

Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee – Spring Meeting 2004

Established 1932



Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee

Coordination Through
Corporation

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our web site: [Hhttp://www.fucc.org](http://www.fucc.org)
E Group: FUCC@callsunshine.com

SPRING MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2004
Key Largo, Florida

Chairman	Vice Chairman	Secretary	Historian
Arthur Gilmore 727-893-9255	Lawree Washington 813-228-1564	John Murphy 407-423-8398	Tom Dugger 850-599-1543

Chairman Art Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:40 A.M. He gave his opening remarks that were followed by Terry Mills' Invocation and Tribute to the flag. Self-introductions of those in attendance found 50 (+) at this Business Meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – John Murphy

John reported that the minutes from the last meeting are currently posted on the web site. However, hard copies are available at the Registration Table. The Winter Meeting minutes will be posted to the web site next week.

A motion was made by Vinnie Lavallette and second by Sally Prescott to wave the reading of the Secretary's Minutes. They were approved as written and will be posted on the web site. The group was reminded of the E-mail Group for the FUCC. To become a member of the group send an E-Mail to FUCC@callsunshine.com. In the subject line, type the word: subscribe, you will automatically be added to the group and will be receiving all future electronic mail outs. The FUCC web site is up and running at the old address: <http://www.fucc.org>.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jan Ash

The attendance at this meeting included 55 prepaid registrations and 27 regular registrations. We also had to workshop attendees and seven complimentary registrations for speakers. The total was 91 attendees for this meeting.

Previous Bank Balance:	\$ 18,167.90	
Income for Registrants	\$ 4,370.00	
Expenses	\$ 6,550.00	
Anticipated Ending Balance		\$ 11,617.90

The FUCC will be accepting \$ 100.00 Sponsorships for the events in Marco Island, this August.

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HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Tom Dugger could not be present at this meeting. He submitted the following information which was read by Secretary Murphy:

FIFTY YEARS AGO – MAY 14, 1954, CHEROKEE HOTEL, TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

CHAIRMAN – L. G. Zelenka, AT & T Company

SECRETARY – H. L. Martin, Florida Keys Electric Co-op

ATTENDANCE: TELEPHONE 8, POWER 6, RAILROAD 1 A TOTAL OF 15.

New Business: The State Road Department would like an up-to-date list of the proper personnel to contact in the various companies when it becomes necessary to have poles moved due to any construction or widening of the road.

The A.T.&T. Company stated that they had sent maps covering the location of coaxial cables to the State Road Department; they also stated that they had found the State Road Department in various counties very cooperative in the matter.

Southern Bell Telephone stated that they had a serious accident on a joint use of pole where there was a transformer. The accident was due to a poor ground connection and at the present time the Bell Company is making spot checks on transformers for irregular connections. Florida Power & Light Company said that they have also been checking for irregular transformer connections.

Southeastern Telephone Company in Tallahassee stated that on a new bridge the State Road Department was building, that they were placing conduit in the bridge for the use of telephone cables.

The Committee decided that we should have a historian to dig up all our past records and keep it up-to-date. Ben Darlington, Peninsular Telephone Company, Tampa, Florida was appointed as permanent Historian to act from now on.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: MAY 4, 1979, HOLIDAY INN, TALLAHASSEE, FL.

ATTENDANCE: TELEPHONE 13, POWER 12, FDOT 17, GAS 5, COUNTIES 1, ONE CALL CENTER 1, CONSULT 3, FLA PSC 1. A TOTAL OF 53.

CHAIRMAN – PAUL MUNDY, GENERAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

VICE CHAIRMAN – HORACE IRWIN, FLORIDA POWER CORP.

SECRETARY – CHRIS ANDERSON, JACKSONVILLE ELECTRIC AUTHORITY

Members who attended that meeting that are still active in the FUCC are: Dennis LaBelle, Rocco DePrimo, Buddy Dees, Jim Haynie and Jim Wright.

Discussion from one of the members in reference to having difficulty in application to the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) and Department of Natural Resources (DER) for easements crossing waterways (specifically, a submarine permit from DNR).

One of the members stated that they had to start using a new procedure from DOT on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and ask if anyone had been stopped. They related that they are still waiting to get a formal report from the State that they are working on the 2nd manual that will affect the City and County streets and roads.

The Jacking and Boring subcommittee reported that the DOT had adjusted seven (7) of the nine (9) specific items the subject subcommittee had recommended and had eliminated some of the "how-to instructions.

The Pedestrian Guard subcommittee reported that the Public Service Commission had been doing some fieldwork, checking on the design and installation of pedestrian guards. The biggest difficulty they are finding is in maintenance of the guards and the way it is installed on the pipes or equipment. The guard itself is of no value unless it is installed and maintained properly. Work must be done on the guidelines not only on design

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but on installation and maintained before it is acceptable. Gas companies have written in saying they are against having a standard.

SUNSHINE STATE ONE CALL CENTER – Cheryl Ritter

The Annual meeting of Sunshine Once Call of Florida is coming up. Please plans to attend or be represented at this meeting.

Positive response post cars are available for distribution to contractors. There are a limited number available at this meeting for reference. Additional quantities can e ordered through Sunshine One Call. The purpose of these cars is to educate contractors in the procedures to check tickets with positive responses. On April 12th there was a 91% response to the positive ticket called on that day. The call center is looking into an 'active' response ticket, which may be available by the end of this year. A similar program is currently being tested in another state. There was a 31% increase in the number of incoming locate tickets during in March of 2004. This fiscal year, over eight million transmissions have been made the to Sunshine One Call members.

A new program has been initiated retaining the services of off duty police officers to educated contractors through out the State. This is not an enforcement effort, but an education program. However, they do have the authority to ticket an excavator in a violation is observed. Additional public information is available ar the web site.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT REPORTS

District One –Walt Childs, District Utility Administrator

The District One Liaison meeting was held on March 26, 2004 at the Holiday Inn, Lakeland. This was a joint meeting with District 7. There were approximately 100 people in attendance. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation on electronic deliverables. The next meeting will be the fourth Wednesday in September 2004.

District Two – No Report

District Three – Tracy Atkinson, PBS&J

The Biannual District 3 Utility Liaison Conference was held on April 16th. Presentation were made on: Construction, Maintenance, FDEP Permits, and Design. Among additional item discussed were, Asset management, Full Service Contracts, and Plans Changes after 90%.

The District would like Ken Weldon to invite all of the Design Firms to our various liaison meetings and especially to the Design Conference in July. Many of their firm will be handling utility notifications and these meetings could be helpful, a name and a face.

District Four – Rocky DePrimo

The District continues to support the utility industry by E-mailing notifications to those who subscribe.

The District has a trial project that will be receiving the Red/Green/Brown plans electronically.

District Five – Gary Bass, District Utility/Value Engineer

The District's Annual Liaison meeting was held earlier this year. Over 200 in attended the 2004 Liaison meeting. Vince Montgomery, OUC-Electric, is the current Chairman. Vinnie Lavallette will be the Chair for next year's program, with the assistance of Jim Farrell, BellSouth, who is the Vice Chair.

The District has started the initial utility coordination of SR 400 (I-4) Ultimate Design projects. There are multiple design projects involving the same utility owners through the District.

District Six – No Report

District Seven – Sally Prescott D-7 GEC Utility Coordinator

The District is being restructures by their administration. John Kubler has been appointed District Utility Administrator. John has 16 years with the Department.

Darlene Calendar has jointed the Department as Assistant Utility Administrator. Her most recent position was with Progress Energy.

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The District Secretary, Ken Hartmann has implemented a new utility coordination process that includes the implementation of Pre-Phase II Submittal.

- Once comments from the Phase II plan are integrated into the plans, another submittal to the UAO's is made and conflict issues are addressed accordingly.
- One-on-one Utility Coordination Meetings
- More SUE included in the design scopes.

This new process adds up to six months to the non-right-of-way acquisition projects.

The District first total electronic deliverable project was submitted on March 15, 2004.

TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE DISTRICT – Jim Kervin

Below is an update of some of the major projects under development at the Turnpike Enterprise.

MEDIAN GUARDRAIL: The Turnpike Enterprise is proposing extensive new median guardrail in Lake, Osceola, Orange, Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Sumter, and Dade counties. Over 150 miles of median guardrail have been added to our miscellaneous design contracts. Construction on all projects is scheduled to begin by the end of the year. Construction of each project will last approximately 6-12 months depending on the length of the project. Utility coordination is being done in house and is underway. Lettings are scheduled beginning in July

FPID 405270-1: The Turnpike is working on a PD&E Study for a new road corridor in Citrus County. The road will be an extension of the Suncoast Parkway. The Suncoast Parkway Phase II project will extend the Parkway from US98 in Brooksville to US19 (Approximately 11 miles).

Eleven possible corridors are being evaluated for impacts.

FPIDs 403497-2, 403497-3, 403498-2 and 403498-3: These projects will extend the Western Beltway (SR 429) from near Ocoee in Orange County to I-4 in Osceola County a distance of approximately 22 miles. The Turnpike Enterprise is working with Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority (OOCEA) in the development of this project. These are major projects with significant utility activity and we are heavily involved with utility coordination on these projects. The two northern most projects have been let and will go to construction in May. Plans are complete for the other two sections and construction is scheduled to start in November 2004. Completion of all sections is slated for December 2006.

FPID 232074-1: This project is a new interchange with SR 710 and the Turnpike in Palm Beach County. The new interchange will relieve congestion at existing interchanges in north Palm Beach County. The project has been let with construction completion scheduled for February 2006. Minor utility relocations are associated with this project. We are coordinating with District 4 on a railroad crossing upgrade as part of the project.

FPIDs 406094-1 and 406097-1: These projects are for widening of the Turnpike from 6 to 8 and 10 lanes in Broward County. 90% plans have been submitted. These projects are being developed under contracts that combine the PD&E and design effort. There will be extensive utility involvement on both projects. The proposed letting for FPID 406094-1 is April 2005 with construction slated to begin July 2005. The proposed letting for FPID 406097-1 is February 2005 with construction slated to begin May 2005. Both projects will take three years to construct. Approximately twelve miles of the Turnpike will be upgraded.

FPID 406092-1: This project is to widen the Turnpike mainline from Atlantic Avenue to the Lantana mainline toll plaza in Palm Beach County from 4 to 6 lanes and ultimately to 8 lanes. Plans are complete and letting is scheduled for May 2004. Construction is scheduled to start June 2004. Construction will take approximately two years. Previously, the project included modifications to the existing interchange at Atlantic Avenue, along with widening of Atlantic Avenue within the interchange limits. This portion has since been removed from the Turnpike widening and will be let as a separate project approximately one year later.

FPID 406095-1 and 406095-4: These two projects will widen the Turnpike mainline from six to eight lanes from the HEFT to Griffin Road (roughly 6 miles). Consultants have been selected. Plans production is scheduled for completion in early 2007.

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FPID 406090-1: The project is to widen the Beeline Expressway, SR 408, in Orange County from 4 to 6 lanes, a distance of approximately 8 miles. Phase II plans are under review with letting in October, 2005.

FPID 406091-1: The project is to widen the Turnpike Mainline in Orange County from 4 to 8 lanes, a distance of approximately 6 miles. Phase III plans are complete and the project is scheduled for letting in January, 2005.

FPID 406112-1: The project is to add a new interchange at Jog Road and the Turnpike in Palm Beach County

The project will relieve crowding at the existing West Palm Beach Interchange at Okeechobee Boulevard.

Phase IV plans are under review with project letting scheduled for September, 2005.

James G. Kervin, Turnpike Utility Engineer
Lawrence R. Hayduk, Turnpike Utility Manager

FDOT CENTRAL UTILITY OFFICE UPDATE – Nancy Zeigler reporting for Ken Weldon

CART Demonstration Project – The Department is doing a total of 6 demonstration projects using Computer Aided Radar Tomography (CART). Not all of the projects have been identified and not all of the vendors have been identified as of this date.

Utility Forms – the Central Office is in the process of converting all of our forms to Word format Forms. The goal for the conversion is June 1, 2004.

Design Build – The Department is accepting comments on improvement that can be made to this process. All comments should be sent to either Ken Weldon or Brian Blanchard.

HDD Bore Depth – The bore drawings will be in the new UAM. If anyone wants or needs the information now, let the Central Office know and it can be made available to you.

USER Guide Reimbursement Helps - Mr. Weldon is developing sketches and language which will provide consistency to the utility owners.

Utility Accommodation Manual (UAM) Status – the proposed UAM is now on the Department's FTP site. All comments are due by May 14th. We will incorporate any comments we can and the UAM will for Rule Advertisement on June 1st.

CADD Deliverables Task Team – There is a task team underway to update the current CADD standards and conversion program for AutoCAD to Microstation. The Department wants utilities to provide electronic drawing and technology allows. This will enable AutoCAD to work with Microstation.

Exempt Public Document Form Conversion – The revised form will be in the new UAM. You can get a copy of this form now by calling the Central Office. It has gone from six (6) pages to two (2) pages.

Dispute Review Board – Utility Coordination Issues – Just a reminder to the utility owners of the Dispute Review Board. If there are question, please call.

ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN:

After the presentation by Jeff Caster, FDOT on Scenic Resources, there was an information meeting was held of those individuals interested in forming a Subcommittee of the FUCC to monitor these issues. The name was suggested FUCC SCENIC RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE. Its purposed wick be to Review and Proposed Revisions to the Utility Accommodations Manual, Design Standards, and Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction to conserve natural resources and scenic beauty without compromising safety, reliability, and cost effective deliver of services.

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Stake Holders would be Utility Companies; FDOT; Florida urban Forestry Council, League of Cities

Contact Person: Jeff Caster at FDOT, 850.410.5892 or on the web at jeff.caster@dot.state.fl.us.

Present at this meeting were: Bill Slaymaker, FPL; Jerry Mallin, FDOT; Robert Ache, FDOT, Elizabeth Hassett, FDOT; Nancy Zeigler, FDOT; Osborne Odom, Verizon; Alan Rothman, FDOT; Craig James, FDOT; Ed Nicolle, Florida Keys Authority; Clark Turberville, FDOT; Michael Reynolds, Progress Energy; and Sandy Kelly, Pinellas County Public Works.

PROGRAM

The program for this meeting focused on the Partnering Concept of T.E.A.M., Taxing Everyone Available Means. Valerie Tutor, Valerie Tutor & Associates provided a lively presentation, in site of the lack of electric power, to the group. She noted that the TEAM WORK concept has stood the test of time and may projects.

- Partnering/Teamwork on construction projects involves commitment to pre-construction utility coordination meeting with utility coordinators, owner agencies and utilities.
- Relationships and interpersonal skills are a very real part of the work today. It is about the people, the personalities, the ideas, and the communications.
- Teaming produces bottom line results. It helps to minimize costs, rework, time spend in managing all the crises that come up due to poor communications in the beginning.

Teaming can be used for a specific project or as an internal company tools to increase productivity. The choice is yours. Ms. Tutor is available at 386.738.7101, in DeLand of E-Mail to vtutor@earthlink.net.

INTREST GROUP REPORTS

JOINT USE – Don Anthony Chairman – don.anthony@mybighthouse.com

- Discussions on the removal of non-compliant poles form the R/W.
- Need the name of Joint Use coordinator for continues contact of utility pole tenants.

POWER - Jeanne Rodgers, Progress Energy Chairperson

NAME	COMPANY	PHONE #	FAX #	EMAIL ADDRESS
Jeannie Rodgers	Progress Energy	(407) 942-9215	(407) 942-9233	Jeannie.Rodgers@pgnmail.com
Michael Poucher	Ocala Electric Utilities	(352) 351-6620	(352)401-6961	mpoucher@ocalafl.org
L. Earl Fair	Clay Electric	(352) 473-8000 ext 8577	(352) 473-1315	efair@clayelectric.com
Leonard Chiocoa	FPL	(561) 742-2024	(561) 742-2016	Leonard_T_Chiocoa@fpl.com
Jay Smith	FPL	(561) 616-1612	(561) 616-1625	Jay_Smith@fpl.com
Neelesh Shah	FPL	(561)694-3507	(561)694-3610	Neelesh_Shah@fpl.com
Chad Swails	Gulf Power Co.	(850) 429-2603	(850)429-2655	ceswails@southernco.com
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David Kuhlman	FPL	(305) 552-2995	(305) 228-5695	David.F.Kuhlman@fpl.com
Belisa Oliveira	Progress Energy	(727) 820-5110	(727) 820-5202	belisa.oliveira@pgnmail.com
Art Gilmore	Progress Energy	(727) 893-9255	(727) 893-9214	Arthur.Gilmore@pgnmail.com
Eva M. Reyes	OUC	(321) 235-5850	(407) 384-4126	ereyes@ouc.com

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Ron Lipham	Utility Consultants	(770) 835-0283	(770) 955-9955	RLipham@ucinc.net
Mike Muller	OUC	(407) 649-4472	(407) 650-5604	mmuller@ouc.com
Silas Brown	OUC	(407) 423-9100 ext 4332	(407) 384-4049	sibrown@ouc.com
Stephanie Fountain	Ash Engineering, Inc.	(813) 290-8899	(813) 290-8891	sfountain@ashengineering.com
Vincent Montgomery	OUC Electric	(407) 384-4172	(407) 384-4126	vmontgomery@ouc.com
Larry Hayduk	FLA. Tumpike	(407) 532-3999		Lawrence.Hayduk@dot.state.fl.us
Bruce Stephenson	FPL	(386) 322-3417	(386) 322-3444	Bruce_r_stephenson@fpl.com
Joey Lopez	FPL	(772) 337-7002	(772) 337-7099	Joey_Lopez@fpl.com
David LeBeau	FPL	(321) 726-4826	(321) 726-4878	Dave_lebeau@fpl.com
Mike Reynolds	Progress Energy	(407) 942-9251	(407) 942-9233	michael.reynolds@pgnmail.co

The Power Interest Group meeting was held on Thursday, May 6, 2004 at the Spring FUCC Conference in Key Largo, FL. There were 26 members present. Topics of discussion included:

Permitting and maintenance issues regarding pole replacements in an existing line on a road project. The group discussed if a utility is replacing a wood pole with a concrete pole in an existing line would the utility permit the work or treat as maintenance. Also, if the utility is adding a concrete pole to an existing line, would the addition require a permit or treat the work as a maintenance issue with a 48hr notice?

Exception process for a 3R project: If this process is needed for the project, it is imperative that it be instituted as early as possible in the project. It was discussed that should an emergency arise, the utility may install a pole at their own risk but an exception must be filed within 14 calendar days of final installation of the pole. Members of the group present agreed that the exception process was not utilized very often if at all in their areas.

Mast Arm Installations: This topic seems to come up in most discussions. Concerns regarding the clearances and types of equipment that can be utilized for this process was discussed. Utilities and Consultants are seeing signalization pop up in the 90% phase of some projects.

Construction maintenance for transmission and distribution poles during road projects. There was discussion regarding the maintenance of these poles during construction of the project. Concerns were that there may not have been any conflicts or alterations when the plans were first reviewed and the utilities responded accordingly, only to find later during construction, that the poles needed to be held or supported in some manor for the work to be completed. Members were in agreement that possibly paying closer attention to the plans, elevations etc. and attending the project meetings would be a great help with this concern.

Proposed function for the Strategic Planning Committee: It was brought to the group the six proposed functions that the Strategic Planning Committee had agreed upon earlier that morning to chart the course for the FUCC over the next few years. The group felt that the functions were important in charting our path and sculpting the FUCC's future.

Proposed functions and ranking:

- Networking Group
- Technical Resources/Providing P.E. CEU's/Education
- Technical forum for manufacturer innovation
- Lobbyist Advisor/Technical Advisor
- Advisory Council
- Issue Resolution

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS – Vinny Lavalette, TBE Group and Jim Farrell, BellSouth, Co chairs.

The Telecommunications Group meeting was held Thursday, May 6th. Those in attendance:

Vinnie LaVallette (co-chair)
John Pugh
Bob Lowen
Rocky DePrimo
Gary Bass
Robert W. Ache
Gary F. Butler
Walt Childs
Anthony Black
Armando Hernandez
Sally Prescott
Don Anthony
Jan Ash

TBE Group
Bright House Networks
BellSouth
FDOT D4 Utilities
FDOT D5 Utilities
FDOT D5 Utilities
Lakeland Electric
FDOT D1 Utilities
Sprint
Verizon
Bayside Engineering
Bright House Networks
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Theft of Property

John Pugh (Bright House Networks) brought up the issue of theft. Fiber Optic (FO) nodes and amplifiers in Georgia, Florida and Tennessee have been taken. Comcast has reported 434 amplifiers taken out of the field. The thieves are going into the pedestals and cutting the cable to remove the amplifiers (valued at \$500-1,000 each). FO nodes have been taken on the east coast (valued at \$2,500 each). Who could use these items? Anyone can use them in the CATV business; thoughts are that they are hitting the black market and being sent to South America. They do not keep track of the serial numbers of their devices, this makes it easier to traffic the items once they are stolen.

Verizon reported that they have had cable taken out of their yards, mostly copper and have also had manhole covers stolen and sold for steel. Sprint stated that some of their devices are taken and used as deep fryers!

The CATV companies impacted have chipped in money (\$7,000-10,000) for a reward for tips leading to an arrest. They feel the perpetrators are probably ex-contractors since they know a lot about the systems they are stealing from. They have gone into the cabinets and taken the routing maps to determine where they can "cherry pick" the devices that have just been installed and will have little or no customers attached so that the theft will not be detected. They have left no fingerprints. The CATV companies have installed web cams in the hopes of photographing the thieves.

Easements on Platted Property

Bob Lowen with BellSouth brought up an issue they are facing. They had a FO cabinet located within an easement that was platted. They added a second cabinet and the property representative was upset that they had not been notified and they had the property re-platted. The change they made was to the dedication section which now states that the easement is to be used for equipment that is exclusive to the community it resides on and cannot serve other communities. There is currently a "loop-hole" in the system that they (BellSouth) were not notified even though they had property rights on the plat and by law do not need to be notified. Where utility owners have rights on platted easements they need to get that "loop-hole" closed so that they will be notified in the future. When a utility has normal easement rights and a change is going to occur to those rights they are given proper notification and must submit a "no objection" letter to the change. Property owners are challenging easements more and more.

BellSouth is now reviewing all municipal platting requirements to determine which communities have this "loop hole" and they will have to attend the council meetings to make sure their rights are protected. They may end up paying \$22,000 to buy the above easement (that they already have rights to). Verizon stated that they too are serving other communities from equipment located on adjacent properties. Lakeland Electric stated that all

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utilities need to be “good neighbors” and cut down on the traffic within the communities and try and place their equipment in common areas (such as churches, schools, parks, fire stations, state roads and county roads) whenever possible, train their employees to look for reasonable sites. With all the congestion this is very difficult to achieve in most cases.

Relocations and Private Property

Sprint stated that they have had some instances where they are involved on a road move, have been given authorization by the FDOT to relocate and found they have relocated onto private property. This happens due to several reasons: 1) The FDOT has not completed the property take. 2) Could be FDOT error in authorizing move too soon. 3) Property owner may not know their property line and assume you are on their property.

Safest way to avoid this from happening in the future:

- When authorization received from FDOT to relocate, check with the ROW agent to verify that all takes are complete
- Have the FDOT survey and stake (specific areas) prior to construction if it is too close to call (FDOT Districts 5 and 1 stated that they provide do this service)

In some cases when the underground utilities are designated (painted) the customers will call and complain that they are on private property and not the road right of way. Verizon has a policy to handle this. If the owner feels they are on their property they can pay to have it surveyed. If the utility is on their property in error they will reimburse them for the survey cost, if not the customer pays.

Permits

Lakeland Electric asked that if a right of way is transferred from the state to a county or vice versa are the permits transferred? The statutes allow for the transfer of the permits from the state to the county. The permits are maintained for many years back.

In some cases there is a state road that is maintained by the county, the utility then needs to permit through the maintaining agency.

If the county is building all or part of a state road then the utilities need to follow the state rules for permitting through the county, since it will ultimately be owned by the state.

Railroad permits: CSX permits no longer go to Mr. Lumsden, they now go to Mark Adkins. They currently have a 60-90 day turn around on permits. Agreements with CSX are now limited to 25 years, no longer “life time”. They will gladly take the \$750 permit fee even if they may not have rights. The utilities crossing a railroad need to verify with the state to determine the following:

- Mainline – permit takes precedence over the state permit with RR agency
- Spur line – state permit takes precedence over the RR and no RR permit is required
- Utility can call the FDOT District RR representative to determine if a permit is required.

Lake Worth Drainage District

Bob Lowen with BellSouth mentioned that his company has a policy for their managers to periodically stop and ask excavators for their dig ticket numbers in an effort to prevent facility damages. One day he spotted someone digging on the side of the road in a canal area and asked for their ticket number.... They had no ticket. The work was being done by the Lake Worth Drainage District, when their manager was contacted he stated that in his 24 years with them he had never called in a ticket, that he was not required. The Lake Worth Drainage District was established in 1915 and assumed that they were an agent of the State. When this incident occurred, Tallahassee stated that they were not an agency of the State.

The Drainage District is now petitioning the State to be exempt from the “One Call” system. They have also issued a permit moratorium in Palm Beach County for all utilities that will expire on June 6th. Their Board feels they are above the law. SSOCOF is not supportive of the District being exempt, especially since all Water

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Management District's call for locates and follow the law. BellSouth will keep the group posted on the outcome.

Educational Forum

The Telecommunications Interest Group will have Corning Cable Systems give a presentation on "Practices in Fusion Splicing" at the Marco Island meeting in August.

UNDERGROUND – Sharon Luginsland, Chairperson

A report was given o the Central Office CADD Task Team. Those who have not already submitted their survey were asked to submit the forms as soon as possible. If additional copies of the CADD task Team Survey can be distributed to Local Utility Groups, it would be appreciated. The greater the data base, the better results of the survey.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

STEERING COMMITTEE

Sixteen members of the Steering Committee met on Thursday, late to review the work of the various subcommittees. They also review and discussed the result of a Strategic Planning Survey regarding the benefits of how FUCC can best serve it membership has the following results:

1. **Network Group** – To provide a forum for networking of all utilities through out the state.
2. **Technical Resources/Providing P.E. CEU's/ Education** – To be a technical resource for utilities throughout the state. This involves providing workshop[s] and ongoing education and training for utilities, to include ongoing classes for new technical staff, field staff, construction workers, and management.
3. **Technical forum for manufacturer innovations** – To provide a form for utilities to evaluate products and services from manufacturers/supplies and to provide over all statewide recommendations for the best management practice from the utilities. To be a resource for evaluation and pilot testing of new equipment to provide a non-bias technical review for the utility industry.
4. **Lobby Advisor/Technical Advisor** – To provide a unified statewide utility opinion regarding specific legislation or proposed procedures and processes that affect the utility industry to our individual utility lobbyist.
5. **Advisory Council** – To provide an advisory Council for utilities to review individual problems and issues with other utilities. This Council would be comprised of members that are willing to discuss Common Issue solutions and make recommendations to the requesting utility.
6. **Issue Resolution** – To research and evaluate specific utility issues as a subcommittee formulates recommendations and actions to appropriate agencies.

UAM STANDARDS REVIEW

No Report

E-BUSINESS / WEB PAGE

Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee – Spring Meeting 2004

This sub-committee did not meet. Any ideas should be sent to Sharon L. with comments and/or concerns.

MEMBERSHIP

Cheryl Ritter and John Murphy are looking for testimonies from member of the benefits of being a member and participation in the FUCC.

DESIGN TICKET

No Report

CONFERENCE PLANNING – Dennis LaBelle

- The next meeting will be held in August at the Macro Island Hilton
- Because of limited hotel space in the Ft. Lauderdale area, the Fall meeting has been relocated to the Hilton Hotel in Cocoa Beach.
- The Winter meeting is scheduled in the Orlando area at the Sheraton Safari, Lake Buena Vista.
- The Spring '05 meeting is being negotiated for the Key Largo.
- Summer 05. Marco Island Hilton Hotel.

AWARD COMMITTEE

John Pugh announced that this years award committees is made up of former winners. At the summer meeting the Liaison Person of the Year and the Malcolm Yancey Award will be presented.

INDUSTRY UPDATES –

Steve McLaughlin questioned the functions of other groups who meet. We all have common interest and issues. The local groups meet often, but do not elevate their issues to the FUCC. The local groups almost always meet in isolation. There are utility owners, regulated and non-regulated who have issues that the FUCC should address. FUCC should consider sponsoring a DAMAGE AVOIDANCE SYMPOSIUM for the FUCC Membership and it contractors.

There was discussion regarding the formation of a new sub-committee to address Landscaping issues. It was suggested that Jeff Castor make a written request for consideration to the officers before the next meeting.

The Secretary requests that all corrections and additions be E-mail to him before the close of Business on February 9, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Murphy

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