



North Carolina Utilities Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes

3/11/14

PSNC Energy

4221 Global Street

Raleigh, NC

Called to Order & Welcomed to Guest

- Billy Rice called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. He welcomed everyone, conducted a “safety share”, and reviewed housekeeping. He passed out the agenda, sign-in sheet and minutes from the January meeting.

Introductions

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

Old Business

- Brian Groome made a motion to accept the January meeting minutes with one correction – Replace David Yancey with Dean Yancey. Bruce Sheldon seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by the group. Teresa VonCannon made a motion to accept the agenda. Lola Ausby seconded the motion and the agenda was approved by the group.

Officer Reports

- NCUCC Treasurer, Sandra Johnson - reported that we currently have \$11,673.78 in our account. This includes deposits of \$3,890.00 and withdrawals of \$500.00 since the January meeting. Vincent Florio made a motion to accept the report. Lola Ausby seconded the motion. Sandra reported that Pay Pal costs us 3%.
- Billy Rice commented that there was a lot of construction going on across the state.

New Business

- Billy Rice reported the NC UG Damage Prevention Law takes effect October 1, 2014. He didn't know if there are additional changes to the proposed law.

Open Discussion

- Teresa VonCannon reported we have the following speakers for the Joint Conference: Local Historian, Utility Locator Class like we had in 2012, and Louis Panzer/NC UG Damage Prevention Law. Tentative speakers are NCDOT/Work Zone Safety and PSNC Safety Speaker. The group made the following suggestions for speakers: CSX Railroad, SC to report on how the Law has affected them, OSHA, a lawyer involved in a major lawsuit – check with Stuart Egerton at 910-232-3411 or Sle@slegerton.com, a video of a line that was hit and prevention of vehicle backing accidents..
- Sandra Johnson reported we have 68 registered, 17 vendors, 3 breaks paid for, 18 registered for the Utility Locator Class, 20 for golf, 23 for Lowes tour. David Jackson has approximately 100 bags and Howard Corey and Tom West said they had bags also. Most of the details have been worked out for golf. The location is Highland Creek Golf Course, 7101 Highland Creek Parkway, Charlotte, 704-875-9000. We will provide a box lunch of turkey or ham. If anyone wants to pay onsite, they will pay the clubhouse rate.
- Lola Ausby read the list of sponsors from 2012 and reported Whitney Nefstead at Rhino Markers will ship 200 damage prevention magazines to us. We decided to have them shipped to Billy Rice rather than to GWL.
- Further discussion indicated we needed to do an email blast to folks from SC. SC 811 has a safety seminar at Pine Island Country Club on 3/19/14. Brian Groome will have the Joint Conference announced there and will take registration forms with him. He also asked that if anyone ever damages another utility, please report it to the proper folks so it can be repaired.
- Billy Rice asked that if you have nominations for NCUCC secretary to email them to him or Tom West.
- Brian Laney with Duke Energy posed a question which generated discussion. His question was: Is a near miss reported in DIRT? It's not mandatory to report a near miss. Beginning October 2014, it will be mandatory to report damages. Now, the excavator should notify the facility owner and NC 811 for a near miss. A near miss for example is when a cable/pipe is hit, but may not be damaged. A possible solution may be to utilize the Local UCC's to discuss near miss incidents and meet with a company who is continuously causing problems

Reports

- **NC811** – Howard Corey reported an increase in locate requests. Governor McCrory has declared April as Safe Digging Month. They will be making software changes as a result of the changes in the Law. Also, they will have a tree planting recognition in April. Someone asked if there was an app for Web TMS. Howard said it probably will be after the Law comes into effect. Kevin Johnson said that Evidence-Cam is a good app to document damages. It has a camera, time stamp and lat/long coordinates.
- **NC Utilities Commission** – Steve Wood reported effective April 2, a new engineer will come on board.
- **Gas Companies and Gas Pipelines** – Teresa VonCannon reported things are picking up. They had an incident with a school bus on a regulator station, but no one was hurt. David Jackson reported they had finished pigging and side trimming and would be moving to High Point. Danny Harris reported in July they are installing a 12" high pressure gas line that's 27 miles long. Their damages have been held to a minimum. Scott Swindler reported they had a pipeline rupture in Asheville. MSD and NCDOT responded which made coordination easier. Greg Lacy reported they are side trimming also.

- **Cable TV & Telecommunications Companies** – Bruce Sheldon reported Time Warner’s work load is up 20%, Carolina is the busiest. TWC has updated the Tech Ops telephone number on the NC 811 website; it is 855-261-9374. Comcast’s buyout of Time Warner is progressing; it has to be approved. Brian Groome reported ATT has had a 22% reduction in damages from 2012-2013. They are feeding their own cell towers as much as feasible.
- **Oil and Oil Pipelines** –Tom West reported they are doing pig digs and side trimming and will be going to Greensboro. They had to deny two roads in the last couple of weeks.
- **Local UCC’s** – The Foothills, Carteret, Harnet/Johnson, Forsyth/Stokes and Davidson UCC’s made reports. The NC811 website and NCUCC websites both have a calendar of local UCC meetings. You can also use the NC 811 app to access the information.
- **NCDOT** – David West reported that they are seeing developer driven encroachments. Electronic encroachments are still a work in progress, but they will accept them electronically now even if it’s in the preliminary design, but will require paper before its finalized. The turn-around time from DOT receipt and approval is a matter of days if no corrections are needed. They are transitioning to become members of NC 811 by October 2016 and working around those challenges. They are working on a new P&P manual. David has been recommended as the DOT rep on the review board. Governor McCrory has all 15 names but has not acted on them yet. Ken Griffin asked what is the P&P manual. David reported it’s the whole book of DOT rules, regulations and procedures, etc. It will be categorized and DOT might offer an app for it also.
- **Electric Companies** – No report. There was general discussion that Greensboro and Winston Salem were hit hard from the last storm.
- **NCCGARP** – Tom West reported CGA Conference is taking place in Phoenix and that’s where most of the folks from NC 811 are. Version 11.0 of the CGA guidebook is now available.

Next Meeting – NCUCC Joint Conference, April 30-May 2, at Great Wolf Lodge, Concord, NC. The July meeting will be held at the PNG office in Hickory.

Thanks to Kevin Johnson & PSNC for hosting the meeting and providing lunch.

Meeting adjourned

Lola Ausby
Acting Secretary