AGENDA ITEM # 15

TO: Executive Committee, Florida Chapter

FROM: Thomas M. Wilcox, P.E.,
     District VIII Representative

SUBJECT: District VIII Quarterly Update

DATE: January 25, 2013

A list of the names and e-mail addresses of the 2012-13 Branch Officers is on the last page of this report.

Open Invitation!

The Suncoast Branch held monthly breakfast meetings during the past quarter with the exception of December, when we do not have a meeting. At each meeting an interesting program of timely topics to the public works community was featured. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dutch Heritage Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, starting at 7:30 AM. Attendance this quarter ranged between 27 to 33 members and guests. As always we extend an invitation to any member outside our district to join us!!!

In October the Suncoast Branch meeting had 32 in attendance. Bill Adams and Jack Richert were our speakers. Bill is a founder and principal of Johnson-Adams & Associates. Johnson-Adams is a major subconsultant to Cardno TBE, the prime CEI consultant for the I-4/Selmon Connector project on which Bill is a Sr. Project Engineer.

Abstract of Presentation: The I-4/Selmon Crosstown Expressway Connector in Ybor City is, in essence, an elaborate interchange between the two parallel highways at a point where they are less than a mile apart. The driving principle of the new connection, what looks like a confusing spaghetti of ramps, is to anticipate the major movements of this giant interchange and give them their own dedicated roadway. Johnson-Adams & Associates updated us on the Crosstown construction including aspects of the design development, financing elements, bidding process and construction.

At the November meeting with 30 in attendance, Mr. Jerry Comellas Jr. was our speaker. He is an Assistant Vice President with Cardno TBE and oversees operations of branch offices providing subsurface utility engineering, utility coordination and survey and mapping services throughout west and central Florida.

Presentation Abstract: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and many other agencies recognize Cardno TBE as a leader in Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE). This is evidenced by the fact that many of Cardno TBE’s projects have won FHWA’s Excellence in Utility Relocation and Accommodation Awards since the inception of their awards program in 2006. For years, Cardno TBE has set targets and standards in the practice of SUE. Several Cardno TBE associates served in the development of the American Society of Civil Engineers’ (ASCE) Standard Guideline for the Collection and Depiction of Existing Subsurface Utility Data (CI/ASCE 38-02), and Cardno TBE currently has a member on the Committee responsible for updating the Standard. Cardno TBE regularly provides SUE training seminars throughout the country. While the ASCE Guideline is not a “SUE standard” per se, it does provide a standard approach to key elements of SUE. The ASCE
Standard provides a system for classifying the quality of utility location information that is placed on engineering plans. There are four quality levels of utility depiction as described in the ASCE Standard:

- **Quality Level D** – Typically referred to as “records research,” this level provides information obtained from existing records.
- **Quality Level C** – This level adds field survey of visible above-ground utility facilities such as valves, fire hydrants, man holes, etc., reconciled to existing utility records.
- **Quality Level B** – This level involves using surface geophysical prospecting techniques to determine the existence and horizontal position of underground utilities.
- **Quality Level A** – This level is the highest level of accuracy and generally uses vacuum excavation equipment at critical points to determine the precise horizontal and vertical position of the underground utilities.

The use of quality levels allows engineers and project owners to certify on their plans that a certain level of accuracy and comprehensiveness was provided. A large project may include all quality levels of information, in which case the highest level of accuracy may be needed only at those points along a utility’s path where conflicts may occur. A lower level of quality may be adequate in those areas where little to no conflict is anticipated.

The **January** meeting had 27 in attendance and Mr. Tom Wilcox (District VIII Representative and Branch member) was the speaker. He made an interesting presentation of his recent vacation and 14 day cruise from Los Angeles to Ft. Lauderdale through the Panama Canal and gave an update on the status of the canal’s expansion.

During this quarter the Branch did not approve any requests for scholarships. One application has recently been received and is now being reviewed.

The Suncoast Branch hosted their 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Scramble on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club in Venice, FL. A good turnout this year generated $6,400 for scholarships. In the last 15 years (1998 – 2012) that we have been doing this, a total of $95,000 has been raised for our scholarship fund.

My home phone number has changed and is now: 941-923-3270.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas (Tom) M. Wilcox, PE  
District VIII Representative
# APWA Suncoast Branch 2012-2013

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