

Joint Committee Meeting

November 20, 2008

Minutes

Attendees:

Marty McKee, Thrift Development Corp.
Ted Geddis, Sloan/Eastern Bridge
Scott Fant, Sloan Construction Co.
Grady Wicker, Eagle Construction Co.
Sally Paul, SPC, Inc.
Randy Snow, U. S. Constructors, Inc.
Ken Atkinson, Palmetto Corp.
Benjy Hardee, A. O. Hardee & Son, Inc.
Jim Triplett, United Contractors, Inc.
Joe Sox, Sox & Sons
Gene Ellison, Cherokee, Inc.
Greg Cook, U. S. Group, Inc.
Ben Whetstone, C. R. Jackson
Mark Ashmore, Ashmore Bros. Inc.
Danny Shealy, SCDOT
Charles Eleazer, SCDOT
Milt Fletcher, SCDOT
Charles Matthews, SCDOT
Bill Mattison, SCDOT
Todd Steagall, SCDOT
Thomas Dorn, SCDOT, District #2

The meeting was called to order with introductions of attendees.

Danny Shealy advised that attendance for SCDOT committee members is low today as travel allowances have been reduced substantially for DOT employees.

Old Business

Update – CPM Schedules

Danny Shealy reported that of the 29 letters sent out, 29 schedules have been updated. The cooperation is appreciated. Keeping the communication open with the districts really helps.

Mark Ashmore asked if the districts are also aware of the sense of urgency. Danny says that have been made aware of this.

Jim Triplett asked about the procedure for addressing pending issues that have an impact on the project schedules. Danny responded that sending a letter concerning such issues would be okay and would provide SCDOT the information needed to explain schedule issues to others. The districts have not been including comments.

Jim added there are probably contractors who are not aware of this procedure and CAGC and SCDOT could possibly send something to their members/bidders.

Update – New Contract Pay Items

Over the past few meetings we have been discussing how to help with estimating concerning lump sum items. These issues were sent back to the subcommittees to discuss and we would like to finalize those today.

Sub Mobilization

Marty McKee reported on the Road Subcommittee recommendation.

Recommendation: In addition to the standard “5% Mobilization” bid item, provide a lump sum bid item for “Sub Mobilization” if the project total cost is \$3M or higher and is considered a major grading project and limit this bid item to a maximum of 5% of the contract value.

The Bridge subcommittee agreed but suggested adding “bridge” with grading.

Approved Recommendation: In addition to the standard “5% Mobilization” bid item, provide a lump sum bid item for “Sub Mobilization” if the project total cost is \$3M or higher and is considered a major grading and/or bridge project and limit this bid item to a maximum of 5% of the contract value.

Borrow Pit Setup

Marty McKee reported on the Road Subcommittee recommendation.

Recommendation: Provide a lump sum bid item for “Borrow Pit Setup” if a project contains 25,000 CY or more of borrow excavation. The bid item would be

paid as follows: 80% when the DHEC NPDES permit for the pit is issued and 20% when the pit is permanently grassed.

Discussion followed on how this would be handled if a contract/project is utilizing an active/ongoing pit that is being used for more than one project and would not actually be closed out. It is noted that this item will vary substantially from bidder to bidder depending on an individual bidders current borrow pit resources on hand or lack thereof.

Approved Recommendation: Provide a lump sum bid item for “Borrow Pit Setup” if a project contains 25,000 CY or more of borrow excavation. The bid item would be paid as follows: 80% when the DHEC NPDES permit for the pit is issued and 20% when the NOT or final closeout of the pit for that particular project is complete.

Bonds and Insurance

Recommendation: Provide a lump sum bid item for “Bonds and Insurance” limited to 2% of the contract value if there is no railroad and 5% if there is railroad depending on the size and complexity of the overall project.

Discussion followed on consideration of the varying types/sizes of projects, including special circumstances such as harsh coastal environments, hazardous materials, dense urban sites, etc. It was noted this bid item would vary substantially from project to project depending on the relative value of the risk profile/insurance program associated with each project. A separate bid item for bonds was considered but dismissed. SCDOT noted the amount bid for this item must be reasonable and justifiable to address the specific project risk/insurance issues.

Recommendation was approved and the Bridge Committee recommends SCDOT call the railroad companies during the project development phase and get specifics on the train traffic for each project and include this information in the bid specifications. This will prevent all contractors from having to call the railroad companies individually to obtain this information. It as noted the NCDOT provides this in their spec and the railroad like getting on one phone call.

Special Access

Ted Geddis reported on the recommendation from the Bridge subcommittee.

Recommendation: Provide a lump sum bid item for “Special Access” for any projects with a bridge > 100’ over water and for projects with special site considerations such as gorges, wetlands, floodplains, etc.

Discussion followed and it was determined that each project would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for this bid item.

Recommendation was approved and the Bridge subcommittee will discuss at their next meeting and provide 5 to 10 reasons/examples of when the special access bid item might be needed and furnish this information to DOT.

Sally Paul asked when these approved recommendations will be in the specs. Danny anticipates the February, 2009 lettings.

Update – Construction Projects

Danny reported Federal budget is targeted at \$462M this fiscal year (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009). Of that, \$351M of projects are already identified and the remaining \$111M will be determined later.

The State budget amount is \$120M of which \$75M of projects have been identified and \$50M remains to be determined.

With the SC matching funds, the total program for next year will be over \$600M.

Marty McKee asked if there is any update on the infrastructure stimulus package. Danny does not know what dollar amount we might receive, but DOT is getting projects prioritized now so if we do receive any money we will be ready to go. The time frame to be in a letting would be two to three months after notification.

New Business

Machine control using the VRS network meeting

There was an ACEC meeting /presentation a month or so ago on how you can take DOT files and convert to use machine control to grade projects.

A meeting will be held on December 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium on the fifth floor at the SCDOT offices in Columbia. Any contractors who plan to attend should contact Mary Stepro at SteproMJ@dot.state.sc.us with the names of those attending. This meeting will benefit those who do grading, paving and milling and those technical staff involved.

Subcommittee Reports

Road Subcommittee – Marty McKee

In addition to the items previously reported, the committee discussed the upcoming pipe classes and that the new specs now apply. The next two classes are November 25 in Rock Hill and December 3 in Conway. The information is on the T3 website. Two additional classes can be scheduled if needed.

Bridge Subcommittee – Ted Geddis

Items previously reported.

Project Development

Did not meet.

Utility Subcommittee – Greg Cook

Greg reported it was a very good, productive meeting. One of the primary questions was “How can we legally withhold encroachment permits?” Danny reported this is currently being reviewed by the legal department and he will provide more information at our next meeting with regards to pursuing this avenue.

Greg discussed the SCDOT providing “Utility Relocation Windows” in the contracts and how well this has worked on past projects. All feedback has been very positive. It forces the utilities to a schedule and there is a clearer process for all. DOT has to initiate this process, determine the appropriate “windows”, and incorporate such into the contract documents.

How do we pursue this? Where do we go to get this done? Danny noted this needs to be referred to Project Development to incorporate. Greg suggests that both committees meet together at the next meeting and begin the process and all agreed.

Supplier Subcommittee – Scott Fant and Milt Fletcher

Scott reported a good meeting was held in October. One item discussed was indexing lime and fertilizer. Danny report this is under consideration now.

Other items discussed were chip seal aggregates, the new ride spec (averaging both wheel paths) and roller compacted concrete for curb and gutter.

Other Business

Jim Triplett introduced the idea of getting DCEs and RCE to participate in the upcoming meeting via teleconference to reduce travel cost and save time. Danny and Jim agreed to discuss/consider this further and recognized that other DOT and Contractor representatives could participate via conference call if necessary.

Marty McKee asked about the DBE meeting proposed at the last Joint Committee meeting. Danny reported CAGC was to send a letter to Mr. Limehouse to request.

There is no indication yet if the Clemson Conference will be held or not.

DOT asked to change the date of the January meeting due to a conflict. The next meeting will be January 29, 2009.