

# **SCDOT/CAGC Joint Committee Meeting**

***March 20, 2008***

## ***Minutes***

### **Attendees:**

David Fletcher, Rea Contracting  
Scott Fant, Sloan Construction Co., Inc.  
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc.  
Lewis Ryan, United Contractors, Inc.  
Gene Ellison, Cherokee, Inc.  
Marty McKee, Thrift Development Corp.  
Greg Cook, U. S. Group, Inc.  
Mark Ashmore, Ashmore Brothers, Inc.  
Ted Geddis, Sloan/Eastern Bridge  
Grady Wicker, Eagle Construction Co., Inc.  
Ben Whetstone, C. R. Jackson, Inc.  
Danny Shealy, SCDOT  
Charles Eleazer, SCDOT  
Robert Pratt, SCDOT  
Charles Matthews, SCDOT  
Ed Eargle, SCDOT  
Tad Kitowicz, FHWA  
Darryl Kennerly, SCDOT  
Kyle Berry, SCDOT  
Robert Dickinson, SCDOT  
Merrill Zwanka, SCDOT  
Todd Steagall, SCDOT

The meeting was called to order by David Fletcher with introductions.

### **Old Business**

#### **Update on Tentative list of projects for lettings**

Robert Pratt – We are still working to get more projects on the tentative site. The Highway 378 Bridge over the Pee Dee will be let this Fall. There are some bridge and interstate rehab projects on the list.

I-95 in Dillon/Florence will be added.

Florence, I-95 has a widening and bridge project that should be let this summer. The substructure and beams are going in now.

Marlboro County Cottingham Bypass is a 3 mile widening and bridge project that should be in the May letting.

Clarendon County I-95 rehab (one direction) will be this summer, probably August letting.

Keep checking the tentative let list on the DOT web site for added projects.

Upstate projects are in limbo right now. Only one of the fifteen bridge projects is in that region. There is a resurfacing job in the upstate that should be let in August, I-85 rehab. It is on the tentative list.

There are resurfacing jobs in the April 22, 2008 letting and there will be more in May.

Scott Fant – We have to develop a yearly business plan and it is impossible to develop anything reasonable to show company owners. Who do we need to talk to about this? We need some guidance as to what work is projected. We need to plan how to handle employees without work, equipment that is not being used, etc.

Danny Shealy noted that DOT is in the same situation with planning and understands the problem. There will be some maintenance coming out this Fall and federal aid programs too. (75% to counties and 25% to high priority projects.)

Robert Pratt added there are about ten safety projects for this year and are getting the bid packages ready.

Grady Wicker – There seems to be less DOT work and more county work.

Danny – The counties with tax option money have work. DOT is managing some of these projects.

Gene Ellison – There seems to be enough county and municipal work, but there are so many bidders it is difficult to get one of these jobs. And some are being bid so low that the low bidder may actually be below the cost of the job.

Robert – We will obligate all federal money we receive which will also qualify us for any after August money.

Danny – We will let the \$425M we have. Approximately \$165M of this has already been let through March 11, 2008.

Robert – The Courts ruled in our favor on the Highway 601 bridge project and we hope to let this in 2008. We are also working to let the Ben Sawyer bridge project in 2008. These two projects will use 70 – 80% of the bridge money.

### **SC Highway Contractor –Engineer Conference**

Danny asked for input from those who attended the conference on February 28.

- Closeout presentation was good, CPM Schedule.
- Good to see people there who are concerned about the industry.
- As Built presenter was mean – but clear!
- Rideability – many attendees did not know the background of this before.
- Project Closeout – learned it is a long process to close out a project.
- Contractor Rating – Fuel adjustment is the big issue.

Danny Shealy – the Clemson meeting will be March 26 and 27. There is discussion at DOT as to whether they will support a conference next year with the DOT cutbacks.

David Fletcher – If not, then we might consider having it again in Columbia. Maybe the contractors can pay part of the cost to DOT.

Sammy Hendrix – The contractors cannot pay the DOT cost for meetings due to the Ethics law. We can only pay if the person is a speaker at the meeting, example would be our Highway Division meeting in June.

The Highway Division meeting has been a way for both SC and NC DOT to meet with our contractors to discuss issues.

Suppliers, subcontractors and DBE's are hurt wit no avenue to network with DOT. In the past, before changing to BIDX, this networking opportunity was available at the lettings.

Sally Paul asked about the CRM's and if there is progress on project closeouts.

Danny – Yes. We are having problems with the ASI sheets. We closed out about 6 or 7 projects this week.

### **New Business**

#### **Grass Seeding Specification**

Danny reported this spec is still being revised. He provided a handout for review of the latest version which includes a Q &A section. We should have the new spec at the next meeting.

### **Pipe Specification review**

Danny – Modifications are being made and we will share any new spec. Ed Eargle added it has been a learning process.

Grady Wicker provided information on two projects they have under the new spec and problems/issues they have found. Production has been cut 50% per day. This much loss was not expected and will be reflected in future bids. Also, two pieces of equipment were added – a water truck and loader to transport backfill and bedding material. This was an added cost of both equipment and people.

The compaction testing time cuts into production time. The crew may sit for an hour waiting for the test. Also, to get the test it has to be very wet and sloppy to get it to pass. From Grady's experience, he would not use corrugated metal or plastic pipe under this test from a cost and production standpoint.

We wanted to bring this experience to the table as DOT reviews the spec.

### **Other comments:**

Mark Ashmore – the weight of concrete pipe will hold that pipe down.

Grady – Testing Issues: 1) Time to set up and test; 2) taking a second test, and 3) the testers are new to the spec also.

Ed Eargle – Compaction is necessary around all pipe. Plastic pipe vendors will come out and help as they have an investment also.

Grady – Some residents don't want to use flowable fill (on open cuts).

Danny – that issue has been resolved.

Greg Cook – Agrees with what Grady has presented and has experienced these same delays (this was private work). They have had problems with plastic pipe. It shift and "eggs" a little with compaction.

David Fletcher – what is the timeframe for the spec to be finished?

Ed Eargle – April 1. Specs do evolve and that is good.

Grady – anything that helps keep productions cost down will help.

Danny – Cheaper is not always better.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### **Roadway**

Marty McKee reported a bid item for select backfill (pipe) was discussed.

Danny Shealy – We do not know which pipe a contractor will bid on so DOT does not know what to put in the spec. It is up to the contractor to decide and put in his bid. One price for pipe and alternate is what should be used. Plans will identify if it is a specific pipe to bid. Otherwise you can bid any of the three alternates. We will specify the size.

Grady noted this was not on the projects he bid.

Danny states this may be the confusion.

Another item discussed was testing regulations for asphalt. The committee agreed for SCAPA to head up for now.

### **Bridge**

Ted Geddis reported.

Alternate to rip rap – continued discussion.

Control Joints – every 15 feet tool joints.

Testing adhesive anchor now.

CPM schedules on small jobs – jobs are completed before the schedule. Look at different way to approve.

Danny – The committee should develop a simple template that primavera can use and DOT will review. There is already a template for smaller asphalt pavement projects. DOT is looking for suggestions from the bridge committee for a template to forward to schedulers for comments.

## **Project Development**

Sammy Hendrix report that Robert Pratt covered the items discussed at the beginning of this meeting.

### **Utility**

David Fletcher reported. Discussed other state legislation and how SC can move forward with legislation. Information is being obtained to discuss with the Senate Transportation Chairman.

### **Supplier**

Scott Fant report the committee will meet April 7.

### **Other Business**

Danny Shealy asked if there are problems with a job, call him first. A contractor called Secretary Limehouse about power poles that needed moving before his department knew about the problem.

Ben Whetstone – Is there any thought to changes that will help with money such as paving driveways, etc.

Danny – It is in the law to provide driveways. We tried to stop this ten years ago. The law reads “may” but is interpreted as “will”. If anyone has recommendations for cost savings, we will be glad to present these.

Sammy Hendrix – For the upcoming Highway Division meeting in June, we have been asked to consider inviting subcontractors to attend. In the past it has only been open to prime contractors. What is the feeling of this group?

### **Comments:**

- Also invite the suppliers.
- A lot of the subcontractors do not get all the information and this would help them learn more.
- Good opportunity to bring back networking opportunity.
- Overall everyone agreed it will be good to invite subs and consider inviting suppliers.

Sammy will also check with the Ethics Commission on DOT employees attending this Division meeting.

The next meeting is May 22, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned.