

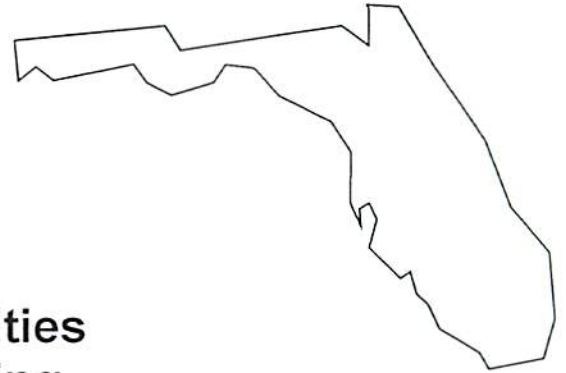
CLAYTON BAILEY
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Coordination Through
Cooperation

Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee



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<http://www.fucc.org>
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MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 1999
Jupiter Beach, Florida

Chairman

John Jernigan
813-664-6161

Vice Chairman

William Hetherington
941-656-2157

Secretary

Charles Easterling
407-737-4203

Historian

Tom Duggar
904-599-1543

Jerrold Whitt gave the opening invocation and tribute to the flag. Chairman John Jernigan called the Spring Meeting of the Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. with 110 representatives/members and 4 visitors registered attendance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Charles Easterling

A motion was made by Jim Haynie to waive the reading of the minutes of the Winter Meeting held in Ocala, Florida, on February 5, 1999. The motion was seconded, and passed by a majority vote.

Meeting minutes and agendas are available for viewing and downloading from the F.U.C.C. web site unless a specific request is made to one of the officers for a hard copy to be mailed. There will also be a questionnaire available on the web site.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Tom Duggar

FIFTY YEARS AGO - MAY 13, 1949, ST. PETERSBURG, FL.

CHAIRMAN - V. R. PARRACK, FLORIDA POWER CORP

VICE-CHAIRMAN - L. G. ZELENKA, AT&T COMPANY

SECRETARY - ARTHUR M. BROWN, FLORIDA TELEPHONE CORPORATION.

ATTENDANCE: TELEPHONE 5, POWER 14, RAILROAD 1, RAILROAD & PUBLIC UTILITY COMM 1, FDOT 1. A TOTAL OF 23.

Two pending bills, one a House bill and the other a Senate bill in the Florida Legislature were discussed. In general, the House bill would raise the aerial wire clearances over public highways to a minimum of 24 feet. Senate bill proposed that pole using utilities throughout the State be charged a rental fee for poles located on State Road Right of Way and other State property.

Mr. Warth next discussed progress of television in the state of Florida in those respects which Southern Bell Company was involved. He described the loop provided by telephone company from the studio to the transmitter for the Miami station. Also, discussed was a recent organizational change in the Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company in their engineering staff. The engineering has been decentralized from Atlanta to the individual states.

**TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO: MAY 2, 1974 - RAMADA INN,
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA**

ATTENDANCE: TELEPHONE 6, POWER 13, GAS 1, F.D.O.T. 11, CONSULTANT 2, CITIES 5, PUBLIC SER. COMM. 1. A TOTAL OF 39.

**CHAIRMAN - A.N. BROCKMAN, SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE
VICE CHAIRMAN - W.J. HOPGOOD, FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT CO.
SECRETARY - H.V. GARDNER, JR., ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Three members who attended this meeting with the FDOT are still active today, Buddy Dees, Charles Andrews and Ken Hood.

The guest speaker Mr. Gartner, Deputy Director of Road Operations talked about a new program that has been developed by the Florida Department of Transportation. The title of this program is the Occupational Safety and Health Instructors training. He stated this program was basically for the personnel of any organization charged with the responsibility of training company employees in the ways to comply with the Manual for Traffic Control and Safe Practices. He further encouraged all present to take advantage of this training program because the attitude of the Department of Transportation was, "Today we train - Tomorrow we enforce". He stated that last year, 1973, six FDOT employees were killed. He also pointed out that it was equally important to remove the traffic control signs when work is not actually being accomplished, as it is to place them initially.

The chairman next mentioned a letter of transmittal he had received with attachment titled "A Breakaway Concept for Timber Utility Poles." This was a study by the Southern Research Institute.

Plant Protection Subcommittee reported that interest was definitely increasing in the state, although no one has a system working at the present time. Meetings to this end are being

held in Tampa, St. Pete and Jacksonville. Systems are working in other states with a few of them being state wide

TREASURER'S REPORT – Cheryl Ritter

Costs incurred to put on an F.U.C.C. meeting are averaging \$5500.

Balance as of April 20, 1999 was \$8,184.47.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE – Ken Weldon

- Handouts of directional bore procedures and information on what's going on in Tallahassee are available.
- Ken is going to meet with attorneys from the Joint Administrative Procedure Committee to finalize the latest changes to the UAM. These changes should be successful and the target date to re-advertise the manual is May 14. It must be advertised for 14 days, then there are 21 days for challenges. A possible hearing for challenges has been set for June 21, with a possible adoption date of June 28. The manuals could then be printed, with the earliest implementation date of July 6. These dates are tentative.
- Training is ongoing for the Utility Accommodation Manual—2, 4, and 6 hour sessions are available. Purple handouts. The Chipley location has been changed to the Washington County Agriculture Center. Other locations are Jacksonville, Altamonte Springs, Tampa, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale. Space is limited, please register early.
- Advance relocation—currently an experimental program of selective clearing—efforts are being made with legislation this year.
- Telephone booths—proposal to allow them to be installed in the right-of-way provided that they meet all clear zone requirements for above ground appurtenances.
- Pay Items are being re-written. Draft specifications are being developed for review in August. 3 step process. Probably won't be finalized until November 1.

GUEST SPEAKER—Bruce Kershner—Underground Utility Contractors of Florida

“Federal One-Call Legislation”

A study group has been participating across the country as they have been meeting on this issue. Rocky DePrimo has served on the Planning and Designing Task Team, and Dan Buol has served on the One-Call Best Practice Task Team.

This was started with the beginning of Transportation Authorization Bill. The National Utility Contractors Association (N.U.C.A.) was against the Bill, despite believing in damage prevention. N.U.C.A. believed that damage prevention should be on a statewide basis. A result of some of these actions is the premiere Call Sunshine One Call Center.

Efforts were made to put emphasis on damage prevention on the statewide basis rather than on a Federal level. Thus, the Bill was amended to set up a study and grant program for state program improvements.

N.U.C.A. and U.U.C.F. are very involved in the continuing support of the statewide One Call Center here in Florida. Videos are available for parties interested in damage prevention.

BUSINESS SESSION

FDOT DISTRICT REPORTS

District I – Jerrold R. Whitt

District I spring meeting was held on March 24 at the Kenilwroth Lodge in Sebring with 70 in attendance. Keynote speakers were Bill Hetherington who gave a presentation on Y2K, and Keith Martin, who gave the group an update TECO/Peoples Gas expansion in the District. The District, TBE, and Ash Engineering put on a workshop on MOT plans and how to use them in a RLS. Next meeting will be held in September, date and location TBA. Electronic permitting pilot program ins now underway with promising results.

District II – Vince Camp

Next meeting will be held in early August at the Holiday Inn at I-75 and US90, in Lake City. The planned topics include claims and claim avoidance, UAM training, and a relocation schedule workshop.

District III – Chris Black

The last meeting was held on March 5 at the Holiday Inn in Crestview with 85 attendees. The Mayor of Crestview welcomed the group to his City. Bob Cordes, Gulf Power Corp., gave a talk on the state of the economy in northwest Florida which is excellent. The 5 year plan was discussed. Updates were given on the utility clearing pilot programs and the power industry's efforts involving Y2K issues. The next meeting will be held in late August to early September in Tallahassee. Ken Hood retired at the March meeting. His participation in all our coordination efforts will be sorely missed.

District IV – Rocky DePrimo

The District IV Utility Office continues to furnish its monthly production and letting status report to all utilities involved on highway projects by county. District IV remains active in the local coordinating councils through participation.

This year Rocky served on the National Damage Prevention Task Team. He will be trying to bring Paul Scott from FHWA to the July/August meeting to present the Best Practices for damage prevention which includes planning and design. Utilities are invited to the June 1 and 2 workshop on the Utility Manual.

District V—Bill Richards

- The District V Utility office is up to full staffing levels for the first time since July of 1998.

- District V will be assisting Cheryl Adams in planning the upcoming UAM training for the Department Personnel and Consultants. This will be held in the District Office on June 9 and 10.
- Michael Hatchell from District V was in attendance for the first time.

District VI – No Report

District VII – Jan Ash

March 26, 1999 liaison meeting was held at the Tampa Holiday Inn. Shirley McCrary talked about the Utility Relocation Schedule. Hank Humbert gave an update. Main speaker was Image Graphics talking about an intelligent atlas systems. This was followed by a panel discussion with FDOT, consultants, and utilities. Next meeting will be held in September—location to be announced.

TURNPIKE UPDATE – Jim Haynie

The Turnpike has signed a Design/Build contract for the new District Headquarters at the Turkey Lake service plaza in Orlando. The move should be completed by July 1, 2000. A temporary office will be set up by July of 1999 off of Sand Lake Road, near International Drive. Jerry Sasser has moved on from the Turnpike, and his replacement should be in place by May 17. Jim introduced his Turnpike team of Rodney Little, Dietmar Unger, Bob May, and Dan Galbraith.

UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER REPORT – Cheryl Ritter

Cheryl thanked Armando Hernandez for his presentation at yesterday's workshop. One Call web site is www.callsunshine.com.

County Increases: Miami-Dade up 56%; Broward up 18%; Palm Beach up 21%.

	1999	1998	Inc./Dec.
Tickets	368,445	305,435	20.63%
Transmission	2,715,070	2,300,555	18.02%
Phone Calls	165,819	161,298	2.80%
Speed of Answer	103.02 (sec)	26.33 (sec)	291.25%
Total Members	521		
Associate Members	66		

There are still almost a dozen non-member cities. Efforts are being made to encourage these cities to join by the end of the year.

New building in DeBary is having its Grand Opening on May 14 in conjunction with its Annual Meeting.

The call center is working to convert from a ¼ section gridding to ¼ minute gridding. This is scheduled for completion by October 1. All members will have 90 days to review the conversion data and to prepare for the October 1 deadline.

Management staff is presently working on a Contingency/Disaster Proposal to present to the Board. The purpose is to have an efficient organized management approach to re-establish the one call operational functionality of the center in the most expeditious method available.

A non-compliance desk has been established to handle the non-compliance reports. Wendy Schaefer is the call center's Non-Compliance and Marketing Specialist. Contractors are encouraged to document violations of Chapter 556 (examples include: locate no-shows, mis-locates, failure to call 48 hours in advance of excavation, digging without a locate, etc.).

INTEREST GROUPS REPORT

Power – Art Gilmore

Twenty members were in attendance.

Topics of discussion:

- MOT training certification.
- Joint Trenching—Billing methods and problems
- Discussion of the morning's UAM review.

Telecommunications – Earl Christian, Bell South

Twenty-five members were in attendance.

Topics of discussion:

- Building code issues
 - Builders want to lower standards
 - Impacts on the Telecom industry by requiring a possible inside wiring regulation
 - Statewide meetings are currently taking place for public comment
 - Web site: www.dca.state.fl.us/flcd/fbc
 - Contact Robin Wright @ (850) 971-2313
- Easements—public and private
- Right of way fees by counties/cities.
- The state's "Florida Fiber Network"

Underground – Lawree Washington, TECO/Peoples Gas

Twenty-two members were in attendance.

Cheryl Ritter and Carlos Solis—Sunshine One-call

- Update on the One-Call Center and its Grand Opening on May 14th
- Proposed new technologies that are being looked at to lower member costs.

Open Discussion –

- Discussed the relocation schedule.
 - New specification #555 that was found on the internet.
 - Proposed directional boring of 24” pipe in Pinellas County.
 - Overpricing of JPA utility work—a task team was recommended to explore this situation/problem.
 - Brief discussion on the limited access rule.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

UAM --- Tom Kennedy

- Program on changes in the proposed UAM took place on May 6, 1999. The program was well attended and will be followed by FDOT training sessions throughout the state.
- The UAM is going through final administrative review and is expected to be official by July 1999.
- FDOT has stated that they will honor the provisions of the proposed UAM now, upon request.
- Tom Kennedy expressed his and the F.U.C.C.’s appreciation for Ken Weldon and Billy Hattaway’s efforts on the U.A.M.

Joint Use – Mark Sweet

No report. Looking for a new chairperson. Interested parties should contact Mark.

Electronic Permitting – Bill Hetherington

- Software has been installed at FDOT and tested for Y2K compliance. Lee County Electric Cooperative successfully sent a test permit to the FDOT.
- During the week of May 12, the software will be installed for the City of Lakeland, GTE, and TECO for pilot testing.

FDOT Pay Items – Carlos Solis

No report.

CADD Transfer – Jan Sands Ash

- CADD Transfer is moving forward slowly from the CADD seminar from a year ago.
- Jan Ash is coordinating on behalf of the FUCC CADD transfer task team with the F.D.O.T.’s consultants for a 2-day intense training for transfer.
- Testing of F.D.O.T.’s consultant’s software.

Conference Planning – Betsy Becker

- Future meetings:
 - Summer meeting—**July 28-30, 1999**, Marco Island, Florida
 - Fall meeting—Nov. 1999, Jacksonville area. TBA.
 - February 2000, Tallahassee, Florida?
 - Spring meeting—May 2000, Florida Keys
 - Summer 2000—St. Petersburg area.
- Sponsors are needed.
- Wednesday workshop registration is \$10. Registration for all 3 days of meetings is \$20.

Membership – Charles Easterling

- 79 attended the Wednesday workshop in Jupiter, and 130 attended the workshop in Ocala.
- All information to be posted on the web site—including: meeting info, minutes, meeting schedules, questionnaire (please return to Jan Ash)
- Badges—please return at the end of each business meeting to one of the officers or to M&T Consultants.
- Newsletter—articles from Ken Weldon (FDOT), John Jernigan (F.U.C.C. Chairman)
 - To be sent to local utility chairpeople and D.U.E.s
 - To be sent to ECF, FCG, APWA, AWWA, FES, and other sister organizations.
- Funding of the web site was also discussed.

Steering – Bill Hetherington, Vice Chairman

14 members in attendance.

- Web site development for the F.U.C.C. will be expanded to include agenda. A list server is going to be looked into for direct e-mailing of meeting announcements and agendas for the upcoming meetings.
- Conference Planning—update from Betsy Becker (see report)
- Program Planning—Dennis LaBelle is asking for ideas for speakers and programs and for program feedback. (see report)
- Membership—update from Charles Easterling (see report)

Program Planning – Dennis LaBelle

- Workshop on Maintenance of Traffic on Wednesday afternoon had 79 in attendance.
- Vendor booths had an excellent turnout.
- 31 new members from local involvement for the workshop.
- Next workshop in the bulletin—Ken Weldon is looking for actual cases involved in the exception/variance process.

- TRB/FHWA—impact on future Accommodation Manual—Paul Scott is a possible speaker for the summer meeting.
- Contact Dennis with any ideas for future topics. Ideas for the future are T-squared, coordination, damage claims, etc.

Chairman Jernigan handed out recognition plaques to the following sponsors: F.D.O.T., Bell South Communications, Pledger, No Cuts, T.B.E., PBS&J, G.T.E., Softdig, and Florida Power & Light.

With no further discussions or comments, Chairman John Jernigan adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be held July 28-30, 1999 at the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort in Marco Island, FL. Please note that this meeting will be held in the end of July, rather than the beginning of August. Register prior to July 7 by calling (941) 394-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Easterling
Secretary, FUCC