

IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Thursday – October 13, 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 9:30 a.m. (MT).

Board Members Present:

Milford Terrell, Chairman
Dan Long
Gilbert Pond
Matt Gardner
Gordon Smythe

DBS Staff Members Present:

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations
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

DBS Staff Members Absent:

Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General

◆ **Open Forum**

No items or concerns were brought forth.

◆ **Approval of October 13, 2011 Agenda**

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the October 13, 2011 Agenda as presented. Dan Long seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

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

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the May 12, 2011 Minutes as written. Dan Long seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

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

MOTION: Dan Long made a motion to approve the July 21, 2011 Minutes as written. Gordon Smythe seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of August 17, 2011 Minutes**

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the August 17, 2011 special Minutes as written. Matt Gardner seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **City Concerns Order #201-001**

Order number PLB 2011-001, dedicating Plumbing Board time to city and local concerns, was read into the record and signed by Chairman Terrell.

◆ **Plumbing Apprenticeship Curriculum**

This topic has been addressed at previous Board meetings. The Board was asked to approve the final draft of the Plumbing Apprenticeship Curriculum outline.

MOTION: Dan Long made a motion to approve the updated Plumbing Apprenticeship Curriculum as presented. Matt Gardner seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **SureSeal Inline Floor Drain Trap Sealer**

It was requested *SureSeal* be used in the state of Idaho. The product has a certified listing through the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO); however, does not meet the body of the code as far as movable parts in a trap. Traps and trap primers are required by code. If approved, *SureSeal* would only be allowed for use as a secondary unit on a temporary basis.

In previous years, the Board has approved waterless urinals and air admittance valves (AAVs) for limited use in Idaho. Prior to a decision, the Board would like to review the motion used for AAVs.

MOTION: Dan Long made a motion to table the topic “SureSeal Inline Floor Drain Trap Sealer” until the February 2012 Board meeting; allowing the Division to provide, and the Board to review, the motion/language used for AAVs. The Board unanimously consented and Chairman Terrell so ordered.

ACTION: Dan Long will work with legal counsel to ensure a proper motion is provided to the Board for review and understanding prior to the February 2012 Board meeting.

◆ **Aquatherm**

Previously, *Aquatherm* was introduced and requested to be used in domestic water applications in Idaho. John Nielsen recently received correspondence from representatives stating their product will be approved as a potable water piping system in the 2012 UPC.

Until the 2012 code is adopted by the state of Idaho, the Board has the authority to limit the use of the product.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the use of Aquatherm’s material under the direction of the local jurisdictions and/or the state of Idaho on a temporary basis until the 2012 code is adopted. Gordon Smythe seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

For further clarification, the following amended motion was made:

AMENDED MOTION:

Gilbert Pond made an amended motion to the original motion on item eight “Aquatherm” that the manufacturers installation instructions and requirements, and industry standards be applied to said motion. Dan Long seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Color Definition of Inspection Tags**

All required inspection tags are non-color specific, except inspection tags for unacceptable plumbing installations, which are red. For consistency across the trades, and to eliminate the sheer number of different tags, it was the recommendation to the Board to strike the color reference on inspection tags for unacceptable plumbing, reinspection and reinspection fee from IDAPA 07.02.04.011.04 and 07.02.03.06c.

MOTION: Matt Gardner made a motion to remove, in its entirety, IDAPA 07.02.03.06c, and any reference to the color of inspection tags for unacceptable plumbing, reinspection, and reinspection fee from IDAPA 07.02.04.011.04. Gordon Smythe seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Schedule 2012 Meeting Dates**

The 2012 Idaho Plumbing Board meeting dates are as follows: February 23rd, May 10th, July 26th, and October 25th. The meetings will commence at 9:30 a.m. (MT)/8:30 a.m. (PT).

MOTION: Dan Long made a motion to adopt the 2012 Idaho Plumbing Board meeting dates. Gordon Smythe seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Terrell requested the Division notify all interested parties of the Board's 2012 meeting dates.

ACTION: DBS staff will place the 2012 Board Meeting Calendar on its website under the "Board" page, and e-mail the calendar to all interested parties.

◆ **Schooling Update**

Irene Vogel, Professional-Technical Education (PTE), provided a handout to the Board on the number of apprentices across the trades in attendance at the six technical colleges.

ACTION: DBS staff will e-mail Ms. Vogel's apprenticeship list to Board Member's Gordon Smythe and Matt Gardner.

◆ **Instructor Qualification and Certification**

For clarification, all programs funded through PTE in the state of Idaho must have certified teachers. Workforce training is self-funded; therefore, their instructors do not have to be certified in accordance to the state codes under certification.

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

John Nielsen provided a proposed statute change to Idaho Code § 54-2602(e) "Exceptions". The change clarifies the type of work allowed on plumbing systems by regularly employed maintenance or construction workers on premises owned and/or operated by a property owner.

At the suggestion of Mr. Nielsen, the Board requested the topic "Commercial Plumbing -- Idaho Code § 54-2602" be brought back to the February and May 2012 board meetings as an informational item, and the July 2012 meeting as an action item. If approved by the Board at the July 2012 meeting, the proposal will go before the 2013 legislative session.

ACTION: The topic “Commercial Plumbing -- Idaho Code § 54-2602” will be brought back to the February, May, and July 2012 Board meetings.

◆ **Definition of Plumbing System -- Liquid and Fuel Gas Piping**

A proposed statutory change, to include liquid and fuel gas piping in the definition of “Plumbing System”, was brought forth.

Fuel gas piping, as well as wet piping for hydronic systems, is covered under the HVAC statute. Plumbers are allowed to perform those installations under permissive language in the Plumbing and HVAC statutes.

To avoid a potential conflict, where fuel gas piping and wet piping for hydronic systems could be installed under the Plumbing and HVAC Board’s jurisdictions concurrently, it was suggested the Boards meet to discuss this issue. The Plumbing Board was opposed, stating Idaho Code § 54-2602 “Exceptions” currently allows an individual with an HVAC license to install gas piping and piping for hydronic systems. It is the Board’s intent to clarify the definition of “Plumbing System”, to include, but not limit it to, hot water plumbing and boiler systems.

ACTION: For the February 2012 Board meeting, Gilbert Pond will work with DBS to incorporate the various components of the plumbing trade into I.C. § 54-2604 “Plumbing systems”.

◆ **Listings and Standards**

John Nielsen briefly explained the requirements products must meet to be listed and approved by IAPMO.

◆ **Renting of Contractor Licenses**

Upon further research, DBS does not have the authority to prohibit a licensed plumbing contractor from renting his license. Steve Keys explained the Division’s process to ensure a licensed individual can only represent one company.

The Board agreed to continue dialog on this topic. Using the following suggestions, Dan Long, Dennis Butterfield, and Kenny Calkins were asked to work with the Division to rewrite the definition of a plumbing license and how it can be used: 1.) Licensee must be 50% owner of the company; and 2.) Licensee must be on staff and work for the company.

ACTION: Prior to the February 2012 Board meeting, Dan Long, Dennis Butterfield, and Kenny Calkins will work with DBS to create a proposed rule; rewording the definition of a plumbing license and its use.

◆ **CEU Training for Plumbing Contractors**

At the July 2011 Board meeting, Gilbert Pond noted IDAPA 07.02.05.016 only specified the number of hours of continuing education required for plumbing contractors and journeymen. Draft rules on the criteria for continuing education requirements were approved by the Board at the July 2010 meeting and will be presented at the 2012 legislation.

Additional concerns/ideas of Mr. Pond's were: 1.) a course must be at least four hours in length, 2.) reciprocity for continuing education, and 3.) classes through IAPMO and Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT). It was suggested a four-hour class could be broken up into four one-hour segments, and DBS will research whether continuing education classes will be accepted among the reciprocal states of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Montana.

ACTION: The Division will work on a reciprocal agreement between Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Montana with regard to continuing education classes.

◆ **Plumbing Program Manager Report**

IAPMO's 82nd Annual Education and Business Conference – In September 2011, John Nielsen attended IAPMO's 82nd Conference in San Antonio, Texas. At the conference, Mr. Nielsen applied for positions on the workshop and technical committees.

Traps and Interceptors Class – Rand Ackroyd, Plumbing and Drainage Institute, is a mechanical engineer on traps and interceptors and presents a free four-hour class. In the future, John Nielsen will schedule the class for DBS staff and industry.

ACTION: John Nielsen will schedule the Traps and Interceptors class.

Proposed Rule Changes – The following proposed rule changes will be presented before the 2012 legislative session: 1.) criteria for continuing education providers, 2.) failure to disclose information on a license and registration application, and 3.) testing upon completion of apprenticeship schooling.

Mechanical License – DBS brought forth an idea to implement a mechanical license for plumbers and HVAC installers. Individuals would be licensed in their respective trades, as well as have an endorsement for each specialized skill, i.e., boiler, hydronic, fuel gas, water heater, etc.

As the new mechanical license evolves, Chairman Terrell requested John Nielsen bring additional information to the Board.

ACTION: At a future Board meeting, John Nielsen will bring further information on the proposed mechanical license.

◆ **Operational Report**

Regional Managers/Supervisors – The majority of the Division's regional managers and supervisors have a plumbing background.

Reorganization/Inspector Relocation – The reorganization of the regional structure and changes to inspector reporting locations has been working well.

Layoff Process – The layoff process for inspectors is mostly complete. Staff is working hard to provide timely coverage.

Training – The Division continues to make a concerted effort to enhance the training, and certify the Plumbing/HVAC inspectors. Certification through the International Code Council (ICC) requires continuing education on an annual basis.

Substitution Exam for a CEU Requirement – As an alternative to attending a CEU class, DBS suggested a written exam be offered to anyone who can demonstrate the knowledge required from the class.

◆ **Administrator Report**

In-House Testing – DBS is in the process of developing internal exams. A group of experts, including journeymen, have been and will continue to work with DBS; providing input and reviewing exams for content. It is the goal of the Division to begin offering the exams the first of January 2012.

Financial Report – Kirk Weiskircher reviewed the Idaho Plumbing Board fund FY 2012 financial statements as of August 31, 2011.

City of Meridian Contract – DBS recently signed a contract with the city of Meridian to provide electrical inspections only in their jurisdiction.

Nez Perce Tribe Contract – Upon the approval of the Nez Perce Tribal Council, DBS will provide plan review, building, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing inspections on the addition of a gaming casino south of Lewiston and a \$2.5 million truck stop.

City of Ketchum Contract – DBS has a contract with the city of Ketchum to provide the following services: Plan review, building, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing inspections. Ketchum's Planning and Zoning Department recently approved a downsized modification to a major hotel complex. It is estimated construction will begin the spring of 2012.

Areva – The uranium enrichment plant has passed all the required criteria from DEQ and environmental groups. It is anticipated ground breaking will commence in the spring of 2012.

Personnel – When Administrator Pearce was appointed to DBS in 2007, there were 152 authorized full-time positions. As of today, there are 102 employees.

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. 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.

Amnesty Program – DBS recently became aware of an amnesty program enacted by a county official in eastern Idaho. During a specific period of time, anyone who performed work on a jobsite without the required permit and/or inspection would be able to pay for and receive the services of the state and/or county without incurring penalty fees.

◆ **Old/New Business**

Issuance of Permits and Payment Time Line – Milford Terrell expressed the inconvenience and hardship the Division’s latest permit/payment process has on contractors. It was suggested the Division consider a one-stop shop throughout the state of Idaho. A homeowner would purchase one permit for all required services, i.e., building, electrical, plumbing, HVAC for their job; however, the contractors would be responsible for their respective part of the permit.

As reiterated by Kelly Pearce, as of July 1, 2011, DBS is the designated building inspector for all state projects. Mr. Pearce accepted the task to research a one-stop shop.

ACTION: For the February 2012 Board meeting, DBS will review the permit/payment process and create a package to advertise to all interested parties for comments.

ACTION: The topic “Issuance of Permits and Payment Time Line” will be placed on the February 2012 Agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Executive Session**

An Executive Session was not required.

Chairman Terrell adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m. (MT)

DAN LONG, ACTING CHAIRMAN
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

02/22/2012rb

DATE