

IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Thursday – July 21, 2011 – 9:30 a.m. (MT)

Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian, Idaho
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
2055 Garrett Way, Building 2, Suite 7, Pocatello, Idaho

NOTE: The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting, but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

Chairman Milford Terrell called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. (MT).

Board Members Present:

Milford Terrell, Chairman, Meridian
Dan Long, Teleconference
Gilbert Pond, Meridian
Matt Gardner, Pocatello
Gordon Smythe, Coeur d’Alene

DBS Staff Members Present:

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General
Kirk Weiskircher, Financial Manager
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager
Rod Freligh, Regional Manager, Region 1
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

Ron Whitney was introduced as the newly appointed Regional Manager, Region 2, for the Division of Building Safety.

As the newest member of the Board, Gilbert Pond was welcomed to the Board as the Journeyman Representative.

◆ **Open Forum**

Plumbing without a License – Kenny Calkins, Cloverdale Plumbing and President of Treasure Valley Master Plumbers Association, thanked DBS for their involvement in the resolution of a “handyman” issue where a non-licensed individual was advertising/performing plumbing services.

◆ **Approval of July 21, 2011 Agenda**

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to accept the July 21, 2011 Agenda as presented. Dan Long seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of May 12, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes**

The May 12th minutes were distributed to the Board the morning of the meeting. To allow time to review the minutes, Milford Terrell moved the topic “Approval of May 12, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes” to the end of the meeting under “Old/New Business”.

◆ **Testing Upon Completion of Apprenticeship Schooling**

A proposal was brought forth to allow an apprentice to take the written portion of the journeyman exam upon completion of the four years of schooling without the required 8,000 hours. However, to apply for and obtain a journeyman license, an apprentice must complete the necessary 8,000 hours and pass the practical exam.

MOTION: Gordon Smythe made a motion to approve the proposal before the Board for DBS to promulgate a rule provided for the abilities of an apprentice to test for journeyman license upon completion of four years of schooling. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Out-of-State Journeyman or Master Plumber Registration**

The proposal before the Board specifically states a licensed journeyman or master plumber in any recognized jurisdiction shall not be issued a plumbing apprentice registration.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the proposal before the Board for DBS to promulgate a rule to provide for limitation on previously licensed journeyman and master plumber's registering as an apprentice. Matt Gardner seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Failure to Disclose**

The proposed rule would create a civil penalty to any applicant for a plumbing registration or certificate of competency who, upon request, fails to disclose any required licensure information.

MOTION: Gordon Smythe made a motion to approve the proposal before the Board for DBS to promulgate a rule provided for the civil penalties for an applicant failure to disclose information on their application for licensure and registration. Dan Long seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Reclaim Water Systems and AQUAS**

The 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) allows reclaim water systems in non-residential applications only. The 2009 UPC was reworded to allow reclaim water systems in both residential and non-residential units. The proposal before the Board would change the language in the 2003 UPC to reflect the verbiage in the 2009 UPC.

Milford Terrell requested, and the board members unanimously agreed, to intermingle the topic "AQUAS" with the "Reclaim Water Systems" topic.

At the May 2011 meeting, the city of Moscow offered to test the AQUAS system. Justin Goodwin, city of Moscow inspector, installed and inspected the system. Mr. Goodwin's biggest concern was safety and the lack of proper installation instructions on chemical portions.

IAPMO is in the process of developing a full consensus standard for reclaim water systems. It was suggested the Board wait until the standard is complete and then require the end products, permitted of this type, to meet the standard.

With unanimous consent from the Board, the topic "Reclaim Water Systems" was tabled. Milford Terrell stated John Nielsen would research the safety factor of the products; providing additional information to the Board at a future meeting.

ACTION: The topic "Reclaim Water Systems" will be addressed at a future Board.

◆ **International Green Construction Code's (IGCC) Water Efficiency Provisions**

Shawn Martin, International Code Council, provided an overview, via PowerPoint, of the IGCC.

The Board will take into consideration the IGCC. Any board member who would like the topic “International Green Construction Code’s (IGCC) *Water Efficiency Provisions*” to be further discussed needs to contact DBS to have it placed on a future agenda.

◆ **Schooling Update**

With school out for the summer, Irene Vogel with Professional-Technical Education (PTE) had no registration numbers to report.

The College of Western Idaho (CWI) was given the Apprenticeship Curriculum Review project to manage. The review of the plumbing curriculum is complete. Ms. Vogel requested the topic “Plumbing Apprenticeship Curriculum Review” be placed as an action item on the October 13th Plumbing Board Meeting Agenda for the Board’s approval.

ACTION: The topic “Plumbing Apprenticeship Curriculum Review” will be placed on the October Agenda as an action item.

Milford Terrell received a letter from CWI in regards to instructor certification through PTE. Ms. Vogel was asked to respond, in writing, to DBS stating the qualification and certification process to become an instructor.

◆ **Pre-Apprenticeship Program**

Ed Howland, CWI, reiterated the concept of the Pre-Apprentice program. CWI is the only educational facility to offer the program at this time.

◆ **Plumbing Apprenticeship Curriculum Review**

The Plumbing Apprenticeship Curriculum has been updated. The Board was asked to review the curriculum and provide recommendations to Irene Vogel, PTE, and Rosie Rosco, CWI, prior to the October Board meeting.

ACTION: Prior to the October Board meeting, the board members will review and provide suggestions on the plumbing apprenticeship curriculum to Irene Vogel, PTE, and Rosie Rosco, CWI.

ACTION: The topic “Plumbing Apprenticeship Curriculum” will be placed on the October 2011 Agenda as an action item.

◆ **Commercial Plumbing -- Idaho Code § 54-2602**

John Nielsen explained the intent of Idaho Code § 54-2602. As requested at the May meeting, a possible revision to the code was included in the Board packet. After a brief discussion, Milford Terrell was interested in the definition of “Alterations”. The Division was asked to provide a proposed statute change to clarify the type of work allowed on plumbing systems by regularly employed maintenance or construction workers on premises owned and/or operated by the property owner.

ACTION: The topic “Commercial Plumbing -- Idaho Code § 54-2602” will be placed as an informational item on the October 2011 Agenda.

◆ **Plumbing Program Manager Report**

Definition of Plumbing System -- Liquid and Fuel Gas Piping – Currently, liquid and fuel gas piping is not included in the definition of plumbing system in statute. With the consensus of the Board, John Nielsen will bring a proposed statute change to the October 2011 Board meeting.

ACTION: The topic “Definition of Plumbing System -- Liquid and Fuel Gas Piping” will be placed on the October 2011 Agenda as an informational item.

Color Definition of Inspection Tags -- Proposed Rule Change – All required inspection tags are non-color specific, except inspection tags for unacceptable plumbing, which are red. At the suggestion of John Nielsen, and approval of the Board, a proposed rule change will be brought to the October 2011 Board meeting as an informational item.

ACTION: A proposed rule change on the topic “Color Definition of Inspection Tags” will be placed on the October 2011 Agenda as an informational item.

Listings and Standards – It was the desire of the Board for John Nielsen to bring to the October 2011 Board meeting a comprehensive report in regards to third-party listings, product approval, stamps, etc.

ACTION: The topic “Listing and Standards” will be added to the October 13, 2011 Agenda as an informational item.

Renting of Contractor Licenses – John Nielsen continues to work on this issue. The topic “Renting of Contractor Licenses” was asked to be brought to the October meeting as an informational item.

ACTION: The topic “Renting of Contractor Licenses” will be added to the October Agenda as an informational item.

SureSeal Inline Floor Drain Trap Sealer – At the suggestion of John Nielsen, and request of Milford Terrell, additional information on the *SureSeal* product will be brought back to the October meeting. The Board will make a final decision whether to permit the use of the product in the state of Idaho at that time.

ACTION: The topic “SureSeal Inline Floor Drain Trap Sealer” will be added to the October 13, 2011 Agenda as an action item.

◆ **Operational Report**

Operational Structure – DBS is moving from a centralized to regional structure. With the continuation of staff reduction, the Division will be required to restrict inspections to certain areas on given days, especially the outlying areas. Management will work with the regional managers to define those days.

Financial – The Plumbing program continues to struggle with a decline, 25 to 30%, in revenues.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Public Works Projects -- Permits and Building Inspections – Statutorily, DBS is responsible for the issuance of permits and building inspections on state public works projects in Idaho.

The first of July, DBS sent letters on the statutory requirements to state agencies involved in public works defined buildings and state agencies that independently generate their own buildings outside the public works activity. The changes will apply to projects beginning after July 1, 2011.

Project DOX – It is under consideration with the Division of Public Works to use Project DOX for their plan reviews. BSU has been trained on DOX and has begun to use the system on all their plans.

Chairmen Meeting – In June, a meeting was held with the chairmen of each board housed under the DBS to explain the Agency’s statewide layoff process and vision.

Statewide Layoff Policy – The Division’s layoff policy has changed from geographical regions to statewide. The new policy offers the Division the ability to identify the areas of need for inspectors to fulfill the inspection responsibilities across the state of Idaho.

Personnel – When Administrator Pearce was appointed to DBS in 2007, there were 152 authorized full-time positions. Upon the completion of the layoff program, the Division will have fewer than 100 employees.

Building Rental – The Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL) currently leases 43% of the Meridian office from DBS. Over the next ten years the Division anticipates a savings of \$1.9 million in rent.

Assigned Work Stations – In the past, inspectors have worked from their residences. DBS has contracted with IDOL to rent work stations from 12 of their facilities throughout Idaho. The Division’s three locations will provide accommodations to inspectors as well. The majority of inspectors will commute, by personal transportation, to their assigned facilities. Work hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. During non-business hours, state vehicles will be parked at the designated facilities.

Inspections by Zip Code – With the use of electronic systems, staff can now search inspections by zip code; calculating the areas of need for inspectors.

Chinese Government and U.S. Projects – The Chinese government has stock in the following Idaho-based projects: Hoku, solar cell plant in Pocatello; Southeast Idaho Energy Corp., fertilizer plant outside American Falls; electric bus manufacturer plant, Treasure Valley area; and industrial park, south of Boise airport.

To report back to the Governor, Kelly Pearce asked the board members for their thoughts to potential Chinese investments in the United States. The majority of members had no negative opinion on the issue.

◆ **Old/New Business**

Approval of May 12, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes – Hearing no motion to approve the minutes with any additions or deletions, Milford Terrell requested the May 12th minutes be placed on the October 13th Plumbing Board Meeting Agenda as a consent item.

ACTION: The May 12th Plumbing Board Meeting Minutes will be addressed at the October 13th Board meeting under the consent agenda.

Continuing Education Training for Plumbing Contractors – Gilbert Pond noted IDAPA 07.02.05.016.02c, “Continuing Education”, only specifies the number of hours of continuing education required for contractors.

At the request of Milford Terrell, John Nielsen and Mr. Pond will create a proposed rule change; breaking down the types of continuing education; i.e., plumbing code update, industrial, etc.

ACTION: The topic “Continuing Education Training for Plumbing Contractors” will be placed on the October Agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Executive Session**

An Executive Session was not required.

Chairman Terrell adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m. (MT)

MILFORD TERRELL, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

08/30/11rb