

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

Thursday – October 25, 2012 – 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 1, Suite 4, 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.*

Acting Chairman Dan Long called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (MT).

Board Members Present:

Dan Long, Vice-Chairman
Gilbert Pond
Matt Gardner
Debbie Oberhofer

Board Members Absent:

Milford Terrell, Chairman

DBS Staff Members Present:

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator, Administration
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager
Rod Freligh, Regional Manager, Region 1
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3
Terry Blessing, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3
Kathleen Watkins, Financial Manager
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

In the absence of Chairman Milford Terrell, Vice-Chairman Dan Long served as acting chairman at this meeting.

◆ **Open Forum**

Training and Backflow Manuals – Pete Crow, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), mentioned the *Backflow Prevention Reference Manual 2nd Edition* and *IAPMO Training Catalog* are available.

Continuing Education – Kenny Calkins, Treasure Valley Master Plumbers Association (TVMPA), stated the association will move forward with the establishment of continuing education training specific to contractors.

Horizontal Wet Venting – On behalf of Bob Rawlings, John Nielsen asked the Board to consider the removal of section 908.2 *Horizontal Wet Venting for Bathroom Groups* in its entirety from the Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC). Matt Gardner was in agreement.

The topic *Horizontal Wet Venting* correlates with agenda item five *Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs)*.

◆ **City and County Concerns**

No items or concerns were brought forth.

◆ **Approval of October 25, 2012 Agenda**

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Debbie Oberhofer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of July 26, 2012 Minutes**

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Matt Gardner seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Schedule 2013 Meeting Dates**

The 2013 Idaho Plumbing Board meeting dates are as follows: February 28th, May 23rd, July 25th, and October 24th. The meetings will commence at 9:30 a.m. (MT)/8:30 a.m. (PT).

MOTION: Debbie Oberhofer made a motion to accept the 2013 Idaho Plumbing Board meeting dates as presented. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Fuel and Hydronic Piping Permits**

This topic was addressed at the July 2012 meeting. Russ Goyen, Chief Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector for the city of Idaho Falls and Idaho Association of Building Officials (IDABO) representative, reiterated the association fully supports the proposed legislative change to Idaho Title 54 Chapter 50 that will allow licensed plumbing contractors to install fuel and hydronic piping.

IDABO suggested the Board, through DBS policy, clarify to contractors that such permits will consistently be obtained as HVAC permits from the authority having jurisdiction.

◆ **Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs)**

In August 2012, the IAPMO Standards Council issued Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs). The suggested amendments would revise and/or add new language to chapters two and nine of the 2012 and 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), respectively.

Idaho uses the ISPC, not the UPC. Should the Board choose to go with the recommendation of the TIAs; it would need to go through the negotiated rulemaking process. Currently, horizontal wet venting is an alternate method that can be used in Idaho.

Dan Long provided a brief description of a TIA and Patrick Grace addressed the negotiated rulemaking process. Mr. Long requested the topic *Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs)* be addressed at the February 2013 meeting as an informational item.

ACTION: The topic *Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs)* will be placed on the February 28, 2013 agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Cross-Connection Devices**

A discussion ensued as to the extent backflow devices and relief valves fail and the repercussions.

Due to drainage issues, manufacturers have developed alarms for relief valves that are wired into fire systems or burglar alarm systems.

John Nielsen reiterated the *Backflow Prevention Reference Manual 2nd Edition* is available through IAPMO. Also, the American Water Works Association has a backflow prevention manual.

◆ **Plumbing Program Manager Report**

Suspension of Contractor License – By statute, the Board makes a recommendation to the Division before it initiates proceedings regarding any suspension or revocation of a certificate of competency. John Nielsen sought the recommendation of the Board as it related to a particular contractor whom the Division alleges has failed to pay permit fees. Upon the Board's recommendation, the Division would then determine whether to proceed with suspension or revocation through legal proceedings.

MOTION: Debbie Oberhofer made a motion for the Division to proceed with the suspension of the plumbing contractor license. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ACTION: The Division will move forward with determining whether to initiate proceedings to suspend the contractor's license.

Informal Policy – A licensed plumbing contractor is the responsible individual authorized to represent a company and purchase permits. Technically, when a contractor passes away the company is immediately out of business. For ease of loss, the Division is working on an internal policy that would allow DBS to work with representatives of the company to reestablish the business and/or complete current jobs in a timely manner.

License/Permit Holder – Currently, there is a mixture of company and licensee names in the Division's system with regard to plumbing contractors. Upon completion of the clean-up of the system, correspondence from DBS will be in the licensee's name only. It was suggested signatures on permits be limited to the contractor and two associates of the company.

Continuing Education Unit (CEU) – Milford Terrell and Steve Keys authorized John Nielsen to move forward with CEU approvals. The proposed continuing education rule, originally submitted at the 2012 legislature, has been modified to require code update courses be a minimum of two hours and industry-related courses be at least one hour. CEU providers will provide DBS contact information to licensees in lieu of evaluation cards.

Colleges with apprenticeship programs can begin to submit course applications for approval to DBS. Mr. Nielsen will post approved courses to the Division's website. January 1, 2014 will be the official date in which CEU's will be required to renew licenses.

As an option, the Division has created a CEU test, in place of the code update requirement, that will be available January 1, 2013.

ACTION: The topic *Continuing Education Unit (CEU)* will be placed on the February 28, 2013 agenda as an action item.

ACTION: The Plumbing Program Manager will provide a copy of the CEU proposal to the Board.

IAPMO Report – In September 2012, John Nielsen attended IAPMO’s 83rd Annual Education and Business Conference in Hollywood, Florida. Training consisted of: 2012 UPC alternate water source systems (chapter 16); rainwater harvesting (chapter 17); solar water heating systems; scald awareness and prevention; and Uniform Mechanical Code classes covering fire dampers and appliance access/protection.

◆ **Operational Report**

Issuance of Permits – The HVAC and Electrical programs are up 11% year-to-date on the issuance of permits. The Plumbing program is up by 5.5% year-to-date. A year ago approximately 58% of permits were issued via internet; this year permits issued through the web is at 62%.

Water Softener Loop Legislation – Correspondence between Steve Keys and Bruce Van Camp of Culligan, and Idaho Water Technologies & Adobe Enterprises, with regard to legislation on water softener loops, was distributed.

Grease Interceptors – The Oregon Building Codes Division is working on new clarification relative to grease interceptors, standards, and enforcement. Essentially, the building code and plumbing code officials have agreed building officials will be responsible for making the determination on what the requirements are on grease interceptors.

Cross-Referencing Permits – Effective November 12, 2012, DBS will only process cross-reference permits under the following conditions: 1) Multi-family projects where there is a parent permit for the project and individual units cross-referenced to allow finals on those units, or 2) Event of a death of a licensed plumbing or HVAC contractor.

Refunding Permits – Effective November 12, 2012, the Division will only issue a refund if: 1) Overpayment, 2) Duplicate permit, or 3) Job not in the state’s jurisdiction.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – Kathleen Watkins reviewed the Idaho Plumbing Board Fund, FY 2012 financial statement as of June 30, 2012, and FY 2013 financial statement as of August 31, 2012.

Testing – Effective November 5, 2012, the Division will begin to accept applications for the plumbing contractor license. The Division’s Pocatello and Coeur d’Alene offices have two stations and the Meridian office has four stations for testing. The exam is four hours and open book.

Changes in Workforce – A PowerPoint presentation titled *Changes in Workforce* was presented by Kelly Pearce. The presentation consisted of charts comparing the average number of employees working in residential and commercial construction, as registered with

the Idaho Department of Labor (2007-2012); DBS budget-personnel reduction (2007-2012); and expenditures to appropriations (2005-2012).

Statutory Mandate--State Buildings – As mandated by statute, in July 2011, the Division began the plan review, permitting, and inspection processes of state building construction throughout the state of Idaho.

Creative Revenue Enhancement FY 2012 – Kelly Pearce gave a PowerPoint presentation titled *Creative Revenue Enhancement FY 2012*. The presentation consisted of: Energy training, HVAC; energy efficiency compliance database, Governor’s Office of Energy Resources; energy efficiency study, Penn State University; building and plan review fees/inspections, cities of Ketchum and Hailey; electrical and mechanical inspections, city of Meridian; electrical inspections, as needed, city of Twin Falls; inspections, Coeur d’Alene, Nez Perce, Shoban, and Kootenai Tribes; and permit/inspection revenue, state buildings.

Construction Projects – Following are future or existing projects throughout Idaho: New Marriott hotel, Coeur d’Alene; expansion/rebuilding of Simplot plant facility, Caldwell; new residential/commercial units, Meridian; new Chobani Yogurt plant, Twin Falls; and new Melaleuca operational plant and headquarters, Idaho Falls.

◆ **Adjournment**

Acting Chairman Dan Long adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m. (MT).

DAN LONG, ACTING CHAIRMAN
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

11/15/12rb

DATE