



**SCDOT/CAGC Joint Committee Meeting
March 23, 2011
Minutes**

Attendees

**Marty McKee, Thrift Development Corp., CAGC Co-Chair
Ken Atkinson, Palmetto Corp
Scott Fant, Sloan Construction Co, Inc.
Ted Geddis, HRI Bridge Co.
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc
Ben Whetstone, CR Jackson/Satterfield
Mark Ashmore, Ashmore Bros.
Greg Cook, Mountain Creek Contractors
Chris Davis, Sanders Bros.
Leslie Hope, CAGC
Grady Wicker, Eagle Construction Co,
Randy Snow, UIG
Ron Shaw, CAGC Division Chair
Danny Shealy, CAGC Liaison**

**Bob St. Onge, SCDOT Secretary of Transportation
John Walsh, SCDOT
Leland Colvin, SCDOT Co-Chair
Jason Johnston, SCDOT District #4
Joel Wimberly, SCDOT Utilities
Russ Touchberry, SCDOT Construction
Clem Watson, SCDOT
Charles Eleazer, SCDOT
Jay Hawkins, SCDOT
Bryan Jones, SCDOT District #1
Kyle Berry, SCDOT District #5
Jim Porth, SCDOT District #7
Merritt Vann, SCDOT
Tim Henderson, SCDOT District #6
David Glenn, SCDOT District #6
Stephanie Jackson-Amell, SCDOT District #3
Milt Fletcher, SCDOT OMR
Todd Steagall, SCDOT
Lee Neighbors, SCDOT District 2
Matt Lifsey, SCDOT
John Boylston, SCDOT
Dennis Garber, SCDOT
Merrill Zwanka, SCDOT**

David Rister, SCDOT
Kevin Harrington, SCDOT
Jim Feda, SCDOT
Bill Mattison, SCDOT
Doug McClure, SCDOT
Robert Clark, SCDOT DEA #6

The meeting was called to order by Leland Colvin with introductions.

SCDOT Secretary of Transportation, Robert St. Onge gave some opening comments and a brief description of his background. He is retired from the military with 34 years of experience as a tactical soldier and commander of several military facilities. He established residence in South Carolina and was called upon by the Governor to serve as the Secretary of Transportation. This was his first meeting with CAGC and informed all that we are all part of the team. Some of his focuses will be on the Federal Highway Bill and why South Carolina is a donor state and how the formulas are applied to the different states. He has visited 6 counties and several districts during his first months of taking office. He has also visited with the Port Authorities, ACOE and commissioners. More meetings are scheduled with 13 counties and several districts within the next month. SCDOT has a huge infrastructure and how do we maintain the system with a budget that is \$177 million less than last year. He will be looking to do more with less, work smarter and the need to address additional gas revenues. He wants to stretch the dollar, work with commissioners to do the right projects in the right priority.

Ron Shaw was introduced as the CAGC Division Chair and he was happy to be in attendance.

Old Business

Update on Borrow Material Spec

Issue: Updating the Borrow Material Spec. There is significant concern about the material SCDOT is requiring due to the availability, cost, and the time needed to locate, obtain, and test.

Discussion: SCDOT geotechnical staff has met with consultants and obtained soil samples to determine what soils are locally available to meet the needs in the coastal plains. Still pursuing tying the phi angle to a soil classification to make testing more readily available and in lieu of performing ground modifications. 60 day advertisements will be issued on projects with this requirement to give contractors more time to have material tested before bidding.

Action: They will try to narrow down a soil type or classification if at all possible in lieu of specifying friction angle and phi angle.

Update Pipe Spec

Issue: Determining the class of pipe that can be used.

Discussion:

There is a meeting scheduled for April 15, 2011 to discuss pipe tables, design criteria (direct and indirect), fill height tables and background information.

Action: Review information above at the April meeting and review specification.

Update Thermo Shortage – Latest Information

Issue: There is an on-going shortage of thermoplastic pavement marking tape and there is expected to be another spike in prices after the first of the year.

Discussion:– SCDOT is still hearing that the prices are going to be going up. Suppliers have provided letters indicating another price increase. DOT will be deleting thermo on some existing state projects and having discussions with FHWA about changing federal projects from thermo to epoxy paint.

Action: SCDOT looking at using paint and/or epoxy as possible alternatives to thermo on contracts that were let prior to January, 2010. SCDOT is meeting with the DCE's to discuss this and other issues as well. SCDOT would like to have alternative bid items in contracts this summer.

Environmental Issues – Wetlands Permit

Issue: There is new emphasis from Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) on permit enforcement. SCDOT will need feedback from the Contractors as the general permit is being reviewed and discussed.

Discussion: Contractors had the opportunity to comment on the permit. There will be a session at the Engineer's conference on the new permit regulations.

Action: Information will be presented at the Engineer's conference to help understand the new permit requirements.

Contractor Status

Issue: The Contractors would like to see a Monthly Status Report at each meeting.

Discussion: Leland Colvin handed out a few graphics which are part of the report provided to SCDOT senior staff every month. Current report showed 343 active projects with 281 on time, 17 projects between 10 and 25 percent behind.

Action: Leland will provide updated handouts at every meeting and will email to Leslie to include in the minutes as well.

Prompt Payment Issues for Subcontractors

Issue: Because of prompt payment clause, Contractors are required to pay the subs in a timely fashion. SCDOT says the Prime Contractor still has to pay even if the subcontractor walks off the job. Due to Federal and State requirements SCDOT has to include Prompt Payment verbiage in the contracts and don't have much wiggle room.

Discussion: After discussion last month, state and federal regulations were reviewed by SCDOT legal and determined that not much can be changed, but contractors may provide some verbiage for SCDOT to consider.

Action: The CAGC would like to research state law and federal regulations and submit revised prompt payment verbiage to SCDOT for consideration. State law Section 29-6 – 30 and 49 CFR 26.29.
Contractors are to provide language by next meeting.

New Business

Safety Topic

Issues:

Working on Railroad Right of Way

Discussion:

Railroad companies work by their own rules. They have safety representatives riding their tracks. They have "Track Time" associated with when someone can be on their right of way. Need to be very careful and be in good communication with the flagman on the projects. Special attention should be noted when working within the vicinity of any railroad tracks.

Action: Will rotate safety topic each meeting. SCDOT will address it at the next meeting.

SCDOT/CAGC Liaison

Danny Shealy will be attending SCDOT/CAGC meetings and assisting with technical issues. Leslie will still be the primary contact and copy Danny.

Fuel Adjustments for Milling

Issue: Increases in fuel prices have caused some concerns with the milling prices

Discussion: With the fluctuation in fuel prices, would like to refer this issue to the road subcommittee to add milling to the fuel adjustment tables if determined acceptable by SCDOT.

Action: Road subcommittee to discuss and bring recommendation back to the joint committee

Issue Escalation:

Issues: Both Contractors and DOT should follow the escalation process or chain of command established for each project.

Discussion: Joint committee or subcommittees are not the proper place to bring up an issue for the first time. Everyone wants to have open communications. Both contractors and DOT need to follow the proper chain of command informing the inspector, RCE and district before approaching headquarters for an answer. A lot of times other areas within the DOT have to be involved such as Traffic engineering, Pre-construction or the Office of Materials and Research and the RCE or district should coordinate this communications.

Action: Everyone follow the escalation process to keep everyone informed about project issues.

Engineer's Conference

The Engineer's Conference will be held March 29th and 30th at the Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia. Registration is filling up and need to register as soon as possible. There will be general sessions and breakout sessions with topics that would be of interest for everyone.

May Letting

Issue: The May Letting will be May 12th due to a state holiday on the regular scheduled letting date.

Discussion: The May Letting is being changed to Thursday, May 12th due to a state holiday on May 10th. There was also some discussion as to changing the letting time to 2:00 pm in lieu of 10:00 am to allow for contractors to better prepare their bids and receive quotes from subcontractors and suppliers. It was changed to 10:00 am due to the ARRA projects to allow DOT more time to download information and prepare recommendations for awards.

Action: SCDOT will review this request and provide recommendation back to the joint committee.

Paving Driveways:

Issue: Budget crunch requiring the work to be performed on mainline roadway in lieu of driveways.

Discussion: There will be a District Construction Engineer's meeting after the joint meeting to discuss the paving of driveways and not paving to the right of way line. Due to budget crunch, need to focus more on mainline paving in lieu of driveways. Discussion with the districts will determine how driveways will be handled but still keep safety in mind. Also there needs to be a team effort by DOT and contractors as to how to approach communications with the public.

Action: DOT to provide guidance on how to handle driveways uniformly across the state and provide language to be used for communication purposes for inspectors, RCEs and contractors.

SCEIS Accounting System

Issue: A new accounting system will be implemented by SCDOT

Discussion: The DOT is the last agency to implement this new accounting system and there will be a "black-out" period from April 15th to May 2nd where the switch from the old to the new accounting system will occur and there will be no invoices processed. RCEs will need to get estimates generated and submitted by April 5th for them to be processed before the black-out date. Special estimates may be generated before April 5th to cover large expenditures. Updates will be submitted to Leslie Hope on the status of implementation.

Action: Have all invoices submitted by April 5th to have processed before the "black-out" date. No invoice will be processed if not received in accounting before April 12th.

Subcommittee Reports:

Roadway Subcommittee:

Chris Davis reported that their meeting included discussions on the borrow spec, pipe spec., cross-slope spec and stipulations in contracts about night time paving.

Bridge Subcommittee:

Ted Geddis reported the discussion of the bridge deck rideability spec and the consideration of bridge lengths and speed limits be considered in the application of the spec. There was also some discussion on the "On-Call" bridge deck repairs could be improved by including some additional bid items to help better prepare bids and DOT not have to pay higher prices for items that are not appropriate for the project. This was referred to the road and bridge subcommittees for further investigation.

Project Development - No report

Utility Subcommittee:

Senate Bill 705 has been developed and filed last week. This will also be a topic at the Engineer's conference next week.

The Railroad Insurance issue was discussed and the Utility subcommittee will discuss with Sherri Devereaux to see if a statewide agreement can be reached with the railroad companies.

Supplier Subcommittee:

Scheduled meeting for May 17, 2011

Design-Build Subcommittee:

New committee comprised of SCDOT, ACEC and AGC have met twice and have identified a list of topics to be addressed by the committee. Some items will be implemented soon and others may take longer to research and decide a course of action. Jim Triplett will be stepping down as the co-chair and Mark Monreal of UIG will be taking over as co-chair.

Other Business:

Railroad protection insurance on resurfacing projects was discussed and referred to the Utility subcommittee to address with Sherri Devereaux and the application forms and investigating a statewide policy for insurance in lieu of project specific.

Road and Bridge subcommittees to investigate additional pay items for "On-Call" contracts and include Jim Feda and Mark Hunter in the discussions.

Next meeting May 25, 2011

Adjourn

