

FLORIDA UTILITIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
MAY 12, 1944

The regular quarterly meeting of the Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee was held at the Suwannee at St. Petersburg, Florida, May 12, 1944.

Those present were:

Ray L. Attkinson	C. B. McCartney
Ben Darlington	E. M. Menendez
R. S. Davis	J. M. Dalla Valle
D. Galaher	Wayne Warfield
I. F. Garcia	Stanley Warth
Bill Girtman	B. E. Wilkerson
D. B. Hyer, Jr.	P. H. Wright
Wilkins Linhart	

The meeting was called to order promptly at 10:30 A.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and stood to be corrected in one small but important detail, to wit: "Mr. Warth, in referring to floating power plant connected to Gulf Power Company system at Pensacola", that the wave shape tests of the system before and after putting the plant into operation showed marked improvement with it on the line," most emphatically should have been quoted as being "no poorer and probably some better." For this mis-quotation, Mr. Davis blamed the busy metropolis of Miami whose trolley wheels, judging from the noise, are apparently square, or to the layman, flat on four sides.

OLD BUSINESS:

A letter from Mr. W. D. Faucette, Chief Engineer of Seaboard Airline Railway Company, titled "Circular No. 797 - Wire line crossings at bridges and trestles," and directed to all superintendents and division engineers of that company, as follows:

"Generally speaking, to prevent interference with pile driver, etc., operations, future overhead wire line crossings should not be permitted within one thousand (1,000) feet of a bridge or trestle. There may be instances where the condition should cause undue hardship on the applicant. In such instances, upon receipt of a statement of the facts, consideration will be given to waiving the requirement. Please give this careful consideration."

This subject has been before the Committee since the May 14, 1943 meeting at which time Mr. Wilkerson volunteered to check with other railway companies as to their requirements and report a subsequent meeting. Because of the manpower situation then and now, they have been unable to confer among themselves and get out some uniform specifications. This expression of policy from the Seaboard seemed to be reasonable and acceptable to the Committee at this time. Mr. Wilkerson said that the boom of a Piledriver was about 44 feet, and for safe working conditions a crossing of 50 feet clearance seemed to be indicated, however, in case of extreme emergencies clearances of less may be permitted, providing they are subject to early change to conform with required specifications.

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CORRESPONDANCE:

A communication from Mr. A. G. Loudin, Superintendent of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc., to the Secretary in which he expressed a desire to time their superintendent meetings with those of the Committee whenever possible and his willingness to cooperate with Mr. Warth, was read and placed on file.

Two letters from Mr. Linhart to Mr. CcCartney indicating proposed construction, as follows:

"Between Coleman and Beville's Corner on State Road #2, and from junction of roads #23 and #210 between Trilby and Laccochee."

A letter to Mr. H. R. Turner from Mr. E. F. Johnson indicating construction on State Road #4 between Port Orange and New Smyrna, was also read and placed on file.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. McCartney asked if in all instances of new construction should notices be given. On new right-of-way is other permission than State Road Department required.

Mr. Warth said that copies of letters were usually sent the Secretary of the Coordinating Committee so that at all times the Committee may be in a position to lend assistance when actual conflict seems to be imminent. It has been brought out from time to time that full notice should be given by all parties and to the State Highway Department.

Mr. Menendez asserted that such notices help all coordinating companies, and keep the record straight. They are more or less a courtesy to other utilities.

Mr. Girtman stated that communication companies have statutory rights on state thoroughfares, not enjoyed by electric supply or other utilities.

Mr. McCartney asked Mr. Linhart if his company had experienced any difficulties due to fault currents on the Ocala-Leesburg route. He added that new construction and new suspension insulators were being used to replace the old pin type insulators as fast as possible. Mr. Linhart reported no trouble.

Mr. Menendez reported that his company is using, in unattended dial offices, fault current short circuit relays to good advantage. Cost of relay approximately \$17.50 per pair.

The secretary passed around tables and life curves of Mississippi State Highway Test Gardens 10-year study of timber preservatives. All members present were interested in these reports and were anxious to obtain copies. The secretary will request the Mississippi folks to mail copies direct.

Mr. McCartney stated that the Florida Power Corporation and Florida Public Service Company had been merged as of January 1, 1944 into the firm name of Florida Power Corporation with general offices at St. Petersburg.

Mr. Wilkerson reported that effective July 1, 1944 the Seaboard Railway Company would change the boundary lines of its North Florida and South Florida divisions. The South Florida Division will be included by Waldo, Bushnell, Lake Wales (West Lake Wales not included), Ft. Myers and Punta Gorda. All notices of intent to construct in this division shall be sent to Mr. Sauls, Seaboard Railway Company, Tampa, Florida. All construction notices outside of this division shall be sent to Mr. Hurley at Jacksonville, Florida.

Mr. Atkinson stated that his office communications department of Florida Forest and Park Service had been requested to prepare a handbook for the general use of fire wardens, watchers, and other personnel. He asked for written suggestions from the Committee members as parts that might be beneficial to each utility in the elimination of conflicts of structures and other mutual problems encountered in the field. His address is: Box 243, Lake City, Florida.

Mr. McCartney suggested that preliminary drafts be sent around to the members for their comments and suggestions, this seemed not to be practical due to the deadline being June 15, 1944.

Mr. Davis suggested that the initial printing be made "preliminary only" in order to permit easy and frequent revisions.

Mr. Atkinson said he would like the Committee members to give thought to a postwar proposition, wherein the Forest and Park Service would rent or lease certain carrier current channels of utility companies for servicing their observation towers. The service now has 200 such towers and they will increase to 300 or more after the war, these together with isolated ranger houses, will increase their mileage of communication lines greatly. He emphasized that the matter would involve considerable study and cost research before definite steps could be made, but urged that it be given some thought during the present time.

Mr. Davis asked if it would not involve a lot of expensive equipment to couple across power substations and to high voltage transmission lines, it was pointed out that possibly the transmission lines would not be limited to a maximum of 60 or 75 miles of distribution circuits in an area.

Mr. McCartney said at the present the prospects for the joint use of utility distribution lines did not appear to be too discouraging, however, the problem was certainly a new one, and would require considerable investigation as to its possible feasibility as regards to feeder circuit relay and fuse coordination problems now currently one of the larger headaches enjoyed by Distribution Department's 4F's.

Mr. Dalla Valle (a guest of Ray Atkinson) brought to the Committee some interesting facts on his research in the study of small particles; as he put it, still using his words, scientifically his work is called micromeritics. He pointed out that the analyzation of soil by this method may give some light on the flow of ground circuits, highline capacity troubles and difficulties. This latter pertains to dust deposits on insulator surfaces. He added that the trend of production in some products was to get away from synthetic methods, and produce from natural sources. For instance, glycol, he said may now be made from palmettoes. The state of Florida was, in his opinion, stratigically located from a manufacturing standpoint for some of the newer processing methods.

MEETING PLACE - DATE:

Mr. Warth kindly invited the Committee to his Jacksonville hidout for the next quarterly meeting. The date is to be determined later, and given full publicity and details in the regular quarterly meeting notices sent out by the Secretary.

Mr. Davis wanted to recall to one Mr. Warfield and two Mr. McCartneys, some caustic criticisms regarding power failures in Miami during Florida Engineering Society meeting, and in rebuttal he produced two partly consumed common wax candles, alleged to be standard equipment in St. Petersburg and Tampa Hotels.

There being no further repartee, the meeting was adjourned, after which we were served with resplendent array at St. Petersburg's famous yacht club.

Respectfully submitted,

B. N. Darlington

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Secretary

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