



North Carolina Utilities Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes

11/12/13

Piedmont Natural Gas
1321 S. 10th Street
Wilmington NC

Called to Order & Welcomed to Guest

- Tom West called the meeting to order at 10:00. He welcomed everyone, conducted a “safety share”, and reviewed housekeeping.
- Teresa VonCannon discussed safe driving and cautioned everyone to watch out for deer.

Introductions

- Tom West began the introductions and continued around the room.

Old Business

• Review / Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Steve Trexler made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Parrish Reddick seconded the motion.
- Louis Panzer made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 10, 2013. Bruce Sheldon seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by the group.

Officer Reports

- NCUCC Co-Chair, Tom West – Proceeding with 2014 conference plans (April 30 – May 2)
- NCUCC Secretary, Donna Zuniga – Having trouble with the email distribution list for the group.
- NCUCC Treasurer, Sandra Johnson - reported that we currently have \$8,283.78 in our account.

New Business

• Open Discussion

- Tom West discussed the 2014 conference at Great Wolf Lodge. The golf fee will increase this year. We will begin registration in January and will utilize PayPal.
- Best Practices - Tom West reported that FMSA is trying to eliminate all exemptions. Louis Panzer reported that the Board approved 24/7 access, they reviewed glossary terms, chapter 9, and mapping proposed facilities. NC & SC will not be eligible for any grant money for 2014, due to the exemptions. NCDOT exemptions do not specify exemptions for contractors.
- Steve Trexler noted that the NCDOT exemptions are not what they were intended to be and they need to be looked at.

- Tom West added that a critical facilities section has been added to the new dig law.
- Louis Panzer discussed that NCCGARP has little to no attendance at these meetings. He suggests that we make them a committee under the NCUCC. Louis will contact Rick Gould to discuss. There also seems to be some disconnect between the local UCC's and the State UCC. We need to contact the local UCC's to get them involved. We also need to review our By-Laws and Plan of Operation.

Reports

- **NC811** – Louis Panzer reported that they are still in increase mode. Tickets were up 18% in October, are up 8.5% for the year, and are up 12-13% for November. RTE use is at 57%, which is an all time high. There were over 9,000 update lite tickets for October, 22% of all tickets are updates. NC811 is preparing for the new law. They hired a new liaison for the East coast, which will be located in Greensboro NC. They may hire other positions as needed. They will have their open house on December 13th, you can register online. Tom West also noted that elections are coming up for 6 new board members.
- **Gas Companies and Gas Pipelines** – The issue of locate graffiti and using water based paint was discussed.
- **Cable TV & Telecommunications Companies** – Bruce Sheldon reported that their work is increasing and they will take over Duke Net on 1/1/14.
- **Locate Companies** – Chris Russ reported that tickets are up and locators are very busy. He noted that tickets are not being requested when signs are being installed and also when surveyors drive rebar.
- **Oil and Oil Pipelines** – Tom West reported that Colonial is continuing side trimming on easements.
- **Local UCC's** – David Jackson, Forsythe County UCC, reported they are working on increasing their attendance and are having good meetings. He offers a 10% decrease in damage bill if the offender attends the UCC meeting. Parrish Reddick, High Point UCC, reported that they provide a working lunch and attendance has increased. Sandra Johnson, Wake County UCC, reported they had their Annual Contractor Breakfast on November 6. They had 170 people in attendance. Their next meeting will be January 28, 2014 and a working lunch will be provided. Bonnie Collier, Henderson UCC, reported that they will begin trying to get a UCC going in January 2014. Bruce Sheldon, Wilmington NC, reported that it is mandatory for his employees to attend UCC meetings. Donald Broome, Pitt County UCC, reported that attendance is down. They meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10AM. Matt Mueller, Distribution Construction, noted that we need to stress the importance of local UCC meetings to our contractors and possibly put it in their contracts. Tim Ridge, Piedmont Natural Gas, noted that they are expanding their effort to increase UCC participation. Teresa VonCannon, Davie/Yadkin UCC, reported that they have a lunch meeting. Normally, each person pays for their own meal, but sometimes the meal is paid for by one of the participating companies. Louis Panzer charged everyone with trying to think of ways to increase attendance on both the state and local level.

Next Meeting – January 14, 2014, Piedmont Natural Gas, 2611 Greengate Drive, Greensboro NC.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03PM.