

Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes
Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal (via Zoom)
April 21, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Board members present: Mike Pullen, David Matero, Barry Chase, Kim Cheslak, Michael Stoddard, Steve Martel, Randy Poulton, Eric Dube, Marc Veilleux (sitting in for Board Chair)

Excused: Ben Breadmore, Jeremy Martin

Staff present: Richard McCarthy (Chair, joined meeting at 11:07AM), Paul Demers, Shannon Quintal

1. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

Meeting started at 9:06 AM. Quorum confirmed.
Remote policy statement reviewed.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to amend agenda as discussed.
Motion by David Matero, Second by Eric Dube
8 in favor, 0 opposed

Board Member Comments: Discussion regarding agendas in the future – suggested to have one standardized agenda outline to keep consistency, and any modifications would be a Board discussion. Request to add financial update and legislative updates back in, even if there is not information available, the line would be there to note “no update.” There was prior discussion of the option to just provide a list of legislative updates.

Board members introduced themselves.

3. Review of March 17, 2022 Minutes

Add Barry Chase to minutes. Motion to accept minutes as amended.
Motion by Randy Poulton, second by Steve Martel.
8 in favor, 0 opposed

4. Report from Board Chair

Board reappointments – Reappointments are still in progress, with hope to hear something soon, but no timeframe provided.

Financial Report: \$803,388

This amount comes from commercial construction reviews done by the Fire Marshal’s Office though a surcharge fee (\$0.04/sq.ft. of occupied space.) Some of the funds were used to purchase Digital Code Books for all MUBEC towns, providing them with the 2015, 2018, and 2021 codes.

Board Member Comment: Randy Poulton recommended putting more focus on using the funds for training instead of just letting it accumulate.

5. Legislative Update

No update at this time.

6. Staff Report - Training Update

IECC 2015 Road Tour: Paul Demers has his IECC 2015 Road Tour, with the recent training in York recorded and available on the Building Codes website. Also did the training in Berwick,

Ellsworth and Waterboro, and continuing to schedule. Provides a quick overview for contractors/code officials on compliance with energy code through res-check.

Also currently scheduled to attend Hammond Lumber's annual event on May 3 with Steve Carr and Bow Jensen to discuss the energy code and updates.

LPI Training Events- Brent Lawson and Mike Day have continued their plumbing training session in northern Maine. There is a large demand for the LPI classes, providing updates for new and existing code officials. Planning to have another training specifically for new LPIs.

On May 2, Mike and Brent are going to be at Northern Maine Community College doing a similar training through the college. As part of their program to graduate, students will be taking the exams required for LPI. Paul will get to talk to the class on need to get practical experience as well.

BRIC Grant - a FEMA grant, as of February got final word on receiving the grant that will provide funds for 144 trainings over three years, about once a week. Trainings will be about two-hour events with the intent to record the trainings to add to Training Library. Had the kickoff meeting with MEMA regarding how the funding can be utilized.

Land Use Training – There has been a lack of subdivision law training, which is a key component to all CEOs. A training has been scheduled with Durward Parkinson, a well-known attorney to code world. The training is scheduled for a two-hour event on June 16. Code Officials that have taken the Land Use exam have been able to pass the multiple-choice portion, but not the case study written portion, and will be required to attend the class before retaking the written portion. Recommending all code officials sit in on the class.

Jonathan Dyer, Radon Specialist with the state, generated a training on radon standards, possibly in May. Looking at other options for additional training on radon as well.

7. Unfinished Business

Chapter 1 – Brief review of the changes made. Discussion of “seasonal dwelling” section- Kim Cheslak sent draft to Paul this morning. Paul shared the draft during the meeting. Concerns regarding the impacts on structures used as seasonal dwellings in winter months, the difficulties of enforcing restrictions on occupation, and impacts on other aspects such as water or electricity. It was suggested that further discussion of this be brought to the TAG.

Chapter 2- Paul is still waiting on feedback before doing completed draft.

Chapter 4- Brief discussion on process of reviewing Chapter 4 in regard to the order of reviewing by the Board and TAG and how appendices are included. The Board will review to identify any conflicts for TAG to discuss. TAG can discuss any appendices that are considered important.

Paul will send Chapter drafts after meeting.

Code Copy Access for Board Members – Paul followed up on if all board members have been able to download the codes. One board member still needs to download. Paul is working with ICC technical staff on a training, 1–2-hour webinar, on how to use the digital code system.

8. New Business/Code Update

Schedule for Chapter 3, 5, 6 & 7 – due to Rich McCarthy being unavailable, no updates on the schedule status.

TAG committee requirements/applications – Paul will reach out to TAG chairs to get planning started on meeting dates and setting up zoom meetings. A few board members requested as part of the TAG preparation to send out the TAG lists with added TAG Chairs, provide prior TAG list, and to provide some guidance for the TAG Chairs on what is expected and what they need to do. Barry Chase would like to sign up, or sign-up successor, for Residential and Sprinkler (if existing) TAG.

Rich noted that if there are issues to bring to TAG, bring it to attention to keep the process moving.

Chapter 5 review - Brief discussion regarding sprinklers. The I-Codes and NFPA require residential sprinklers in all one- and two-family dwellings. There needs to be a discussion on desire to continue with the exemption. There was a question on how many other states are omitting the sprinkler requirement. Bill Nash noted that most states are omitting, and that the last time the provision was reviewed, there was no Sprinkler Coalition, but they would be a good resource more dialed into some of the issues. Chapter five will be sent to Board members.

Board member comments: Randy Poulton asked if there was an option to hire someone to sort through the changes from 2015 to 2021. This was determined as not a solution. Paul noted having more features in his code access and can go through and highlight significant changes.

9. Public Comment

Bill Nash has offered to assist with the digital code access, along with being a resource to aid in code comparison work, and Paul's code access would include a code revision history. Also recommends reducing liability by having a discussion on the consideration of the International Pool and Spa Code.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

May 19, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Meeting adjourned at 11:29AM

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Quintal, Administrative Assistant