



# North Carolina Utilities Coordinating Committee

## Meeting Minutes

09/10/2013

110 Commerce Center Drive

Tarboro, NC

### Called to Order & Welcomed to Guest

- Billy Rice called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

### Introductions

- Billy Rice began the introductions and continued around the room.

### Old Business

#### **NCUCC Review / Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Tom West made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Jerry Smith seconded. All in favor.
- Doug Morris made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Lola Ausby seconded. All in favor.

#### **NCCGARP Review / Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (not present)**

- Tom West and Mark Worth both expressed that they will try to get NCCGARP members to attend our next meeting.

### Officer Reports

**NCUCC Chair** – Billy Rice reported that PSNC is being required to perform more inspections and smart pigging on pipelines. This is causing lots of digging, which is resulting in more locates.

**NCCGARP Chair** – Rick Gould, not present

**NCUCC Co-Chair** – Tom West, nothing to report

**NCCGARP Co-Chair** – Tom West, nothing to report

**NCUCC Treasurer** – Sandra Johnson reported that we have a balance of \$8,283.78.

**NCCGARP Finance Director** – Matt Bellman, not present

**NCUCC Secretary** – Donna Zuniga, nothing to report

**NCCGARP Secretary** – Mike Bearak, not present

**NCCGARP Membership** – Mark Worth, nothing to report

**NCCGARP Program/Meeting Director** – Alan Gray, not present

**NCCGARP Regional Partnership Coordinator** – Brad Barringer, not present

## **New Business**

### **Open Discussion**

#### **Senate Bill 9 and House Bill 476**

- Louis Panzer discussed the impacts of Senate Bill 9 and House Bill 476. A handout was provided to all attendees.
- Tom West read and discussed the definition of “extraordinary circumstance”.
- Bruce Sheldon inquired as to who will call to represent a member in the case of an extraordinary circumstance. Louis advised that there needs to be a designated representative for each member.
- Mark Worth asked if there had been a study as to how many more tickets will be generated due to the mandatory membership. Louis responded that there had not been a study on that particular element, but that there will be some increase in tickets.
- Tom and Louis discussed the change in the time a caller must wait before his ticket is clear to dig.
- Tom discussed facility owner’s responsibility to mark their facilities to indicate the size of the facility if it is over 4”.
- Doug Morris explained the meaning of “identify facilities” is to hand dig.
- Tom noted that there should be no mechanized equipment used within 24” of pipelines.
- Doug asked that if a locator marks a facility incorrectly, but he marked it as he was trained, can the trainer be held responsible. Louis responded, that would be a legal issue taken on a case by case basis.
- Mark discussed the complaint driven policy.
- Steve Trexler noted that there should be someone who oversees and monitors the required training.
- Louis noted that there is no organization that monitors locator training and that when OSHA is involved, they will monitor excavators.
- Tom also noted that certificates are given when the state required training is done. Monitoring will be complaint driven. When there is an investigation, training will be checked.
- Louis reported that NC811 is trying to get training online and that then it will be tracked on their portal.
- Bruce asked if NC811 will have a specific group to monitor complaint. Louis responded that they will.
- Doug inquired as to using soluble markings and when markings can be removed. Louis advised that expired markings can be removed and other markings can be removed after an entire job is completed.
- Parrish Reddick asked if membership dues will be going up soon. Louis responded that dues should stabilize with the increase in membership. Costs are around \$.75 per ticket now and they plan to keep it under \$1.00.

#### **Open Discussion – General**

- 2014 Joint UCC Conference – Doc Asbury asked about what the attendance and golf fees would be. Teresa VonCannon and Tom West reported that is still being discussed, but that the fee will be increased. Sandra Johnson mentioned that we will have the locator training again this year. Doc asked that we include ElectriCities in our invitations, as they want to attend the locator training.

- Committee Assignments – Lola Ausby and Donna Zuniga will work on the vendor committee. Lola also noted that she has had positive response to the email she sent out to vendors. Doug Morris will put together the notification package and mail it out once the group decides on the fees. Sandra Johnson and Bonnie Collier will work on the registration committee. Teresa VonCannon and Tom West will work on the food and site committee. Cort Bennett and Bobby Freed will handle the hospitality room and golf tournament. Billy Rice and Teresa VonCannon will work on the speaker committee.
- Doc advised that Cliff Meidle can speak at the conference and that NC811 will pay for his expenses. The NCUCC will have to pay his speaker fee of \$3500, if it so decides to use Mr. Meidle.
- It was mentioned possibly getting Rep. Hager to come and discuss the new UG Prevention Act.
- David West will check to see if NCDOT can provide a speaker.
- Louis will contact the Society of Surveyors to try to get them to participate in the NCUCC.
- Teresa will send NCUCC meeting information to the City of Rocky Mount and try to get them to participate.

## Reports

- **NCDOT** – David West reported that all of NCDOT will become a member due to the mandatory membership law. This will require lots of training. They have formed a committee to determine what to do and how they will proceed. The update of their policy/procedure manual is on-going and hopefully will be completed in a year. The let list web address is <https://connect.gov/letting/pages/default.aspx#10>. Tom West asked David what his company should do when they can't purchase all American products for DOT projects. David directed those issues go to Robert Worthington. Billy Rice asked if DOT will locate their facilities. David replied that yes, he believes they will. David advised that an encroachment may require as much as 10 days notice to locate. Bruce Sheldon asked where DOT locate tickets go from 811. David said that is a process they are working on now.
- **NC811** – Louis gave the NC811 report. The number of locate tickets are increasing. He believes this is somewhat due to increased awareness, increased use of update lite, and utilization of single address tickets. He reported that the 811 run and blood drive were great successes. Donald Broome recommended the NC811 app noting that it is very user friendly and helpful. Louis reported that have had over 2,400 downloads of the app so far.
- **State Regulator** – Chris Isley thanked Louis for his work on the new law.
- **Railroads** – No Report
- **Electric/Power Companies** – Lola Ausby reported the Dominion Power has posted emergency preparedness information on their website. She also recommends that everyone get a home emergency kit. Dominion is also converting coal plants to bio-mass using waste wood as fuel. Enviva is one company making wood pellets. They have a plant outside of Roanoke Rapids and in Ahoskie.
- **Gas Companies and Gas Pipelines** – Parrish reported that Piedmont Natural Gas is upgrading regulators and are conducting a transmission integrity management program and a smart pig program. Teresa reported that Piedmont in Salisbury and Charlotte are now using USIC for locating.

- **Cable TV & Telecommunications Companies** – Bruce reported that Time Warner has a lot of growth in Charlotte, Raleigh, and Greensboro with a network expansion. They are building a fiber system to provide total fiber service for their customers.
- **Excavators/Contractors** – No report
- **Locate Companies** – Robert Yu with USIC reported they are continuing education due to the new law changes. Bruce reported that USIC has all of Time Warner locate contracts in NC now.
- **Local UCC's** – No Report
- **Engineering and Design** – No report

**By-Laws:**

Billy Rice began a discussion on the by-laws noting that we need to have them ready to vote on at our November meeting. Teresa inquired as to the intention of the wording of Section 4. Doug explained that it is to ensure that no one group pushes through a vote due to having more votes, but that each organization is represented equally with one vote. Louis recommended that we leave it as it is written. Tom proposed changing “oil” to “liquid petroleum”. Louis noted that we could define what actions require a quorum vote vs. a simple majority vote. Doug will compile a list and circulate it before the November meeting so we can vote at the November meeting. Doug will also add a “voting” section to the by-laws and define the criteria and time line.

**Next Meeting – November 12, 2013, 10:00AM, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, 1321 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.**

**Billy Rice adjourned the meeting at 12:50PM.**