



Meeting Minutes

NC811 Event Center
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 @10AM
1321 S. 10th St., Wilmington, NC

Called to Order & Welcomed Guests

- Jason Stover called the meeting to order @ 10:01am
- Safety Level 1 & housekeeping by Joyce Midgett, Piedmont Natural Gas

Introductions

- Jason Stover started self-introductions and asked to go around the room to let attendees do the same.

Old Business

- Meeting minutes from 9/10/19 were approved by Tim Yarbrow & seconded by Teresa Voncannon also approved by the majority.
- Agenda approved by Tim Yarbrow & seconded by Louis Panzer & approved by majority.
- Ann Rushing reminded everyone about attending the local UCC meetings and the importance of having a representative from your company attend. She expressed the need for secretaries at the meetings. We need secretaries at 26 of the 49 local NC UCC meetings. The project report – please be ready to share what’s going on with your project’s & damages. This helps keep everyone in the know. Let’s help each other by stepping up and volunteering.
- The yearly NCUCC meeting schedule may change some of the meeting times. We may meet in Wilmington in the summer & Asheville or Hickory in the fall in 2020.

New Business

- Jason asked the group if they know of any speakers for the 2020 UCC conference as well as vendors.

- Louis said he has a suggestion and will get back to us with the information.

Officers' Reports

- **Co-Chair** — Jason Stover – Expressed how much Teresa will be missed and presented her with a plaque & Louis Panzer gave her an ambassador's plaque.
- **Treasurer** — Sandra Johnson – Current Checking Balance - \$8,695.68 and no invoices due and none are expected.
- **Secretary** - Ronya Nabors – Thanked all for attending. No additional comment.

Open Discussion

- Louis Panzer - State UCC's meetings have been around for 75 years.

Reports

NCDOT – Larry Sanders - He discussed work zone safety training; highway projects, how utility work will be done and new installations on encroachments. He asked Feds to give a similar presentation at the upcoming UCC conference. What's the procedure for closing sidewalks? DOT staff will be trained in May and June time frame. They are looking to provide training to others as well. Training is a full day and the pedestrian piece is new.

NC811 – Howard Cory with NC811 gave an update on the locate requests & transmissions for October. Every locate received is about 5 to 1 in transmissions. He talked about County Member Operator Identity Information & how you can identify whose marks are on the ground by using the app. Make sure to update your NC 811 app because it's live. The footage changed from 25 to 50 feet to identify the proposed excavation or demolition. He expressed the importance of taking photos before you begin & telling others about the tolerance zone. It's the excavator's responsibility to maintain marks. It's important to know the operator's identity. He shared upcoming events and their office hours & dates they will be closed. The NC Underground Damage Prevention Review Board will have a Skype meeting in December and it's open to the public. Please see the NC811 website. Keith Napier asked the group "how can we get the word out about the new law?" Louis stated they are following up with those not proving positive response. Ann stated to play analogies out that may involve the main and other scenarios. NC811 is a courtesy and it isn't their responsibility, it's ours.

NCLRPC – They meet every other month and the next meeting is December 11th at 11am. This committee was created to be a bridge between enforcement to identify trends and how to address them. It started about a year ago. They decided to reach out to those creating excessive updates which create extra tickets and 'noise' in the system. Letters were sent today to the top 10 companies doing this. They're dedicated to educating everyone about this and how we can drive down cost. NC811 has been getting too many false emergencies so they added info about the class 3 misdemeanor when giving false information to obtain an emergency ticket. About 40,000 a year is about 2%. Percentage of overall emergencies dropped 25%. Update tickets are for work continuing - this is shared as a reminder to those calling in to update tickets.

Ann gave an update regarding a grant thru PHMSA. NC811 gained funding for messaging and surveys. The 2020 focus is getting 811 on as many water tanks as possible. Money must be used by September 2020. If you see a tank please let NC811 know.

CGA – Louis Panzer – The conference will be March 2020 in Palm Springs, CA. Committee meeting coming up. DIRT Report is important and available on the CGA website.

Excavators-Tim Yarbrow with AnSCO – no big projects, business as usual. Cort Bennett with NCS - even if you're responsible it's still difficult to get paint on the ground. Is there an issue with the excavators or the locators? Contractors need to be asked why they are not getting paint on the ground. Louis says everyone has a piece in the process. Not pointing fingers at contractors & excavators. Update tickets got out of control this year. The impact is statewide. It's a trickle-down effect. Additional discussion.....

Locate Companies – Kevin Bowers with Southern Cross said their ticket volume is steady, everyone's working together and staying current on tickets. He has no complaints business as usual.

Gas – Danny Harris with Dominion – still rebranding. Phone numbers stay the same but signage changing. They have an ongoing project in Wake County. Jason said he's being encouraged to call in emergency locate tickets. It's happening to a lot of people. Get excavators to stipulate who hasn't marked to ensure it gets done. Additional discussion.... Chris Denning with Williams installing in the Raleigh area. Keith Napier – PNG- make your marks consistent. Codes don't change; don't make it difficult.

Municipalities – Anthony Colone -Pender County – growing fast; only 2 locators. One locator knows where everything is and the other doesn't. No training for locators? He's never seen the actual locators. No resources. How does he address that? Keith Napier offered some advice. Ann stated this is a National issue. There is a huge demand for locators.

Railroads – Louis Panzer-NC811- only 1 railroad member. To get them on board we need to make a case study to show the importance of attending these meetings

Telecommunications – Don Greiseick – Spectrum - working in the Raleigh area getting many damages.

Local UCCs – Leo Brooks – Dominion Energy – Cabarrus, Stanly UCC- stated, it will help if people attend their local UCC meetings & pass along the info received to others in their company. Send obtained info out in emails to contractors to keep them in the know and encourage them to attend the local meetings. He attended the NCLRPC meeting last month and encourages all to attend if they have the chance. Bring answers and solutions or don't complain. Ralph Murphy - Jones Onslow UCC – They had a damage prevention breakfast and there were 150 people in attendance. Update tickets are the biggest complaint. Soil test bore tickets are also a complaint. Point of contact at the locate company is no longer with the company. White lining isn't taking place. If no one meets them to show where boring is taking place, they will not locate the area. Encourages all to attend their local UCC meetings. Norman – PNG - New

Hanover County UCC – said everyone should exchange numbers and keep communication open. Be sure to get contact information. Chris Denny - Rockingham County UCC -having the same issues as everyone else.

Sandra Johnson - Wake County UCC – had a contractor’s meeting with 126 in attendance. Last meeting of the year. Lunch sponsored by 811. Best place to form contacts. Locator training given at Staking University.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chase Gibson. It was seconded by Sandra Johnson and meeting was adjourned @ 11:54 PM.

Special Thanks to Piedmont Natural Gas for Hosting

Next Meeting – January 14th, 2020 at 10am

NC 811

5009 High Point Rd. Greensboro, NC