

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Thursday – June 7, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. (MDT)**

**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 JUNE 7, 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 9:30 a.m. (MDT)

**Board Members Present:**

Matt Gardner, Chairman  
Gilbert Pond, Vice-Chairman  
Rick Garrett  
Shaun Urwin  
Debbie Oberhofer

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

Chris L. Jensen, Administrator – Teleconference  
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator  
Spencer Holm, Deputy Attorney General  
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager  
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1  
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

- ◆ **CEU Credit** – Continuing education unit's (CEU) are available to eligible individuals attending Plumbing Board meetings.

- ◆ **Open Forum**

There were no new issues to address during open forum.

City and County Concerns – There were no new issues to address during open forum.

- ◆ **Approval of the June 7, 2018 Agenda**

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

- ◆ **Approval of the March 29, 2018 Minutes**

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

- ◆ **Negotiated Rulemaking/Public Hearing--ISPC Table 501.1(1) First Hour Rating**

With the lowering of numbers for first hour rating of water heaters, Plumbing Program Manager John Nielsen recommended adopting the new table, 5051.1(1), in chapter five of the Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC).

**MOTION:** Debbie Oberhofer made a motion to accept Table 501.1(1), *First Hour Rating*. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Negotiated Rulemaking/Public Hearing--Code Changes**

This has been a controversial topic as it pertains to the location of a cleanout from a crawl space access of 20 feet to five feet under the floor in new residential homes.

A letter by Craig Hammett, President of Building Contractors Association of Southwestern Idaho, Inc. was included in the packet. Mr. Hammett requested code section 707.9 be amended back to the original language to read, “No under-floor cleanout shall be located exceeding 20 feet from an access door, trap door, or crawl hole.”

The Board has met the negotiated rulemaking requirements; therefore, exact language for the code change is not necessary at this time. The Board can make a motion to accept a change to this rule, as determined by the Plumbing Program Manager, for submittal to the Governor’s office by the middle of August 2018.

**MOTION:** Rick Garrett made a motion to accept the negotiated rule change in the code with regard to cleanouts, and actual language determined later. Shaun Urwin seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Posted to the Division’s website will be the proposed language, as well as e-mailed to building contractors for written comments.

**ACTION:** The Plumbing Program Manager will place the proposed language to the Division’s website, and e-mail it to building contractors.

◆ **Negotiated Rulemaking/Public Hearing--Annual Testing on Residential Sprinklers**

At the 2018 legislative session, Representative Lance Clow brought forth a concurrent resolution to eliminate annual testing of backflow devices. Also targeted was the Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) rules; however, there will be no changes to the testing requirements at this time.

Board Member Gilbert Pond considers this is a water issue and the devices need tested on an annual basis.

**MOTION:** Gilbert Pond made a motion to leave the code the way it is. Debbie Oberhofer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Compliance--Disciplinary Actions**

The issue was resolved prior to the meeting; therefore, no action was required.

◆ **Negotiated Rulemaking/Public Hearing--ISPC Section 603.5.12 Beverage Dispensers**

As a reminder, the Board has met the negotiated rulemaking requirements, and the proposed changes to section 603.5.12 *Beverage Dispensers* in the 2017 ISPC will move forward to the 2019 legislature.

◆ **Contractor Testing**

The current plumbing contractor exam is four hours, open book, and consists of business questions only. The Plumbing Program Manager asked for further direction on this issue.

Suggestions were: 1) Have some business questions, 2) Some business but more in-depth/advanced code and plumbing knowledge, 3) Two-part test, 100 plumbing code questions with select business questions, 4) 50% code and 50% business, 5) Two tests, three hours plumbing and one hour business; 6) Four hours of code and two hours of business, 7) Create master plumber license; and 8) Four-hour master plumber exam and two-hour business exam.

The Board agreed the contractor exam needs both code and business questions. The Plumbing Program Manager will leave the current exam as is and bring details on the plumbing side to the September meeting.

**ACTION:** The topic *Contractor Testing* will be added to the September Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

◆ **C.E. Broker**

C.E. Broker continues to post Idaho approved CEU courses to its website. A first time user expressed the following concerns: 1) Individual, not provider, submitting certificate of course completion; 2) Typically takes 48 hours to post to account; 3) Individual pays for own transcript; and 4) Prior completed courses not recognized by C.E. Broker.

The Chairman asked the Division to investigate into simplifying the CEU process, and bring any findings to the September Board meeting.

**ACTION:** The topic *C.E. Broker* will be added to the September Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Training – Plumbing Program Manager Nielsen is traveling throughout the state of Idaho, holding meetings to discuss the requirements for the Manual S, J, and D reports on new residential HVAC permits. The new process becomes effective January 1, 2019.

Committee – In May, the Program Manager attended the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials Technical Committee meeting in California. The primary discussion was on the 2021 Uniform Plumbing Code. There were no spectacular changes to address.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Plumbing NOV Activity Report – For easier viewing, the pie chart was replaced with a graph on the violation types and count. Compliance Program Specialist Amy Kohler explained the civil penalty fee structure, which will be consistent with the electrical and HVAC programs.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – Briefly addressed was the Plumbing Board Fund, FY 2018 Financial Statement, as of April 30, 2018.

Statistics – Administrator Chris L. Jensen provided an overview of the Division’s activities in 2017.

Small Scale Reactor Project – On June 6, 2018, Premier Technology held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new facility in eastern Idaho. Estimated is one thousand workers and ten years to complete the project.

◆ **Old/New Business**

Practical Exam – Hearing discrepancies, Board Member Rick Garrett questioned who administers the practical portion of the journeyman exam throughout the state, and if it could be managed through the school system for better control and equality. Hearing no objection, the Chairman requested the Division research this issue and address, as an informational item, the topic *Practical Exam* at the September Board meeting.

**ACTION:** The topic *Practical Exam* will be added to the September Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Adjournment**

Chairman Gardner adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. (MDT)

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MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

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CHRIS L. JENSEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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DATE

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