

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Thursday – May 21, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. (MT)**

**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  
1118 F Street, Lewiston (DEQ)  
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls (DEQ)  
900 North Skyline, Suite B, Idaho Falls (DEQ)**

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

Chairman Matt Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. (MT).

**Board Members Present:**

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

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator  
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations  
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator, Administration  
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General  
Fred Sisneros, Financial Manager  
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager  
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Chuck Knapp, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3  
Kevin Gellings, Regional Supervisor, Region 2  
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

◆ **Open Forum**

Proposed Code Changes – The presenter of the topic *Proposed Code Changes* was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, the topic was removed from the agenda.

CEU - Business Practices/Training – Kenny Calkins, Representative for the Treasure Valley Master Plumbers Association, asked the Board to reconsider business-related practices/training CEUs for plumbing contractors.

A training packet, with regard to insurance, was provided to the Plumbing Program Manager. If not approved as a business-related topic, Mr. Calkin's suggested it be considered industry-related.

At the May 2014 meeting, the Board unanimously voted to add "Business" to the list of courses not considered for continuing education.

College of Western Idaho (CWI) – Steve Bennett, Program Coordinator for the CWI Plumbing Department, introduced himself. The focus of the department is to educate plumbers; specifically apprentices. Mr. Bennett explained the new approach to their apprenticeship program, as well as future aspirations.

Open House/Career Fair – Mr. Bennett stated the CWI will hold another open house on August 27th, 5:00–7:00 p.m., at its Canyon County Center.

Marc Swinney, CWI Director of Business & Manufacturing Programs, conveyed that on June 11th, 9:30–2:00 p.m., the CWI will participate in the Department of Labor’s Career Fair in Caldwell. Also, on August 27th, the CWI Ada County Campus at Black Eagle will hold an open house.

As requested, Mr. Swinney will email the locations of the open houses to the Board.

City and County Concerns – No items or concerns were brought forth.

◆ **Approval of May 21, 2015 Agenda**

**MOTION:** Gilbert Pond made a motion to accept the agenda with the amendment made under *Open Forum*. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of February 19, 2015 Minutes**

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

◆ **Water Softener Discharge**

This issue was addressed at the February 19th Board meeting. Upon reviewing IDAPA 07.02.06.011.30 and the installation page for the discharge on a softener, the Plumbing Program Manager saw no reason to pursue a change in the rule at this time. The Chairman agreed.

◆ **Water Softener Licensing**

A proposed rule to create a water conditioning/treatment specialty license was included in the packet.

David Loveday, Government Affairs Director for the Water Quality Association (WQA), provided a summary of the national Association’s background, as well as offered to work with the Board and State to develop a license.

Blake Jones, President of the Idaho Water Quality Association, stated prior to the meeting he had spoken to the Plumbing Program Manager and others; proposing the use of the Water Quality Association’s Certified Installer program as a foundation to the training and education elements of the licensure program.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Chairman requested the topic *Water Softener Licensing* be placed on the July meeting agenda for further discussion.

**ACTION:** The topic *Water Softener Licensing* will be placed on the July 22, 2015 Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Plumbing Program Manager Report**

Training – In March, training was conducted in northern Idaho to contractors and inspectors. Approximately 50 individuals attended a class at the Division’s Meridian office in April. In June, training will be provided in eastern Idaho.

Code – When the Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC) was originally adopted under the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), there was discussion it would be updated every other cycle. The 2015 UPC is now available. Board Member Pond suggested going with the 2015 code since it is the most recent.

To consider the adoption of the 2015 UPC, the Plumbing Program Manager offered to provide a synopsis of changes made to the code at the July meeting.

**ACTION:** The Plumbing Program Manager will provide a summary of changes in the 2015 UPC at the July 2015 Board meeting.

Online Licensing – The Division has begun work to expand its online license renewal program; however, has come across issues with the process due to the differences in licensing requirements of the plumbing, electrical, and HVAC trades.

It was suggested the chairmen meet first and then the three boards; working together to reach an agreement on common license criteria for the three programs.

Water Pump Specialty Education Requirements – IDAPA rule requires water pump specialty journeymen and water pump specialty apprentices to complete Idaho Plumbing Board approved/related training classes. At this time, there are no classes available.

The Plumbing Program Manager suggested, and the Board agreed, to present proposed language to change the education requirements at a future meeting.

**ACTION:** The Plumbing Program Manager will provide a draft rule proposal to change the education requirements for water pump specialty licensees.

◆ **Operational Report**

Daily Operation – The Plumbing Program is stable and on a path of continuous improvement.

Compliance Program – DBS employee Terry Blessing has accepted the position of program manager with the Division’s new statewide compliance program. Currently, Mr. Blessing is traveling throughout the state meeting with inspectors, local jurisdictions and supervisors to ensure everyone is notified and on-board with the Division’s new program.

Testing – A demographic survey is provided at the completion of each exam. The tester is encouraged but is under no obligation to complete the survey.

Another statistical report is the *Journeyman First Exam Attempts Report*. The Administrator offered, and the Board agreed, for this report to be addressed at every regularly scheduled meeting.

**ACTION:** Beginning with the July 2015 Board meeting, the Division will provide the Journeyman First Exam Attempts Report in the Board packet.

◆ **Administrator Report**

**Personnel Change** – HVAC Program Manager Jerry Peterson has changed positions within the Agency. His new title is Energy Program Manager.

John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager, has taken on the responsibility of the HVAC program full-time, as well as continues to manage the Plumbing program.

**Financial Report** – The Idaho Plumbing Board Fund, FY 2015 financial statement as of March 31, 2015, was reviewed.

**Anti-Trust Laws** – Deputy Attorney General Patrick Grace addressed a recent decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the Federal Trades Commission’s complaint against a private board. The Court held that “a state board on which a controlling number of decision makers are active market participants in the occupation the board regulates must satisfy **Midcal**’s active supervision requirement in order to invoke state-action antitrust immunity.”

**National Construction Authority** – Two weeks in March/April, the DBS hosted delegates with the National Construction Authority (NCA) from Kenya. The mission of the NCA is to regulate and coordinate the construction industry for sustainable social and economic development.

◆ **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Dan Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. (MT).

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MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

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C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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