

SCDOT/CAGC Joint Committee Meeting
July 28, 2010
Minutes

Attendees:

Jim Triplett, United Infrastructure Group
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc.
Grady Wicker, Eagle Construction Co., Inc.
Joe Sox, Sox & Sons
Mark Ashmore, Ashmore Bros. Inc.
Benjy Hardee, A.O. Hardee & Son, Inc.
Ken Atkinson, Palmetto Corp.
Ben Whetstone, C. R. Jackson/Satterfield Construction
Danny Shealy, SCDOT
Milt Fletcher, SCDOT
Todd Steagall, SCDOT
David Glenn, SCDOT District 6
Tim Henderson, SCDOT District 6
Jason Johnston, SCDOT District 4
David Riser, SCDOT
Doug McClure, SCDOT
Brian Parnell, SCDOT
Jim Feda, SCDOT
Bruce Wells, SCDOT District 1
Drew McCaffrey, SCDOT District 2
Stephanie Jackson-Amell, SCDOT District 3
Johnson Dean, SCDOT District 5
Kyle Berry, SCDOT District 5
Jim Porth, SCDOT District &
Kevin Harrington SCDOT District 2
Charles Matthews, SCDOT
Charles Eleazer, SCDOT
Clem Watson, SCDOT
Steve Ikerd, FHWA
Sammy Hendrix, CAGC

The meeting was called to order by Danny Shealy with introductions.

Old Business

Update – Going Paperless – Electronic Submittals

Brian Parnell reported on three areas:

- Upgrading sub haulers area
- New version of extranet in the next few months
- All construction forms are now in a PDF format that allows information to be input and will be on the extranet system within three weeks. Still working on being able to then send by email.

Update – CPM Schedule Specification

Charles Eleazer reported there is still time to send any suggestions to Patti Gambell.

Update – Waterborne Paint Shortage

Charles Eleazer report SCDOT is not hearing about many problems. Milt Fletcher added paint samples are coming back in now.

Some projects are still waiting on thermo and may not be completed by November if the necessary supplies are not available.

Update – 2010 Highway Division Meeting

Sammy thanked SCDOT for their attendance and participation in the program.

New Business

Safety

Todd Steagall reported good strides are being made with the strategic plan.

An issued with flaggers controlling stop lights – this can be dangerous and confusing to drivers. Danny Shealy suggested looking into the stoplights being on flash while the flagman controls the intersection traffic.

Jim Triplett added that SCDOT and FHWA inspectors/staff need to coordinate with the job site managers to ensure they are wearing the proper PPE and noted that OSHA will issue a citation to anyone on the jobsite. He also noted we all just need to work integrally together to ensure everyone remains safe.

Project Status Report

Danny Shealy provided the following information:

Of 340 active projects, 32 are ahead of schedule, 215 are essentially on schedule (less than 10% behind), and 93 are behind schedule (more than 10%). Of the 93, 23 are over 25% behind schedule and letters were sent out to 21 of those this week. They have 15 days to correct or go to delinquency. If a contractor is on the delinquency list, they cannot work or bid on projects.

Jim Triplett asked if there is a breakdown of these geographically or by discipline. Danny responded out of the 21 who received letters, 19 were resurfacing work.

Danny continued with ARRA projects. 63 are complete and SCDOT is trying to close these by 9/25. The projects were or will be completed about \$13.5M under budget and SCDOT needs to re-obligate these funds by 9/30 or the money will be lost.

SCDOT is asking the contractors and districts to review contracts and look for any under runs, then notify the district office immediately so these funds can be re-obligated.

Steve Ikerd added the ARRA funds work differently than conventional federal funds and there are specific dates and deadlines to use the money.

If the funds are not re-obligated, the money goes back to a national pool and other states can apply for the money up to a capped amount. It will not look good for us if we do not spend these funds, especially if we then ask for money from other sources.

SCDOT headquarters is meeting with all districts August 11 so contractors need to review and provide information before that date. It will also help for CAGC to send something to all contractors about this need.

Also, if a contractor has not started a project, SCDOT is requesting they look at the quantities and see if there will be any under runs.

Certification Courses

Danny reported the courses will no longer be coordinated by Clemson University. Tri County Technical College is now handling these courses. Information will be coming about registration. If you are already registered with Clemson, you will need to contact them for a refund.

Registration fees will be the same as well as the instructors. Also other technical college sites throughout the State will be available for courses.

Change in Payment Approval Process

Jim Triplett asked if there has been any change in the process as payments seem to be slower. Danny is not aware of any change. The districts are submitting the information within 5 to 7 days after the close of each estimate period. He will check with the accounting department.

Jim also asked about the daily reconciliation process for quantities. Danny noted a summary is sent to the contractor. If the contractor is not keeping good tabs, the sign off with SCDOT may not be correct. It can be changed at a later date.

Ben Whetstone noted the contractors are not able to agree with the quantities in a timely manner often due to the lack of timely concurrence or comments from the subcontractors.

DBE Goals – Danny Shealy

On regular federal or ARRA projects closed since April 1 which is the next reporting period, we are behind on our DBE goals with only a total of 7.3% and the goal is 11%. On 48 projects we are seeing 5.8% of goals.

A lot more race neutral is needed or our report will not look good. If we don't meet the goal, mandates may follow.

Danny is also looking at large project to see if we can close to increase our percentages.

Race neutral qualification - only has to be an approved DBE sub-contractor, not DBE committal sheet.

We need everyone's help to meet our goals.

Subcommittee Reports

Road Subcommittee

Charles Eleazer report the committee did not meet in June due to the Highway Division Meeting. The recycle spec has not been approved yet.

Mark Ashmore asked if SCDOT can list work on projects as either night or day, rather than various times during the day or night. It will be less confusing. Charles will handle this.

Jim Triplett and Benjy Hardee - concerning borrow specs, the counties in the low country have a problem finding material to meet the spec. It takes a week to run the test. There is not enough time allowed to test, identify and then maybe test again. If slope stability or internal stability is the issue, then consider modifying the spec towards end results rather than material properties.

This will need to be discussed with GEO tech. It may be earthquake design criteria.

Charles Eleazer added the design is based on soil samples that are taken and it is assumed the soil can be found locally.

Grady Wicker gave an example of a five mile project where the soil can be different throughout the project. The sample might possibly be taken from soil that was brought in for a previous project and not necessarily local.

Another concern is a contract can be awarded and then it is discovered the soil used for the design was wrong.

Milt Fletcher noted sometimes the soil cannot be tested in the SCDOT lab and it has to be sent elsewhere.

Need to focus on performance/stability of material or design around what is available.

Action:

Road subcommittee address at August meeting.

Bridge Subcommittee

Ted Geddis reported they also did not meet in June due to the Highway Meeting. Still waiting for an answer from OSHA on sheer stud issue.

There is a workshop on accelerated slab construction Tuesday, August 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the SCDOT headquarters.

Project Development Subcommittee

Did not meet due to Highway Division meeting.

Utility Subcommittee

Did not meet due to Highway Division Meeting.

Sammy Hendrix provided an update on the status of the Utility legislation. At this time we are waiting on the utilities to respond to our document. They have until August 1. The Senate staff will then prepare a side by side comparison and we will move forward with meetings. We should have a bill pre-filed before January, 2011. Our stress points are safety and compliance.

Supplier Subcommittee

The next meeting will be October, 2010.

Other Business

Sammy discussed a conference call this week with AGC and the Transportation Coalition. Concerning the Highway Trust bill, it is not looking like it will pass. Federal Highway is spending more than it is taking in and has for several years. The bill needs to be extended, but how it will be funded is the issue.

If the bill is not passed, State funding will be cut 50% from federal and nationwide one million construction workers could be out of work.

The US Chamber of Commerce is planning an advertising campaign to push for passage of the bill. Sammy has requested a meeting with Congressman Jim Clyburn and several contractors in August to discuss why passage of this bill is necessary.

Benjy Hardee met with Congressman Clyburn and others and talked about this issue. At that time he left the meeting with the feeling it will pass. No one in the meeting was negative.

The next meeting is September 22, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned.