

# **Meeting Minutes**

7/8/14 Piedmont Natural Gas 1921 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Hickory NC

### Called to Order & Welcomed to Guest

- Billy Rice called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:05AM.
- Richard Lawrence discussed housekeeping issues and the emergency evacuation procedure for the facility.
- Tom West conducted the safety share and discussed the safe operation of tree trimming equipment and advised everyone to take extra precautions while driving, especially in work zones.

### Introductions

Billy Rice began the introductions and continued around the room.

## **Old Business**

- Billy Rice reported he was not able to get CSX for today's meeting. Tom West will contact CSX to try to schedule them for our September meeting.
- O Tom West made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, it was seconded by Parrish Reddick and approved by all. Tom West made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes, it was seconded by Lola Ausby and approved by all. Teresa VonCannon made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes, it was seconded by Sandra Johnson and approved by all.
- o Tom West noted we need to add a discussion about our By Laws to the agenda for our September meeting. Tom will contact Doug Morris.

## Officer Reports

Billy Rice reported he has been getting a lot of calls and questions regarding the new law, which will take effect on October 1, 2014. He encouraged everyone to make contact with their contractors to make sure they have the information on the changes. Louis Panzer added that the NC811 will be glad to give presentations explaining the changes, but they are careful not to try to interpret the law. They simply provide the information. He said the biggest confusion has been regarding sewer laterals having to be locatable or not. Tom West asked Louis to give the presentation at our September meeting. Dean Yancey asked for a one-page bulleted sheet comparing the old law to the new. Louis will provide this and post it on the NC811 website.

- Sandra Johnson reported we currently have \$7,841.60 in our account. Tom
  West made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, it was seconded by Lola
  Ausby and approved by all.
- Sandra also noted we need to form a team to discuss and check into possible locations to hold our 2016 Joint Conference.
- Tom West asked for the group's thoughts on the 2014 conference. Louis Panzer said he had received a lot of positive feedback from attendees regarding the conference and he thought it was a great success. Tom noted the locator training was a great addition to the conference and should be continued.

### **New Business**

- Election of the new Secretary Tim Yarbro and Parrish Reddick were nominated,
  17 votes were cast for Tim and 6 votes were cast for Parrish. Tim was elected
  the new Secretary. Tim stated he is looking forward to working with the group.
- o Billy Rice noted Tom West will now move up to Chair, Donna Zuniga will move up to Co-Chair. Billy thanked everyone for their help and guidance over his 3 years serving as an officer. Billy stepped down, Tom West took over as Chair and thanked Billy for all his hard work.

## **Open Discussion**

 Tom West asked everyone try to bring some type of information, presentation, report, etc. from their industry to our next meeting.

## Reports

- NC811 Louis Panzer announced that DeWayne Sykes, NCDOT, has retired. He reported that ticket volume is up 7.8% for the year. Update ticket volume has dropped below 20% for the State. He attributes that in part to the restriction on tickets not being updated before the last 3 days of the ticket's life. Pipes Plus will get started in August. They have condensed the program to about 70 minutes. They will be using video modules with quiz questions. Certificates of completion will be given. They are conducting training on the new law for their CSR's. The next board meeting is at Jefferson Landing next week. Mandatory damage reporting begins in October. Brian Groome asked if the NC811 will contact those that are not reporting. Louis said they may send letters. The 15 names for the enforcement board have been supplied, but the Governor can't name them until October 1. Complaints will be entered on the portal and the offender can respond on the portal. Information will be provided to the enforcement board for a response. Complaints are not anonymous. The NC811 preliminary budget has been done and it looks like ticket prices will decrease for next year. Mark Worth stated that as of January 2014, membership was near 200. Louis noted that number is expected to double. Tom West stated there had been 15 new facility owner members to join already this year. There are still 2 mandatory large members that have not joined. Louis advised he will begin a monthly electronic newsletter on Wednesday to report things going on at the NC811.
- Gas Companies and Gas Pipelines Billy Rice reported work has increased at PSNC and they are continuing their system enhancement projects. Their damages seem to be due mostly to information given on locate tickets. White-lining or site visits will help with this problem. Billy questioned the criteria for an emergency locate. Louis sated the NC811 cannot deny an emergency request. They can explain the criteria for an emergency and what the law states, but the caller has to make the decision. With the new law in October, complaints can be levied against callers that are believed to be abusing emergency locate requests. A list of suspected abusers can be provided by utility owners and the NC811 can send out letters. Mark Worth reported for PSNC that their ticket volume is up and their damage ratio is down.

- **Oil and Oil Pipelines** Tom West reminded the group Colonial Pipeline requires an encroachment agreement when crossing their facilities and requires a representative to be on site. Colonial is conducting pig-digs, re-coating projects, side trimming, and mowing.
- Local UCC's Sandra Johnson reported the Wake County UCC meets at 11:00AM, the last Tuesday of each month, lunch is provided. Tom West reported Mitchell/Avery/Yancey County meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month. Parrish Reddick reported that attendance for High Point is dwindling. He realized invitations were not being sent, and is correcting that. They meet quarterly and provide lunch. Brian Groome reported Buncombe County meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month and Henderson County meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Jim Nelson reported Mecklenburg County meets the last Tuesday in each month. Richard Lawrence reported Blue Ridge meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, except July and December. Bonnie Collier reported Vance County has gotten their meeting up and running. Lola Ausby reported North Hampton/Halifax meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month with lunch provided every other month. Teresa VonCannon reported Cabarrus/Rowan/Stanly meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.
- Electric Companies Lola Ausby reported Dominion is in the planning stages of organizing a new Underground Department in VA. They are pushing to get facilities installed underground. The State may let them increase rates to re-coup the cost of this venture. Dean Yancey reported for Duke Energy that construction is increasing, ticket volume is up 12.8%, and locate volume is up 9-10%. As a result, damages are also increasing.
- **Excavators/Contractors** Tim Yarbro, Ansco & Associates, reported he believes the mandatory membership will be helpful, especially with water companies.
- **Engineering** Cardno has a project in Charlotte where they are determining depths of underground facilities.
- Cable TV & Telecommunications Companies Brian Groome, AT&T, reported ticket transmission is up 9.2%, and damages are up 4.8%. He has been going to local UCC meetings and discussing unnecessary update tickets. He has worked with Ansco to reduce update tickets and encouraged everyone to do the same.
- NCCGARP Louis reported the next CGA meeting is in New York next week and the conference will be in Orlando FL in 2015.

Next Meeting – September 9, 2014, 10:00AM, at Dominion Power, 200 Vepco Street, Roanoke Rapids NC 27870

Meeting adjourned at 12:00PM

Minutes submitted by: Donna Zuniga