

MINUTES OF MEETING
 THE FLORIDA UTILITIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
 Friday, May 12, 1950

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m., by Chairman Arthur Brown, Jr. Mr. Brown explained that Secretary Sam Williams was transferred to Miami from Daytona Beach and due to this fact would be unable to attend to secretary's duties in the future. He further explained that Ray Atkinson had volunteered to serve as Acting Secretary until the quarterly meeting to be held in August, at which time a new secretary would be elected along with regular election of all other officers. Mr. Darlington commented that he was elected secretary abruptly at one time and thought it would be well to continue the former procedure for elections and appointments, with which all members were in general agreement.

The group were requested to stand and announce their names and affiliations in order that each would know the other. The list of those attending follows:

B. N. Darlington	Peninsula Telephone Co.	Tampa
H. L. McKinnon	St. Joseph Tel. & Tel. Co.	Port St. Joe
S. R. Ryan	Fla. RR & Pub. Util. Comm.	Tallahassee
Ralph W. Smith	REA Box Z 15	Thomasville, Ga.
Stanley Warth	Sou. Bell Tel. & Tel. Co.	Jacksonville
A. G. Loudon	Clay Elec. Coop., Inc.	Keystone Heights
Walter M. King	" " " "	" "
Thomas A. Pruitt	Choctawhatchee Elec. Coop., Inc.	DeFuniak Springs
William A. Kratzert	State Road Department	Tallahassee
Lloyd Brinks	Escambia River Elec. Coop.	Jay
Leon E. Weaver	Talquin Elec. Coop., Inc.	Quincy
L. F. Jones	REA	Jacksonville
E. M. Menendez	Southeastern Tel. Co.	Tallahassee

Van H. Ferguson	R/W Div., State Road Department	Tallahassee
Arthur M. Brown, Jr.	Fla. Tel. Corp.	Ocala
Ray L. Atkinson	Florida Forest Service	Tallahassee
H. K. McKeen	Florida Power Corp.	St. Petersburg

The Acting Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting of February 10, 1950. The minutes were approved by the group.

Chairman Brown stated that Mr. Todd attended the last meeting, adding a lot to suggestions about a special program to be used at each utilities meeting, for the purpose of bringing to the attention of the committee certain information which would be of value to them on special subjects or arrangements affecting utilities throughout the State. Mr. Ryan of the Florida Railroad Commission accordingly volunteered to give the principal talk before the committee today on the subject of the recently published telephone map.

Mr. Ryan began his talk by showing how situations develop where problems arise for telephone service to the public in various parts of the State. This problem of furnishing telephone service and determining which company is responsible for giving such telephone service became Mr. Ryan's project, and he assumed the duties of working on the problem beginning July, 1948. The Florida Railroad Commission held a meeting on October 4, 1948, at which time the subject of a proposed map of the State was discussed, showing the operating territory of each telephone company. As a result of this meeting, the telephone companies agreed to prepare and submit maps of their facilities to the Florida Railroad Commission. These maps were submitted in due time. The areas served by operating companies and prospective service areas were indicated in the proper proportions on a master map. The master map was completed and all companies participating in this coordinating work received copies. There is no unclaimed territory.

Mr. Ryan reported that it was rather difficult to determine division lines between companies, but that the companies had cooperated to such an extent that the division line problem had materialized in a satisfactory manner. All questions in

connection with the compilation of the map have been cleared up. Mr. Ryan displayed the map with the division boundary lines between every telephone company shown in colors. Operating companies participating in this work had submitted certified maps of their operating territories, which helped in the compilation.

The final map was finished on December 31, 1949; the maps were distributed to the operating companies five weeks ago. All operating companies are now designated on the map by number.

It was interesting to know that, of the 27 companies involved in this project, 21 are incorporated in the State of Florida. Three companies are incorporated in states other than Florida. One railroad company is operating a telephone system. One company operates on a strictly toll basis only. One telephone cooperative, not under the jurisdiction of the Florida Railroad Commission, operates at Cherry Lake, Florida.

Chairman Brown called for questions in connection with Mr. Ryan's talk.

Mr. Ralph Smith asked Mr. Ryan what has been the basis of division between company areas, is it a physical line such as the Georgia-Florida boundary?

Mr. Ryan answered by saying that the boundary was a state line, a corporation line, a lake or a river, township or county lines, also section lines.

Mr. Smith asked if trouble had arisen where section line occurred on a road or highway.

Mr. Ryan said that no trouble was encountered where the section lines happened to occur on road right-of-ways since the boundaries were usually county lines and natural markings such as lakes, rivers, etc.

Mr. Smith offered the information that some conflict arises in REA cases due to the boundary line aspects; however, it was concluded by Mr. Ryan and Mr. Smith that in the majority of cases, boundaries are congenially arranged whereby conflict is avoided before construction begins.

Mr. Warth said he believed it was a very good idea to arrange well-defined boundaries, based upon the experience of Southern Bell Company in matters where conflict could have been a very definite disadvantage to future plans and construction.

As the discussion of Mr. Ryan's talk was concluded, Chairman Brown requested that a topic be selected and discussed at each future meeting. This was generally agreeable to all members of the group. The program committee would take care of the necessary details in connection with the presentation of the topic.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pruitt of REA asked Mr. Atkinson what procedure would be necessary to apply for a right-of-way permit to build a power line through Blackwater River State Forest in western Florida. Mr. Atkinson advised Mr. Pruitt to submit his application directly to the Tallahassee office of the Florida Forest Service, Box 1200, to the attention of the Communications Engineer, and it would be properly routed for further action.

Atkinson also explained that the Blackwater River State Forest was a State-operated forest in connection with the Soil Conservation Service and that applications submitted to construct facilities on this particular forest would have to have joint approval of the SCS and the Florida Forest Service; however, in most every case in the State, applications for right-of-ways would be handled by the Tallahassee office.

Mr. Menendez of the Southeastern Telephone Company at Tallahassee requested a discussion about the construction program of the State Road Department with regard to giving notice to utilities companies where modification of highways and like matters drastically affected the operation of communications circuits in the event that contractors doing State Road Department work begin work along communications facilities without previous notice to the utilities concerned. Mr. Menendez felt that notifications of State Road Department proposed projects were either not complete or were not submitted in time to avoid difficulty. The aspects of this condition make it especially difficult for operating companies to find new construction money and prepare new work schedules to meet the immediate needs of modifying line

facilities while the State Road Department contracting crews are already tearing up roads and requesting utilities to move their pole facilities to new locations along such roads. Mr. Menendez inquired of Mr. Kratzert if it were possible to have utilities men meet with the State Road Department officials when projects are proposed and go over the proposals to the satisfaction of both parties. He inquired further if it might be possible to arrange a special meeting with the State Road Department officials in the near future to arrange for better liaison in such matters.

Mr. Kratzert desired to explain to the group some of the various factors which enter into the construction program.

The State Road Department recognizes that this condition is a trying one to all concerned, but the Department is making an effort to accomplish better coordination with the utilities. He suggested that better coordination might be had at once if operating companies would try working through the State Road Department Division Engineer level, rather than to correspond directly with the State office. In the older files, it is very difficult to find existing work plans and other pertinent data showing types and location of existing cables and facilities. Additionally, some of the old county roads where wire facilities presently parallel for many miles are now designated State roads. Mr. Kratzert went on to say that he was only responsible for new applications and emphasized that more attention must be paid to the application content and the manner of filing applications. An application, to be complete, should always show a detail cross-section and a center-line drawing. These drawings enable the Department to determine very quickly the aspects of the proposed construction.

Chairman Brown called for questions pertaining to Mr. Kratzert's statement, in which everyone was very much interested.

Ben Darlington stated that very good results had been obtained where previous coordination is in effect with the Division Engineer. He said that this is

especially true in the Tampa area. Mr. Kratzert went on to say that in many cases it is not advisable or to the utilities' benefit to apply for a right-of-way at maximum distances from the center line of the road, and oftentimes applications for telephone line right-of-way contain no explanation as to why close-in construction is justified. Darlington inquired about the possible trend of laying cable behind right-of-way pole lines. Mr. Kratzert answered that he did not think any definite policy could be formulated on matters such as this, since there are many instances where the cable is placed too close to the edge of the road. Also, there is a matter of manholes causing the pavement to sag and poles cause shoulder damage. The Highway Department does not know what to do after the utilities contractor leaves the job. Difficulties due to construction of pole facilities often appear one year after utilities have completed construction. Mr. Kratzert felt that utilities do not sufficiently instruct contractors to use better construction, thus preventing future pavement failure.

Arthur Brown, having the following points in mind, asked Mr. Kratzert if it would be possible to have copies of the budget whereby contractors are awarded projects:

- (1) To furnish with each company their budget list,
- (2) Placing the utilities on the mailing list, and
- (3) Notification by State Road Department contractors when construction is proposed to begin.

Mr. Loudon of Keystone Heights REA stated that Division Engineer Slade, whose office is in Lake City, has given very excellent cooperation in all REA proposed construction projects for that division. Mr. Loudon cited a proposition where his men were staking out a line and, after having completed the staking, received notice to move the poles for a new highway project. He pointed out that Commissioners cannot find the money for relocation projects immediately and this causes delay. In one instance, a line was built 15 feet back of the highway right-of-way and

after completion, a notice was received to move the line due to newly proposed highway construction.

Mr. Kratzert informed the group that the Legislature created a 7% fund to reimburse for a construction loss due to new road construction.

Ralph Smith suggested to contact the Division Engineers and work out all new telephone line and power line construction, as a probable answer to the problem. Mr. Ryan said that the Division Engineer should compile a list of utilities and since there are 5 districts, this list would be very helpful.

Mr. Kratzert pointed out that he felt that this committee should compile a list, since addresses and corporation names would be more readily available for compilation.

Mr. Smith informed Mr. Kratzert that a list of all REA cooperatives in this area will be furnished from his Thomasville office.

There followed a discussion in the matter of obtaining the list and how it should be handled, distributed and used, with the result that there were so many ramifications that a motion was introduced by Ralph Smith, seconded by Pat Loudon, requesting that Mr. Kratzert furnish this committee with necessary maps, that a subcommittee be appointed and would function to break down the maps with proper information, thus compiling a list of each utility located within each State Road Department division. This motion was passed and Chairman Brown then appointed a "Committee for Coordination with the State Road Department."

Ben Darlington of the Peninsula Telephone Company was named chairman of the committee, representing Telephone; V. R. Parrack, Florida Power Corporation, representing Power; and Ralph Smith, REA; and C. Washburn, Jacksonville, Municipal Power.

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N O T E

Due to the untimely death of our well-liked ex-chairman, Mr. V. R. Parrack, his name as a representative on the committee has been deleted, and Mr. R. S. Davis has accepted the appointment to represent the power companies.

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A general discussion ensued relative to the proper time that this newly-appointed subcommittee could make available a final report. Atkinson inquired of Mr. Kratzert if it was possible that new construction during the interim period might be handled by the Road Department through a member of this committee. Mr. Kratzert did not believe that this could be handled very satisfactorily but suggested that we hire a utilities coordinator who might contact various Division Engineers during the interim period.

Stanley Warth explained that this committee has functioned in a limited sense as a utilities coordinating committee with various members making contacts with State Road Department officials in many cases. The utilities committee has accomplished a great deal of good over a period of years. He also suggested that the appointed committee go forward with its work and make recommendations for presentation at the next meeting, at which time the work accomplished would be open for general discussion.

Mr. Darlington stated that when the maps have been received from the State Road Department, he will submit copies to each member of his committee with a request that they complete the information covering their area.

At this point, Mr. Ryan submitted a new copy of the Florida Railroad Commission telephone area map. Mr. Darlington felt that a committee progress report should be prepared and distributed at intervals during the life of the subcommittee for coordination with the State Road Department.

Mr. McKinnon of the St. Joe Telephone Company questioned the group on right-of-way arrangements where utilities have not coordinated line construction, resulting in power lines and telephone lines being built on the same side of the road or

crisscrossing the road in many cases. A general discussion on the multi-crossing of roads ensued, and it was pointed out by many of the group that this has been one of the difficult problems which this utilities committee is greatly concerned with and hope to be able to show progressively better coordination in the years to come.

Mr. Ryan suggested that the meeting notices be sent earlier. This met with general approval.

The next meeting place was then discussed and Stanley Warth extended an invitation to the committee to meet at Jacksonville as guests of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. Ben Darlington made a motion to accept Mr. Warth's invitation to meet in Jacksonville. This motion was acceptable to all of the group, and a tentative date was set for August 11, 1950, the headquarters hotel to be announced at a later date.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that notices of intention to construct be carried over and read at the next meeting. Mr. Parrack conveyed regrets that he was unable to attend through Mr. Darlington. Mr. McGee of Marianna sent his regrets that he was unable to attend this meeting due to illness in the family.

The group adjourned for luncheon at the Hotel Floridan as guests of the Southeastern Telephone Company. Mr. Menendez introduced Mr. Duckett, the Florida manager for Southeastern Telephone Company, Tallahassee office. The luncheon was delicious, and there was ample time for everyone to talk over a few matters, here and there.