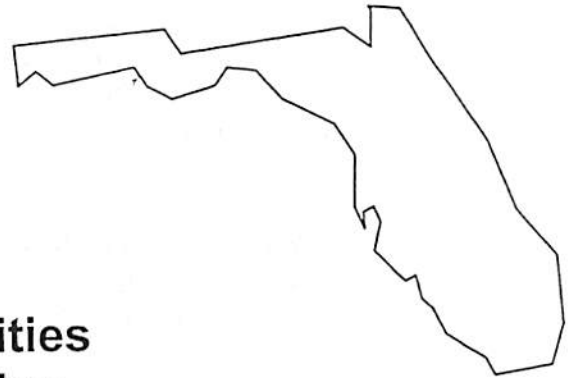


Established 1932



Coordination Through  
Cooperation



## Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee

See the latest FDOT/Utility  
issues on our web site  
<http://www.fucc.org>

### MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 1998

Plantation, Florida

**Chairman**  
David E. Pellico  
561-838-1752

**Vice Chairman**  
John Jernigan  
813-664-6161

**Secretary**  
William Hetherington  
941-656-2157

**Historian**  
Tom Duggar  
904-599-1543

Jerrold Whitt gave the opening invocation and tribute to the flag. David E. Pellico called the Spring Meeting of the Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. with 77 representatives/members in attendance.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT – Bill Hetherington**

A motion was made by Jerrold Whitt, seconded, and passed by a majority vote to waive the reading of the minutes of the Winter Meeting held in Orlando/Kissimmee on February 6, 1998.

#### **HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Tom Duggar**

**Fifty Years Ago – May 14, 1948 – Osceola Hotel, Daytona Beach, FL**

Chairman – E. M. Menendez, Southeastern Telephone Company

Vice-Chairman – B. B. Galloway, Winter Park Telephone Company

Secretary – V. R. Parrack, Florida Power Corporation.

Attendance – Telephone 8, Power 8, Railroad 2. Total of 18.

Mr. Parrack referred to the origin of a stipulation of 14½ feet for clearance of traffic signs over the highway as made by the American Association of State Highway officials and inquired if anyone in this group was familiar with this association and how it tied in with the

code which otherwise established clearances of this type. No one present was familiar with the status of the American Association of State Highway officials and it was suggested that this might also be the source of the requirement of 20 feet for clearance of service over highways reported to be advocated by the State Road Department. It was suggested to get more information on the status of the American Association of State Highway officials.

The question of requirements established for moving houses along streets was discussed next. It was pointed out that in some cases the State Patrol requires the applicant to have the telephone company sign permits before allowing house moving to be undertaken. In another case, the city required 48 hours' notice to be given to the power company during which time the power company makes an estimate of the cost and requires the customer to pay accordingly. This practice is evidently not uniform throughout the state.

Mr. Wilkerson, with the SAL Railroad, referred to a previous discussion expressing concern about salamanders chewing insulation from cable. Some of the telephone companies in Florida have experienced this in the last year also, and they went to coaxial cable to correct this problem. At the meeting in 1948 some discussion on the subject followed in which they pointed out there were certain things that could be mixed in the insulation which would discourage the attachment of salamanders, etc.

Mr. Galloway with Winter Park Telephone Company described a type of cleaning cream which could be spread on hands and removed with tissue, thus cleaning hands of creosote, grease, etc. Now we know this as waterless hand cleaner.

A series of colored slides were shown by AT&T of Jacksonville, depicting various stages in the construction of the coaxial cable from Jacksonville to Orlando.

**Twenty Five Years Ago – May 4, 1973 – Martine's Restaurant, Sarasota, FL**  
Chairman – Larry Housel, J. E. Greiner Company  
Vice Chairman – W. J. Hopgood, Florida Power and Light Company  
Secretary – Andy Palmer, Southern Bell

The chairman read portions of proposed Federal Legislation (House Bill 2332) regarding the elimination of roadside obstacles and asked if the members felt this was a matter that warranted the establishment of a subcommittee. It was agreed that since this was Federal Legislation, it could best be handled by the individual utilities' representatives who deal with proposed Federal Legislation.

The chairman read a letter from the Florida Department of Transportation regarding the proposed requirement that all overhead utility crossings on limited access rights-of-way have identification placed near the fence within easy viewing of the roadway. Following discussion, a motion was passed that the chairman write the Florida Department of Transportation concurring in the recommendation and suggested that this requirement also apply to sub-surface plant and plant owned by the Florida Department of Transportation.

The chairman advised that various organizations in the country were adopting utility color coding which differ from those recommended by the Florida Utilities Coordinating Subcommittee. Vern Brown offered to investigate this matter.

A motion was made that a subcommittee be formed to study the problem of plant protection and encompass such subjects as the "miss dig" program, plant identification, color coding, etc.

A most interesting program on "sidewalk conduit" was presented by General Telephone Company.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Hamid Zahir**

The balance after the Winter Meeting is \$1,917.68

#### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE – Ken Weldon**

I hope you all picked up the handouts we had at the registration table. What you should have is a Status Report and on the back is a map showing the numbers you may call for the District Utilities and where the lines are. There is also a sheet describing some training that is available. The State Roadway Design Conference is coming up and you may sign up for that. There is also a fold-out sheet that describes the existing district utility permit decision making process. There have been many complaints that permits are not handled the same way in each district. We recognize that, and we are looking at standardizing that as much as possible. We developed this flow chart so you can see what the districts are considering when they route permits. There are reasons for the routing of the permit as to whether it goes to construction, maintenance, or the district utility. We hope this flow chart will help you to understand, and anytime you have a question as to where something is, you can actually place it and see where it fits into this overall picture. This is the first step to standardizing the actual permit routing process.

The first handout is Legislation. This handout slip was printed before I was informed that the Legislation regarding clearing and grubbing had failed this year. This is a disappointment but it is not a dead issue as our legal office is reviewing this to see what other options exist and we will let you know of the outcome.

Next, new specification language. We have drafted and submitted to our construction office new language that will be in all specs. This will accomplish two things. One, it will make it clear that relocation schedules are to be considered part of the actual construction package. And two, part of the language will ultimately say that the contractor is responsible for coordinating with the utility and the DOT project engineer bringing changes that would impact your relocation schedule so much that any uncoordinated changes will be at the sole cost and expense of the contractors. That will be quite a discouragement for him to go out and make changes. That is probably the second-most important thing you can have.

Utility Accommodation Manual and Permit Workshop will be held May 29 in Tampa at the DOT district office on McKinley, beginning at 1 p.m. This should be advertised through the Florida *Administrative Weekly*, and will provide instructions on how to obtain copies of documents you need.

The next issue is the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conflict manhole problem that has been an issue for some time. We feel this problem has been resolved. Some of the changes contain language which was requested by the DEP. DEP wants anyone designing or constructing domestic water supply systems to be aware that if a conflict manhole is required, then they are to be notified in the permit process when you submit it. You can no longer submit a permit ignoring conflict structures. If a conflict structure is built in the field and not shown on the plans, you are supposed to notify them by phone and also in writing. That prevents them from getting involved by requiring a completely new review process. We must include mention of this requirement in the pre-design and pre-construction meetings. DEP is going to do a quality control check.

On the Status Report itself, I would like to get some input back from you. Do you prefer to have it in this written format, or do you want to make any changes?

JPAs have been an ongoing issue with us. We have been exploring this through research, through surveys, and just asking questions among you. Now we have the Tampa Bay Engineering Group doing our JPA research and the final report is supposed to be completed next month. If you have not responded yet, you still have an opportunity to return your survey to Tampa Bay Engineering on this issue.

Directional boring training – We have been doing this for a year. Most of our training has been directed toward construction and maintenance. This year our first training session is in Chipley, Florida, and we have opened it up to interests beyond construction and maintenance to include City/County agencies. We have 80 people currently registered for that location. If you are interested in attending, contact my office.

We have two surveys and two research reports under way. A concern is how to distribute this information. One is on the new pole and post study. Are there some individuals who would like to review this?

I also have a survey that has been done on national utility problems. At this point we have 43 responses. We are going to try to compile and will let you know about common problems around the nation. It deals with issues of JPAs, use of the right-of-way, how you are formatting your plans, what works in your state. The idea behind this is to find out if there is something there we can use to improve the way we are dealing with the industry.

We are short one person in the office. We are looking for a person that can deal with utility issues, someone that can manage a web page, someone with database skills, some skills with Lotus, and WordPerfect. If you have an interest in this, we would encourage you to submit your resume.

I made an incorrect statement the other day when we were discussing the new additions to the manual. The incorrect statement I made was: "that you do not have to have a variance exception for existing facilities when they do not meet criteria." That was an error. I apologize for any inconvenience I caused. **You must submit a variation exception for deviations from criteria, even on existing facilities.** What we need to focus on here is the fact that the whole issue is safety and we are trying to improve our image and the degree of safety that we can give to the public. This is the only mechanism we really have of checks and balances to make sure that every engineer takes into consideration every safety aspect. There will be a lot of training on this provided to district designers, district maintenance people, construction, and to you. You will be surprised that the actual amount of work to do is not as vast as you envision. The files in my office are relatively small on current exceptions. Try not to be overly concerned about this issue and let's try to take a positive outlook and look at what potential benefits we are getting on both sides.

Again, I think we need to focus on the fact that the exception is not a document which impuned or identified liability. It is a device which ensures that appropriate issues are addressed—that's all it is. Somebody has to sign off and say yes, we considered what the impact is to the public, what the impact is to the utility. In the material supplied to you the other day, it does not say you will not allow a utility under these circumstances to do certain things. It actually is addressed more to the designer and says you **WILL** allow them to be there. It is not a limiting document, it is a proposal for what you can do.

With regard to exceptions – If we have a project that is relatively small, sometimes we will do an exception. If you are going to do a large project, you may be able to provide one exception document that will address "typical" repetitive scenarios. We can minimize the paperwork; we just want to make sure that the safety issues are addressed. When DOT project construction limits are small, you can obtain an exception under one utility project that may eliminate multiple submittals.

Training on exception/variation process will be customized for you. We will have utility people, maintenance people, and construction people all in the same room. I think it will be educational. We need to communicate more. You need to understand our business and we need to understand yours.

There are two training opportunities reflected in the handout. The first course deals with roadside issues, safety issues, what requirements the DOT has to follow to meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Official Guidelines. It covers a lot of safety issues, metric standards, and guardrails. See the handout for future training.

**GUEST SPEAKER – David Crum, Public Service Commission**

He is the Emergency Coordination Officer and will give us an overview of a recent incident in Kissimmee with a series of tornadoes.

David described the events leading up to that terrible night of February 23 when many tornadoes struck down in many counties. Damage was extensive in Winter Garden, Kissimmee,

Evita, and Daytona. There were unconfirmed deaths in Osceola County and Seminole County. There were many questions to be asked to get all details to pass on to the authorities to get aid. The National Guard, Red Cross, and Salvation Army want to know as much as possible to help with meals, blankets, and shelters in all counties.

The correct information has to be passed on to the Governor and also all the radio and national TV stations. It is important for us as State and outside sectors to work together. With this situation, the Governor signed an executive order by noon which opened up a lot of areas that gave DOT the ability to do things. This executive order gave the National Guard activation also. There was another incident with Peace River and a tornado that ripped down about 20 poles. DOT worked together with us with hazardous waste to clean this up. Three agencies worked together on this – State and outside sectors working together for the restoration of the community. The community has many complaints and with the web page, these people will be able to go right to the person in charge for an answer.

With Opal there was a four-lane highway completely wiped out. It was amazing we were able to remove all the permits, time delays, and work 28 straight working days to get that three-quarters of a mile done to help the community get back in shape. This is working together.

Chairman Pellico presented a speaker appreciation award.

**GUEST SPEAKER – Michael Hardin, Department of Emergency Management**

I would like to explain how Emergency Management relates to the utilities and the common issue which we all have is our customers. In Emergency Management we have had several thresholds that have changed what we do in society and government. In the late 70s we had significant flooding in Georgia and Three-Mile Island. In the 80s we had a problem in India which killed several thousands of people with a chemical release. In 1992, in Florida, a storm called Andrew had a lot of effects on our State. We are getting into a mitigation threshold where we can produce the effects of a disaster before it happens—a novel idea. The idea is to spend a little money to correct a situation so it won't cost a lot of money later. Now there is a new concept of not staying within the lines as we were taught in kindergarten, but to go out of the lines and take care of the customers and residents of the State. That is what Emergency Management is, including all of you.

During hurricane season which is almost here, the consequences are the same for all disasters. Whether it is a tornado, tropical event, hazardous material incident, or power loss, we are dealing with possible mass casualties, evacuation, and damage assessment.

We group the resources together in Emergency Management; for example, law enforcement is in one of the 17 groups. Grouping the like resources together eliminates the risk of duplication of sending two or three groups to the same place. Because you just can't call the State and get what you want because just as in private sector, the government is also having to do a lot more activities with a lot less resources.

Local incidents happen all the time where fire trucks go out of their boundaries, utilities go outside their jurisdictions to support other utilities, and law enforcement is the same. That is just one little piece of the pie being a local mutual aid.

In a large-scale event, we can tap into the State EOC, fully activated, and the state-wide mutual aid agreement where all 67 counties are a signature of that. Then we will be able to coordinate unimpacted county and municipal resources in the impacted area. We utilize the State resources that we have, we will tap into the EMS with state-to-state mutual aid. Last, the Federal Emergency Management will tap into federal assistance. The emphasis here is the importance of local planning and utilizing local resources to take care of the problems that arise.

If you are in Tallahassee for any reason, please come by and we will show you the facility. Here we orchestrate the State's response to an instance in four basic levels. Level One monitors the particular situation; Level Two is a partial activation of the EMS response team; Level Three, we bring all the agencies involved into the building; Level Four is the Federal involvement. At that particular level, the Federal agencies are partnership/family so we can apply all the resources that we need to take care of the issue.

Our bottom approach is to support local units of government and that's our job. The incident takes place, impacted county reaches into mutual aid if available; if not, through liaison into the State Emergency Operation Center, we find those resources.

The division is broken down into regions. Each region has an area coordinator and that person's role is to coordinate the day-to-day relationship between State and local units of government in relation to disaster preparedness.

Priorities and standards in this business. We have to have the ability to warn the community. If we can't warn a community—we have failed. We have to assess the damage and determine what the needs are. It is very important that we get information from utilities that tell us how many people are without power for a long time. It paints a picture so we can get the right resources into the community to take care of the needs. In the past we have had lots of plans for this and that. It doesn't matter what the disaster is, the consequences are the same and we want to respond to it in a coordinated way. Everyone has to be informed: all utilities, agencies, the community, the local officials as to what is happening, what is going to be done, and what resources we need.

The emphasis area in preparedness and response is a coordinated evacuation plan. Each community develops their own evacuation plan. But when Dade County starts evacuating before Monroe County does, we will cut off Monroe County. We realized that after Opal, there were many people on the road that were not going anywhere. We can't blame DOT for that. So we have to better coordinate a regional evacuation-type plan so we can get affected areas out of harm's way into shelters.

We have to improve the warning capabilities through technology and through educational opportunities. One of the projects that was very successful was putting an all-weather radio in every public school in the State. We are going to take that a step further and go into the day-care facilities, nursing facilities, and any public building. Everyone wants to know what is going on and what is being done.

Why is it important that we all coordinate? It is because of that common thread—the customer.

We need two things in any emergency, whatever it is. We maintain our roles and responsibilities, and we share information. We will then succeed.

We have been activated for the past four months with 57 counties declared presidential disaster areas in this State, almost 9,000 residents were seeking disaster aid, over \$200 million worth of damage, and then hurricane season is fast approaching

But, this will all work because it is a true partnership of both public and private at the community level. Disaster plans have to be coordinated at the local level. Mike then told a story about his happenings with Opal. The bottom line message he gave was that you are a valuable asset for the company you work for whether private or public. Always do the things necessary to prepare ourselves for disasters.

Chairman Pellico presented a speaker appreciation award.



## NEW BUSINESS

In the Steering Committee we showed the bylaw changes. We voted unanimously to accept it as written. Do I hear a motion to accept the bylaws? Motion made and seconded. It will be put on our web page, <http://www.fucc.org> or 207.30.96.30. Our next meeting is in Daytona Beach on August 5-7, 1998.

## FDOT DISTRICT REPORTS

### District I – Jerrold R. Whitt

Held our spring meeting in North Fort Myers on March 11 with approximately 70 in attendance. The speakers were: a representative from Lee County DEP and he discussed asbestos in the right-of-way and how to handle that; we had a representative from TECO that discussed emergency/crisis management after a hurricane; and Dan Buol discussed damage prevention and a new one-call law. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 9, location not established yet. This summer I will be holding training for the new relocation schedules in my district.

### District II – Vince Camp

We are getting ready to have another meeting in the first week of June. There will be trade people there with demonstrations. It was very successful last summer and we are in the process of getting people together.

### District III – Stan Nurnberger

Their use of JPAs is very strong. Their local committees meet regularly and have good attendance.

### District IV – Ruth Yanks

We continue to hold our monthly county meetings and continue to offer training to the industry, teaching the DOT utility coordination process and forms use.

### District V – Richard Taylor

We do hold about five monthly meetings throughout the district.

### District VI – Jim McGetrick.

Next meeting is scheduled for August in Miami at the Rusty Pelican. Would like to announce that Tampa Bay Engineering was awarded the Utility Negotiation Contract in District VI and look forward to working with them.

### District VII – Hank Humbert

Our next Liaison Conference to be held mid-September 1998 (dates and times to be announced). Looking into implementation of subsurface utility engineering task within designers' scopes in 3R projects. (District Construction Engineer) – I have been tasked for scrutinizing the Utility Relocation Schedules as it relates to M.O.T. phasing and dependent activi-

ties. (District Design Engineer) - Renewed effort to receiving all markups, schedules, and agreements by 90 percent on jobs which are not planned to be shelved.

#### **TURNPIKE UPDATE – Jim Haynie**

Mr. Haynie mentioned the possible relocation of the turnpike office to the Orlando area.

#### **UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER REPORT – Bill Heath**

	1998	1997	Inc./Dec.
Tickets	305,435	285,259	7.07%
Transmission	2,300,555	1,793,429	28.28%
Phone Calls	161,298	169,211	(4.68%)
Speed of Answer	26.03	21.21	24.12%
Total Members	473		
Associate Members	76		

Construction of the new Sunshine State One-Call Center should begin on May 11, 1998. The location of the new office will be in Debarry on Highway 17-92 at Plantation Road.

#### **INTEREST GROUPS REPORT**

##### **Power – Chuck Easterling**

Twenty-four members were in attendance.

##### Topics of discussion:

- General discussion of topics for educational seminar to be given at the August meeting.
- Discussion on limits of service for C.D.L. Holders/Drivers.
- F.U.C.C.'s web page was discussed with possible use of it to distribute information/literature.
- N.E.C. vs. Utility Lighting – Lively discussion on the upcoming National Fire Prevention Association's Convention possibly having a vote at their meeting over N.E.C. having exclusive control over lighting, etc.
- Problems with nonemergency trailering of poles during night, weekend, and holiday hours (federal statutes).
- Advance clearing/grubbing by utilities – Time ran out on the bill it was attached to in the Legislative Session.

**Telecommunications** – John Jernigan, GTE Florida, for Betsy Becker  
Sixteen members were in attendance.

**Topics of discussion:**

- CSX crossings.
- Ducts/clec overlash
- “Joint Trench”
- Conduit colors for different utilities, less dangerous conduits
- Educational seminar “Telecommunications Emergency Restoration,” Earl Christian – Bell South
- Use of contractors
- Quality control
- Cable shortage 1,200 and 1,800 sizes may affect FDOT work program
- Copper Naphthanate audit on poles
- “Just in Time Provisioning” engineer audit
- Pole changeouts for accidents
- Bell-South Jay Gordon will sponsor November 1998 meeting in Tarpon Springs.
- Bell-South Earl Christian will sponsor February 1999 meeting in Ocala

**Underground** – Bob Janowski, Pinellas County  
Chair – Subcommittee

**Sunshine State One Call Update**

- Carlos Solis – Budget approved for next year.
- \$2.7 million – annual budget DeBarry – September/October quicker service
- Telecommunicating base map January 1.
- Narrow corridor for transmission facilities
- Mapping service areas
- No new legislation
- New CATV in Hillsborough County
- Tickets
- Pinellas County lead in locating utilities
- Work together
- False Calls – Luis
- S. Tidwell – JPA survey
- 270 surveys district for JPA, 75 returned
- Surveys from EA District in by end of June review
- As a whole, utilities satisfied.
- Cost savings looking at statutory procedure changes for release of funding.
- Better training for department project engineers. Option, design is relatively OK
- No legal concerns FDOT
- JPA – model for the country
- Standardize JPAs – construction management needs improved

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **UAM – Tom Kennedy**

The Committee met on May 6, 1998, to review the latest proposed changes to the UAM. The review identified a number of issues and points needing clarification, which were then discussed at the Combined Interest Group meeting on May 7, 1998.

A workshop is to be scheduled and advertised in the *Administrative Weekly*. It will take place at the FDOT District Tampa Office at 11201 North Kinley Drive, Tampa, FL (813)-975-6152).

The workshop will take place on May 29, 1998, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The UAM Subcommittee will meet to review the final version of the UAM before the workshop. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 28, 1998, at 1 p.m. in the Tampa Bay area. Verification of time and location will come through fax notification.

### **Joint Use – Mark Sweet**

No report.

### **Electronic Permitting – Bill Hetherington**

- Beta test is underway in district.
- Participating in this beta test, GTE, Lakeland, TECO

### **FDOT Pay Items – Carlos Solis**

No report.

### **By-Laws Review – Jan Sands Ash**

By-laws were accepted as written. They will be put on the web page.

### **CADD Transfer – Jan Sands Ash**

No report.

### **Conference Planning – Bill Hetherington**

- Conference planning contract was awarded to M & T Consultants as the low bidder
- Next meeting: Daytona Beach Hilton, August 5-7
- Future meetings November 1998, Tarpon Springs; February 1999, Ocala; May 1999, Indian River; Stuart; and August 1999, Marco Island Hilton

**Membership – Dan Buol**

No report.

**Steering – John Jernigan, Vice Chairman**

- M & T conference planner “RFP”
- Conference critique
- Bylaw changes approved Jan Ash
- Next confirmed meeting is August 5, 6, 7, 1998 - Daytona Beach - Hilton
- Nominations Subcommittee Hamid Zahir

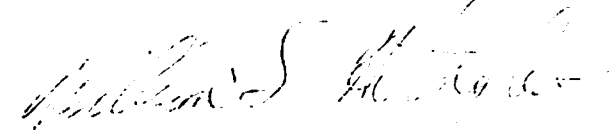
**Program Planning – Dennis LaBelle**

Asking for suggestions and ideas for speakers and educational sessions coming in the next few meetings.

Chairman Pellico handed out recognition plaques to the sponsors, Bill Hetherington from InterLine and Jan Sands – ASH of ASH Engineering.

With no further discussions or comments, the meeting is adjourned by Chairman Pellico.

The next meeting will be held in Daytona Beach on August 5 – 7, 1998.



William F. Hetherington, P.E.  
Secretary, FUCC