

- Importance of utilities and FDOT partnering with FDOT design contractors
- Problems designers are having getting utilities to respond to "survey" requests to Sunshine. Bill Heath suggested telling Sunshine representatives you will be patrolling to get utilities to respond.
- Use of high-density Polyethylene (HDPE) on water systems and use of directional bore or HDPE.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

UAM/Standards Review – Tom Kennedy

No meetings have been held since the last Fucc meeting pending revisions FDOT is making to the UAM.

It is anticipated that UAM revisions will become available and a workshop may be scheduled within the next few months. If a workshop is scheduled before the next Fucc meeting, the UAM Subcommittee will reconvene.

If anyone not currently on the UAM Subcommittee list would like to participate, please call Tom Kennedy at 813-519-2416 and leave your name, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

Joint Use – Mark Sweet

No report.

Electronic Permitting – Bill Hetherington

The next meeting will be in Bartow in February 1998 to finalize software.

FDOT Pay Items – Carlos Solis

No report.

By-Laws Review – Jan Sands Ash

The By-Laws Committee met on Thursday, February 5, 1998, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The target sections of the by-laws (Sections IV to X) were reviewed and updated. New standing subcommittees were created for Programs, Membership/Promotions, and Conference Planning. These subcommittees are formed to assist the chairman in creating better meetings for the Committee. The draft by-laws were amended, printed, and submitted to the Steering Subcommittee for review. Comments are to be returned to Jan Ash by fax, 813-221-2204, or e-mail, ash@cftnet.com by March 10, 1998. A workshop for the General Committee is tentatively scheduled for the May Fucc meeting.

CADD Transfer – Jan Sands Ash

No report.

Conference Planning – Betsy Becker

No report.

Membership – Dan Buol

No report.

Steering – John Jernigan, Vice Chairman

Betsy Becker will send out requests for bids on FUCC conference planning. The new contract will be effective after two more meetings, May and August. Scope of work will be reviewed along with a long-term budget. Locations for the next four to six conferences are being investigated.

Educational seminars will be presented by each interest group to update the membership.

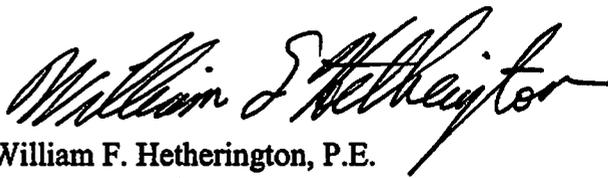
The treasurer was placed on notice about the audit to be performed by the chairman and vice chairman. The treasurer recommended a \$500-\$750 buffer for backup expenses between meetings.

A By-Laws workshop will be held at the next meeting to finalize the draft of the by-laws (the last update was in 1988).

The Steering Committee will be seeking nominations for the 1998-1999 secretary position. Candidates representing the governmental area are encouraged.

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

The next meeting will be held in Plantation, Florida, on May 6-8, 1998. A dinner cruise is planned for this meeting; there will be an additional fee for spouses attending.



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