



North Carolina Utilities Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 13th, 2016 at 10:00AM

Dominion Power

200 Veeco St.

Roanoke Rapids, NC

Called to Order & Welcomed Guest

- Tim Yarbrow called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.
- Tim Kesler of Dominion Power went over housekeeping, and emergency evacuations.
- Approval of agenda for September meeting: a motion was made to accept by Teresa VonCannon, and was seconded by Kevin Johnson, and all approved.
- The safety share was presented by Kevin Johnson, (PSNC.) He shared on the importance of watching out for school children, and being aware of our surroundings while driving. Kevin also stated it is a good practice to do a “360 degree” walk around prior to entering vehicles. Louis Panzer, (NC 811) shared operating experience from a situation near Greensboro NC. Chuck Austin, (Williams Pipeline) shared that Williams has made it their company policy to “pull through” a parking space, or to “back in” to a parking space as this makes it easier to depart from a parking space, and gives you a better view of what is ahead of you.

Introductions

- Tim Yarbrow started self-introductions, and invited attendees to do the same.

Old Business

- A motion was made by Kevin Johnson, and was seconded by Sandra Johnson to accept the July minutes, all approved.

Officer's Reports

- **Chair** — Tim Yarbrow reminded everyone that the registration is now open for the CGA Conference coming up March 14th - 16th, 2017 to take place in Orlando Florida.
- **Co-Chair** — None
- **Treasurer's** — Sandra Johnson provided us with the available balance in our account which is \$9216.39. We have no outstanding invoices at this time. We are also keeping \$100.00

in the Pay Pal account to be able to have the account remain open. Teresa VonCannon announced that David Jackson would be retiring, and we would need to check on our procedures to be able to put someone new in our PayPal administrator slot. There was a vote held for Kevin Johnson who volunteered to accept the position of PayPal administrator in which Louis Panzer made the motion to approve, and Ann Rushing seconded the motion, as all approved.

- **Secretary** — Chase Gibson wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone for allowing him the opportunity to serve as secretary. He wanted to make known that even though he is young, he still cares a great deal about damage prevention and reminded everyone in the room that damage prevention starts with us. It is up to us how we convey our message, and only will be able to get our message out by inviting people to our County, and State UCC meeting. Chase hopes that through his involvement he can reach the younger generation of people coming into the construction field.

New Business

- 2017 State UCC meeting locations review – we discussed the possible change in locations due to attendance. The Locations discussed, and proposals were as followed:
 - **January** – Greensboro
 - **March** – Raleigh
 - **May** – NC/SC UCC joint conference. South Carolina will be hosting the 2017 conference. We will provide more details as they become available.
 - **July** – Hickory/Ashville
 - **September** – Charlotte/Concord area. PSNC to host if held in Concord.
 - **November** – Wilmington/Roanoke Rapids
- **A motion was made by Tim Yarbrow and was seconded by Louis Panzer in favor of changing the meeting locations in September and November as all approved.**
- **NCUCC Website Update** - NC 811 is doing a great job of keeping our NCUCC website up to date. Currently they are working on updating new officers and working on a photo gallery. They are working on updating drop boxes for local UCC issues, as well as calendar info. They are in the process of getting pictures of each local UCC chairperson to be able to put faces with a name on the website. Their goal is to have the update completed by the 75th anniversary.
- **CGA Best Practices Discussion** –We are in the process of having someone come in, and present an updated best practice at each meeting.

Open Discussion

- **2018 NC/SC UCC Joint Conference** – We are looking at having the previous location (2016 NC/SC UCC location) to negotiate a contract just in case we plan to hold it back there. Also suggestions were brought up to have the scenery changed to Asheville either at the Grove Park Inn, the Crown Plaza, or somewhere near the Biltmore House, and include a tour. Also the suggestion was brought up to have the conference at the Cherokee Casino. Wherever we go, golfing is a must!
- **NC DOT Discussion** - We would like to see more of NC DOT at our local UCC's, as well as the State UCC. We want to work on our relationship with them and hopefully have greater representation from them in the future.
- **Mass Ticket Recall Discussion** – One of the biggest problems that was discussed at our meeting was the numerous amounts of mass ticket recalls on non-large scale projects. This includes the large amount of tickets that are being called in where no work is being done, and the tickets keep getting updated.
 - Louis Panzer (NC 811) addressed the situation and said that NC 811 unfortunately does not get any information when a project is complete. A lot of the problems we experience relate to work practices including poor planning and poor communication.
 - Mark Worth (PSNC) added a lot of the concerns could be resolved with stricter monitoring of contractors. If we stay on top of our contractors and monitor their progress as work is completed it would cut out the unnecessary updates.
 - Kevin Johnson (PSNC) suggested people bring this up at local UCC's and having a representative from that UCC give a courtesy call to the companies having issues to resolve the conflict.
 - Ann Rushing (NC 811) commented on the fact that in Mecklenburg County they have created a Locate Resolution Partnership to deal with a lot of these concerns. They are actively searching on ways to resolve this issue without having to make any legislative changes.
 - William Pittman (City of Rocky Mount) added one of the biggest problems they tend to face is that these updates can become very costly and become very problematic for small government utilities.
- **Emergency Locate Discussion** – An emergency locate according to NC 811 is activated when the caller states they have an emergency. The Customer Service Representative will not ask if the locate is an emergency and cannot determine whether a true emergency exists. The caller must use the word “emergency” when requesting an emergency locate. Callers should not request an emergency just

because a job is behind schedule or someone forgot to call it in. Emergency locates are accepted 24 hours a day 7 days a week. An emergency is defined as an event involving a clear and imminent danger to life, health, or property, the interruption of essential utility services, or the blockage of transportation facilities, including highways, railways, waterways, or airways that require immediate action. § 87-125. Notice in case of emergency excavation or demolition:

- (a) An excavator performing an emergency excavation or demolition is not required to give notice to the Notification Center as provided in G.S. 87-122. However, the excavator shall, as soon as practicable, give oral notice to the Notification Center which shall include a description of the circumstances justifying the emergency. The excavator may request emergency assistance from each affected operator in locating and providing immediate protection to the facilities in the affected area.
- (b) The declaration of an emergency excavation or demolition shall not relieve any party of liability for causing damage to an operator's facilities even if those facilities are unmarked.
- (c) Any person who falsely claims that an emergency exists requiring an excavation or demolition shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. (2013-407, s. 2.)

- William Pittman (City of Rocky Mount) said they experience companies calling in emergency locates on Friday afternoon, and not actually doing work until the following Monday morning.
- Louis Panzer (NC 811) said NC 811 will always allow emergency locates and have no control over if someone has a true emergency locate.
- Robert Yu (USIC) added in dealing with emergency locates one of the biggest flaws is not having clear communication of the spot in which the emergency locate is actually needed. White lines go a long way!
- Billy Rice (PSNC) advised on true emergencies dealing with Natural Gas it usually takes them roughly 30 minutes to get to the scene, and every minute counts when dealing with a natural gas emergency. Billy read an excerpt from the 811 excavation guide dealing with emergency locates.

Reports

- **NCDOT** - None.
- **NC811/One Call** – Ann Rushing provided us with a presentation. She recognized Level 3 of the Carolinas as safe digging partner. She added that NC 811 is providing Pipes Plus Training. If companies are interested, please contact NC 811. Locate tickets are at a 38% increase from this time last year. 811 is also in the process of doing an election day campaign providing awareness of companies doing work around polling places during the weeks leading up to the election.
- **NCCGARP** - None.
- **CGA** - None.
- **State Regulators** - None.

- **Electric/Power Companies** – No new reports.
- **Engineering/Design** - None.
- **Equipment Manufactures** - None.
- **Excavators/Contractors** – No new reports.
- **Insurance** – None.
- **Locator/Locate Companies** – Robert Yu (USIC) advised that they are busy, and to please be patient with USIC.
- **Gas Companies and Gas Pipelines** –
 - Billy Rice (PSNC) announced that PSNC will be starting up a transmission project involving 69 miles cross country from Grover NC to Mill spring NC.
 - Teresa VonCannon (Piedmont Natural GAS) added that their merger with Duke Energy should be completed by the end of this year.
- **Oil & Oil Pipelines** – None.
- **Private Water** – None.
- **Public Works** – None
- **Railroads** – None.
- **Road Builders** – None.
- **Telecommunications & CABLE TV Companies** – Bruce Sheldon announced that Time Warner Cable has been bought out by Charter. He advised that Charter’s goal is to create better relationships with communities going forward; however as of now, they are taking baby steps with the merger.
- **At Large (Emergency Services)** – None.
- **Local UCC Reports** – Jones/Onslow UCC is having their contractor awareness breakfast on October 20th. They usually have a crowd of over 200.

Next Meeting – November 8th, 2016, at Piedmont Natural Gas 1069 Wilkes Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28306.

Special thanks to Dominion Power for hosting.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Piedmont Natural Gas in October. Please drive and work safely and bring someone with you to our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:29 PM

Minutes submitted by: **Chase Gibson**