

FLORIDA UTILITIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MIAMI, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 11, 1944

The regular quarterly meeting of the Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee was held at the Royal Center in Miami, Florida, February 11, 1944.

Those present were:

B. N. Darlington	H. B. Reeder
R. S. Davis	D. F. Rosselle
T. G. Howe	L. C. Stahler
Al Galloway	J. S. Stone
W. F. Girtman	H. V. Street
R. A. Goodburn	C. H. Summers
R. E. Graham	F. E. Treet
Williams F. Jacobs	Stanley Warth
E. F. Johnson	J. M. Wasson
D. G. McConnell	K. H. Williams
W. H. Prime	

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 A.M.. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and approved without correction.

BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Due to the absence of Mr. Wilkerson the topic regarding overhead wire crossings over steam railroad tracks in the close vicinity of trestles or pile structures was not discussed. The Committee felt that Mr. Wilkerson would probably have something to say in regard to this for the meeting in May.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing directly under the head of new business was brought up, however, along this line some of the members spoke of keeping in close touch with the State Highway Department's program of post war highway planning in order that power and telephone companies could better plan their future distribution and construction.

Mr. Warth brought out the point that problems between the various utilities settled without assistance from the Committee as a whole should be brought up for discussion. It was his thought that it indicated the fine "background" work done by the four annual "get-togethers" of its members.

DISCUSSION:

In the general discussion there was brought out the necessity for keeping up the attendance to the Committee meetings. Several plans were discussed to keep "alive" the membership rostrum. Mr. Street thought a telephone call to some of those who have not attended for some time might help get them out. Some sort of personal contact, it was thought, would probably do the trick. Mr. Davis suggested that a card be sent out to members about a week before meeting

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time as a reminder of date, place, and time of meeting. No direct action was taken on this suggestion, but it was more or less broadly hinted to the secretary that this should be done.

Mr. Warth pointed out that REA representation at the past few meetings was conspicuously absent. He stated that REA has four meetings per year and it might be arranged to have one of our meetings each year, either jointly with them or at least at the same place and day as theirs, and arrange the hour so that some of them could attend our meeting. Thereby relieving the transportation problem, helping the War effort, and gaining mutual benefit therefrom.

Mr. Wasson suggested that the secretary get in touch with Mr. C. H. Bently, secretary of REA, and try to arrange to meet with them at our meeting in August.

Summing it all up, to some of you fellows who were absent from the Miami meeting and have not been too regular at other meetings, we need your attendance. We want to hear your voice in the discussion and we would like to have the body present; it will fill a chair that would otherwise be vacant.

Mr. Warth gave a very interesting side-light by telling the members of a 30,000 KW generating plant complete with transformer bank mounted on a barge which could be towed from place to place. The Gulf Power Company had been given permission by the Power Commission to rent this equipment from the Navy to meet load condition in their system, and had been using it since January 15th. Connection to shore was made by 3000 ft. overhead line.

Mr. Warth said that wave shape tests of system before and after putting the floating power plant into operation showed marked improvement with it on the line.

Mr. William Jacobs, of the Florida Forest and Park Service, gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on woods, preservations, and plastics. He pointed out the part these materials play in our present war efforts, and the even greater part they will take in the future. He certainly opened the eyes of the members to the necessity of taking care of our greatest natural resources, Florida's forests. Mr. Jacobs stated that fires each year were robbing the State of many thousands of dollars not only by burning the already mature trees, but also by killing the saplings that must grow to keep our forests replenished. Mr. Jacobs stated that a process for making alcohol commercially from sawdust at a lower cost than could be done with grain, had been found. This, he pointed out, would greatly facilitate the production of synthetic rubber and explosives.

Chairman Davis voted immediately to call out the militia to surround every abandoned sawdust pile between Miami and Sarasota, so that he on his trip home might, for purely scientific reasons, jot down in his little black book the number of gallons of alcohol to the bushel produced by the Florida variety of "Pinus Palustris". The Committee is looking forward to a report of his findings.

CORRESPONDANCE:

No notice of intent to construct was received by the secretary during the past quarter.

Mr. Warth suggested that the next quarterly meeting be held at St. Petersburg on Friday, May 12, 1944 at a place to be designated in the next meeting notices. As there was not a single discending vote cast by an Florida Power Corporation member present the committee accepted his suggestion most heartily. So pack your bathing suit and fishing rod and cōme a day early to enjoy the sunshine, sparkle, and exuberance of St. Petersburg's hospitality.

Chairman Davis expressed the thanks of the Committee to Mr. E. F. Johnson, and others responsible for the fine arrangements made for the meeting and delicious dinner served to the members.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

B. N. Darlington  
Secretary

BND/mc

March 20, 1944  
Tampa, Florida