



## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 10AM  
4211 Global St., Raleigh, NC 27610  
Dominion Energy Operations Center

### Called to Order & Welcomed Guests

- Chase Gibson called the meeting to order @ 10:03 am
- Housekeeping & Safety by Sandra Johnson, Dominion  
Nearest exit and congregate at sign in front of the building

### Introductions

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

### Old Business

- Louis Panzer made the motion to approve the January 2019 meeting minutes. It was seconded by Tim Yarbro. Motion was approved.
- Dino Farruggro made the motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. It was seconded by Teresa VonCannon. Motion was approved.

### New Business

- Chase began a short open discussion concerning the location and venue of the 2020 NC/SC Joint UCC Conference. Chase pointed out the conference committee had narrowed the choices down to two venues and then asked if anyone would make a motion to vote between Grandover Resort in Greensboro and Harrah's Hotel and Casino in Cherokee. Louis Panzer moved to put it to vote and Marc Worth seconded. Harrah's Hotel and Casino was elected by a unanimous vote. Our selection will be announced at the joint conference in May 2019.

- The conference committee will schedule a site visit to Harrah's, so the dates can be selected, and the contract can be signed.

## **Officers' Reports**

- **Chair** — Chase Gibson – Chase stated our new NCUCC logo has now been applied to some t-shirts and we will be giving a few of those away today for door prizes.
- **Co-Chair** — Robert Yu – Robert noticed a great turnout today and mentioned it's good to see a lot of new faces.
- **Treasurer** — Sandra Johnson – Current Checking Balance - \$9,695.68 and no invoices due and none are expected.
- **Secretary** — Jason Stover – Jason asked for everyone to check the accuracy of the sign-in sheet. A mass email will soon go out based on what is on the roster. If those emails are returned “undeliverable”, that name will be removed/deleted from the sign-in sheet. It is Women's History Month and Jason wanted to recognize the women in our industry.

## **Open Discussion**

- Chase Gibson -- We are currently working with NC811 to build quality local UCC meetings. Tim Yarbro added there are 49 local UCCs and 27 have NC811 liaisons currently recording the monthly minutes.
- Marc Worth asked for everyone to “stir things up” at the local meetings to spur participation. Maybe we could offer lunches.

## **Reports**

NCDOT – Carl Barclay with NCDOT pointed out there is a valid web link on today's agenda that will take you to a 12-month project let list. Greg Stevens encourages everyone in every district to attend the local UCCs. They are always informative. Ralph Murphy (ONWASA) is the chair of the Onslow UCC and he mentioned they hold their meeting at the same time and place every month. They do not use restaurants as meeting venues. They prefer someone sponsor a meal at each meeting. Ralph mentioned they hope to get more excavators involved locally. Danny Harris with PSNC asked the group, “What's the best time to hold a local meeting to get excavators to attend? Is a lunch meeting really the best time?” Danny mentioned the Midlands UCC also has meal sponsors and they let contractors know lunch is paid for.

NC811 – Louis Panzer with NC811 said there is now a tool for reporting issues on the 811 smart phone app. It is a good way to have your voice heard without being present at local UCC meetings. This information can be sent to the local UCC chairpersons. Howard Corey shared a St. Patrick's Day themed safety moment about how safe digging is no accident. Howard presented some statewide tickets numbers: February 2019 tickets have increased 11.8% over February 2018 and total tickets are up nearly 18% over this time last year. Howard asked for everyone to share the 811 messages by visiting the NC811 website and downloading the graphics. All have permission to use as they see fit for raising awareness. Howard asked if anyone had any media contacts they were willing to share to help get the safe digging message out. Chuck Austin with Williams Pipeline asked if it was too late to request a banner. Ann Rushing said they had not invested in banners this year since there were so many not picked up last year. Louis Panzer said those needing “in person” RTE training can request it by visiting the NC811 website.

NCLRPC – Louis Panzer said they are generating reports and are interested in tickets that call for one day of work and have been updated multiple times. For instance, an excavator takes 45 days to get to one day of work. Ann mentioned the NCLRPC has plenty of stakeholder involvement, but they are looking for more local UCC feedback. She said they are also interested in destroyed marks tickets. Louis stated there are legitimate uses for destroyed marks tickets, but they want to raise awareness about the heavy financial burden associated with these tickets. Louis sparked a more detailed discussion in the room concerning ticket updates as well.

NCCGARP – Louis Panzer said the CGA conference is coming up in Tampa and one of the best practices coming up for review is the “click before you clear” program. This program lets plumber check with gas companies before clearing obstructions from sewer lines. The newest best practices guide will be distributed following the conference. Marc Worth stated the DIRT report information needs to be entered by the end of March.

Engineering – Robert Memory with Maser Consulting said 811 has been a crucial tool for his firm and he has nothing but positive feedback to offer about the 811 process over the last few years. There has been a phenomenal rise in response to locate requests. Robert challenged everyone in the room to share what they hear while in these meetings or its all for nothing.

Locate Companies – Brain Merritt with One Call Concepts mentioned he has noticed MCI/Verizon is not well represented at local UCCs and he would like to make contact. (There was contact made in the room.) Robert Yu with USIC mentioned he has worked well with MCI/Verizon and has had great dialogue with them in the past.

Gas – Danny Harris with Dominion Energy reminded everyone a Dominion representative must be on site while anyone is excavating near transmission pipelines. Chuck Austin with Williams stated he is seeing a lot of damages at road crossing and asked how many utilities are not NC811 members. Louis Panzer said only small entities, such as HOAs are not members.

Municipalities – Lee Mai with the City of Raleigh said as of July 1, 2019, fines will be increased for work permit violations. These fines will not only be assessed to the contractors but also the permit holder as well as the traffic control contractors. This sparked a heavy discussion among many in attendance.

Railroads – Louis Panzer is communicating with NCR. This railroad company would like their own positive response code with a link to a document. They are a member and currently receive tickets but do not provide positive response.

Telecommunications – Jody Kiker with Charter said damages are down for the year and they are installing more fiber to the home than usual. Jody stated he will work towards getting more of their contractors attending the local UCC meetings. Ivory Williams with Century Link shared a concern he has about a letter he received from NCDOT stating they take no responsibility for mowing over utility pedestals. Ivory said he would love to partner with NCDOT to decrease damages. Andy Leviner with Segra stated damages to their facilities are up 50% over last year. They were recently damaged three times by the same contractor in one week. Andy asked contract locators to stop cutting into fiber cables while attempting to locate them. Dino Farruggro with AT&T said they are suffering from an increase in damages as well. Robert Yu asked stakeholders to seek opportunities to use joint trenching when possible.

Local UCCs – Leo Brooks with Dominion invited everyone to a contractor awareness luncheon May 10, 2019 in Kannapolis being hosted by the Cabarrus, Rowan, Stanly Counties UCC. Leo said he is noticing some excavator confusion in ticket due dates and times. Some don't seem to understand the ticket is not good until the actual time on the ticket, they see a date only. Ralph Murphy with ONWASA said members of the Jones, Onslow Counties UCC are having issues with a sign company not "white lining" their work. They are also having issues with getting tickets and updates from companies who have yet to be awarded a contract. Ralph asked the room if Century Link was getting a new contract locator and Robert Yu with USIC confirmed they were. He said the transition would be statewide

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chuck Austin. It was seconded by Pamela Hoyle and meeting was adjourned @ 12:25 PM.

## **Special Thanks to Dominion Energy for Hosting**

**Next Meeting – May 2, 2019**

**NC/SC Joint UCC Conference**

**Sheraton Convention Center, Myrtle Beach, SC**

