

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

Thursday – January 18, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. (MST)

**Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d’Alene
2055 Garrett Way, Building 1, Suite 4, Pocatello**

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2018 MEETING

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

Chairman Matt Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. (MST)

Board Members Present:

Matt Gardner, Chairman
Gilbert Pond, Vice-Chairman
Rick Garrett

DBS Staff Members Present:

Chris L. Jensen, Administrator
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator
Spencer Holm, Deputy Attorney General
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1
Patrick J. Grace, Regional Manager, Region 2
Jeff Egan, Regional Manager, Region 3
Chuck Knapp, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3
Amy Kohler, Compliance Program Specialist
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Open Forum**

Call Before You Clear Program – Intermountain Gas has a new program titled *Call Before You Clear*, and would like to partner with DBS and plumbing professionals through-out the state of Idaho to bring awareness of underground natural gas pipes inadvertently installed through sewer or septic pipes, commonly known as “cross bore”. Presented was a brief video. Although a good idea, members of the audience were concerned it would take too much time for the utility company to respond to an incident.

Kenny Calkins, Representative for Treasure Valley Master Plumbers Association and Cloverdale Plumbing, suggested Intermountain Gas provide a number to Meridian Plumbing, Overall Plumbing and Cloverdale Plumbing, to test its response time.

Code Changes – Sandy Watson, S & K Plumbing, addressed concerns with the recent code changes effective January 2018. Specifically, horizontal vents in a drain line at a long sweep 90, and the location of a cleanout changed from a crawl space access of 20 feet to five feet, placing it above the floor.

Chairman Gardner suggested, and Mr. Watson agreed, to discuss the topic *Code Changes* at the March Board meeting. Mr. Watson will provide options to the code to the Administrative Assistant 2 for distribution to the Board prior to the meeting.

ACTION: The topic *Code Changes* will be placed on the March 29, 2018 agenda as an informational item.

City and County Concerns – There were no new issues.

◆ **Approval of the January 18, 2018 Agenda**

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the October 19, 2017 Minutes**

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

◆ **Negotiated Rule -- ISPC Section 603.5.12 Beverage Dispensers**

In 2017, a newly adopted code required a Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Prevention Assembly, in accordance with ASSE 1013, for beverage dispensers, carbonated beverage dispensers and coffee machines. This has become an issue for the coffee industry. The proposal removes beverage dispensers and coffee machines from that requirement; however, a new sentence requires an air gap or a vented backflow preventer, in accordance with ASSE 1022, for them.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to accept the proposed verbiage in section 603.5.12. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The proposal will go before the 2019 legislature; however, as a refresher, the Plumbing Program Manager will address the topic *Negotiated Rule -- ISPC Section 603.5.12 Beverage Dispensers* at the March 2018 meeting.

ACTION: The topic *Negotiated Rule -- ISPC Section 603.5.12 Beverage Dispensers* will be placed on the March 29, 2018 agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Licensing Freedom Executive Order**

In May 2017, Lt. Governor Brad Little signed Executive Order 2017-06. The Order requires all state agencies that issue professional licenses to review their license requirements and administrative procedures, providing a report to the Governor's office by July 1, 2018. Regional Manager Patrick J. Grace reached out to the Board and public, urging any input to this task. In addition, Regional Manager Grace offered to provide the Division's report at the March 2018 Board meeting.

ACTION: For the March 2018 Board meeting, Regional Manager Grace will provide the Division's report.

ACTION: The topic *Licensing Freedom Executive Order* will be placed on the March 29, 2018 agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Idaho Code § 54-2602 High School Educational Programs**

Representative Wendy Horman is the sponsor of a bill that will allow high school students, supervised by a journeyman, to perform HVAC, plumbing and electrical without the required apprentice registration. The bill will go before the 2018 legislature.

ACTION: DBS will inform the Board when the bill goes before a committee.

◆ **Idaho Code § 54-2611(a) Classification of Competency**

Approximately two years ago, the Board changed the licensing requirement that a contractor needs to have an active journeyman's license to renew. The last sentence in Idaho Code 54-§ 2611(a) reads in part, "... A contractor who in person does plumbing work shall also be qualified as a journeyman plumber, or have in his employ on all work a qualified journeyman." Deputy Attorney General Spencer Holm stated statute is in conflict with rule, and statute takes precedence over rule. This disparity could create misunderstandings with the requirement for licensure.

MOTION: Rick Garrett made a motion to place the topic *Idaho Code § 54-2611(a) Classification of Competency* as an action item on the March 2018 agenda. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ACTION: The topic *Idaho Code § 54-2611(a) Classification of Competency* will be placed on the March 2018 agenda as an action item.

◆ **ISPC Table 501.1(1) First Hour Rating**

For water heater efficiency, the U.S. Department of Energy transitioned from the Energy Factor metric to a new metric called Uniform Energy Factor (UEF). This could affect individuals installing new electric water heaters; specifically, the First Hour Rating used to calculate the amount used to explain the performance abilities of a water heater within the first hour of use when recovered to the thermostat setting.

In June 2017, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials sent a Tentative Interim Amendment; updating the table with the new UEF. In addition, the new table will be in the 2018 code. To comply with federal requirements, the Plumbing Program Manager suggested the Board consider updating the Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC) to include the new table.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to update the existing code with the revised table. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ACTION: The topic *ISPC Table 501.1(1) First Hour Rating* will be placed on the March 2018 agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Legislation – Two plumbing rules, Cross Connection Control Manual and Tracer Wires/Yard Hydrants, went before the House Subcommittee and approved to go before the full committee.

Pictures on Licenses – At this time, the Division is working on the concept of individual pictures required on plumbing, electrical and HVAC licenses.

Contractor Licensing Exam – A year or two ago, the Board addressed the topic of the contractor licensing exam and whether to replace business questions with more in-depth trade-related questions. At that time, there was no decision. The Plumbing Program Manager asked, and the Board agreed, to research this issue.

As part of the exam, a suggestion was to provide a blue print on a multi-story building with 100 mistakes, and have the individual circle the inaccuracies.

ACTION: The topic Contractor Licensing Exam will be placed on the March 2018 agenda as an informational item.

Exams – The 2015 code became effective January 1, 2018; however testing on the code will not begin until March 1, 2018. The Division will provide exams on the 2009 code until December 2018. Effective March 1, 2018, an individual can test on either the 2009 or 2015 code.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Compliance Program – To ensure the Division has solid cases prior to the issuance of Notice of Violations (NOV), Compliance Program Manager Amy Kohler continues to revamp the program's documentation.

NOV Report – Upon reviewing the NOV Activity by Date report, it was questioned if there was a way to identify where in the state the violations occur. The Compliance Program Manager will work with the Division's IT staff to add the city to the report.

ACTION: The Compliance Program Manager will have the city, where violations occur, included on the NOV report.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – Reviewed was the Idaho Plumbing Board Fund, FY 2018 financial statement, as of November 30, 2017.

Budget – The Governor's office, and Division of Financial Management, approved the Division's budget request for fiscal year 2019. In the budget is the hire of six new inspectors. The Administrator will meet with the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee on January 19, 2018, for a first presentation of the budget.

Intermountain Gas Forecast – The Administrator met with an Intermountain Gas Representative to review their forecast on gas line hook-ups. In 2017, they projected 8,800; however, with a tough winter, ended up with 8,000 hook-ups. The prediction for the coming year is 9,000. Currently, 75% of their activity is in the Treasure Valley, with 25% in eastern Idaho.

◆ **Old/New Business**

Plumbing Journeyman First Exam Attempts Report – Currently, there are 120 questions and four hours to take the journeyman exam. It has come to the Plumbing Program Manager's attention the pass rate, as evidenced on the Plumbing Journeyman First Exam Attempts report,

is low. The HVAC and electrical journeyman exams each have 100 questions. To be inline with the other industries, and see if the pass rate increases, the Division offered to reduce the questions to one hundred.

The Chairman noticed several schools, primarily in eastern Idaho, have a 0% pass rate; however, apprentices have taken exams in that area. One reason the numbers could be so low is the applicant does not complete the feedback section of the tutorial provided with the exam. The Plumbing Program Manager will research this issue, possibly requiring the tutorial to be mandatory.

ACTION: The Plumbing Program Manager will monitor the journeyman exam based on 100 questions, as well as research how to increase the pass rate on the Plumbing Journeyman First Exam Attempts report.

◆ **Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m. (MST)

MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

CHRIS L. JENSEN, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

03/05/2018rb

DATE