

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING**

**Thursday – July 27, 2017 – 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 JULY 27, 2017 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. (MDT)

**Board Members Present:**

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

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

Chris L. Jensen, Administrator  
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator  
Kay Christensen, Division Chief, Contracts &  
Administrative Law Division, Office of the  
Attorney General  
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager  
Amy Kohler, Compliance Program Specialist  
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Patrick Grace, Regional Manager, Region 2  
Jeff Egan, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Open Forum**

Residential Academy Program – At the July 26, 2017 Idaho Electrical Board meeting, Blaine County School District Representatives addressed a four-year program titled *Residential Academy*. Students attend industry-related classes, and as seniors, go on-site to construct a house. The school district would like to expose students to the plumbing, electrical and HVAC trades. The Division supports the program 100 percent. The Plumbing Program Manager, with help from the staff of the Division’s School Safety and Security program, will establish a standardized process to fit this program, as well as similar programs throughout the state of Idaho.

City and County Concerns – There were no new issues brought forth during open forum.

◆ **Approval of May 18, 2017 Minutes**

Unable to complete the draft minutes from the May 18th meeting, the Administrative Assistant requested the Board defer the approval of the minutes to the October 2017 Plumbing Board meeting.

**ACTION:** For the October 2017 Board meeting, the topic *Approval of May 18, 2017 Minutes* will be placed as a consent item on the agenda.

◆ **Approval of July 27, 2017 Agenda**

Due to time constraints, the Plumbing Program Manager was unable to schedule an insurance expert or gather information on insurance/bonds for this meeting. Therefore, Chairman Gardner removed item 08 *Idaho Code § 54-2606--Insurance and Bonds* from the agenda, deferring the topic to the October 2017 meeting. The Chairman called for a motion.

**MOTION:** Board Member Pond made a motion to accept the agenda with the noted amendment. Board Member Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**ACTION:** For the October 2017 Board meeting, the topic *Idaho Code § 54-2606--Insurance and Bonds* will be placed as an informational item on the agenda.

◆ **Negotiated Rulemaking**

Cross Connection Control Manual – The proposal deletes the American Water Works Association (AWWA) manual from IDAPA 07.02.04.012 *Requirements in Addition to the Plumbing Code*. The Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC) will be the official resource on backflow protection; however, the AWWA will still be available as a reference.

(2017) ISPC Section 603.5.6 Double Check Backflow Assemblies – Currently, there are four listed devices to protect potable water supplies to sprinkler systems in ISPC Section 603.5.6. The biggest issue has been whether to add double check backflow assemblies as a fifth device.

It is the understanding of the Plumbing Program Manager to remove the AWWA and leave ISPC Section 603.5.6 as is.

Tracer Wires/Yard Hydrant – In ISPC Section 603.5.7 *Outlets with Hose Attachments*, the proposal adds freeze resistant sanitary yard hydrants to the list of items not required to have a hose bibb-type backflow preventer, hose bibb-type vacuum breaker or atmospheric vacuum breaker.

Another proposal adds an “Exception” to ISPC Section 604.10.1 *Tracer Wire*. A tracer wire would not be required if the electrical wiring is installed in the same trench as the water line from the well to the house.

Tyler Parrish, representative for the city of Meridian Water Division, voiced his concern about adding frost-free yard hydrants to the exception list. ASSE has approved automatic draining vacuum breakers, and in the plumbing code, when freezing temperatures occur, a listed automatic draining hose vacuum breaker is required. The city of Meridian uses these vacuum breakers and has not had any problems with them.

With regard to double checks, Mr. Parrish likes the idea of having them as a fifth type of assembly to protect potable water systems from backflow. In addition, cities and counties have the ability to either allow them or go more stringent.

Kevin Evans, representative for Inman Interwest, stated suppliers currently have in stock thousands of dollars in double checks. Prior to the new code becoming effective, and to make the necessary changes; i.e., remove/swap out double checks, etc., suppliers and manufacturers need a timeframe. Mr. Evans reiterated, on the manufacturer side, changes can be made for anybody.

The Plumbing Program Manager stated the code does not ban double checks from being used in other approved situations in the state of Idaho.

Board Member Pond similarly stated double checks can still be installed in commercial buildings and other areas; however, not on new sprinkler systems.

◆ **Vote on Proposed Amendments**

Cross Connection Control Manual – The Chairman called for a motion.

**MOTION:** Board Member Pond made a motion to move forward with the proposed removal of the AWWA from IDAPA rule as noted in the document.

For clarification, Board Member Garrett suggested “item 04a” be included in the motion.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Board Member Pond amended the motion to move forward with the adoption of item 04a as it pertains to the removal of the AWWA Cross Connection Control Manual from IDAPA 07.02.04.012. Board Member Oberhofer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

(2017) ISPC Section 603.5.6 Double Check Backflow Assemblies – With the removal of the Cross Connection Manual from IDAPA 07.02.04.012, ISPC Section 603.5.6 would not need to be changed. Therefore, no action was required.

Tracer Wires/Yard Hydrant – The Chairman called for a motion.

**MOTION:** Board Member Garrett made a motion to accept item 04c, *Tracer Wires/Yard Hydrant*, as written. Board Member Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Idaho Code § 54-2602--Exception**

The following proposals clarify subparagraph (a) and (e) as it pertains to the certificate of competency requirements:

Subparagraph (a): Property owners can perform plumbing work on their primary and secondary residence. The exception is limited to one and two family dwelling units and includes accessory buildings, quarters and grounds in connection with such dwellings used for non-commercial purposes.

Subparagraph (e): The new language would read, “Maintenance work on plumbing systems on premises owned or operated by an employer who regularly employs maintenance personnel. All work shall comply with the minimum standards, codes, and rules applicable to plumbing installations provided by this chapter.”

The Chairman called for a motion.

**MOTION:** Board Member Oberhofer made a motion to accept the changes to Idaho Code § 54-2602--*Exception*. Board Member Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Idaho Code § 54-2617--Inactive Licenses**

In statute, a contractor is required to pay an inactive license renewal fee on a yearly basis. The proposal removes the sentence, “Each inactive certificate of competency shall be issued for a period of one (1) year.” If approved by the legislature, plumbing contractors would only pay an initial inactivation fee. To reactivate a license, the contractor would pay a reactivation fee, as well as meet the requirements for an active contractor license; i.e., CEUs, compliance bond, etc.

**MOTION:** Board Member Garrett made a motion to accept the proposal as written. Board Member Oberhofer seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **School to Registered Apprenticeship Program/Statute Change**

The Plumbing Program Manager explained adding the Idaho Division of Career-Technical Education (CTE) to statute would allow CTE to standardize curriculums in Idaho apprenticeship schools, as well as help the Plumbing Board with educational issues.

Reviewing the proposed language in Idaho Code § 54-2615, board members expressed it was vague and clarification was needed on what authority CTE would have if added to the statute. In addition, the word “and” requires there be a collaborative relationship between the two parties; although, the statute gives the Plumbing Board the power and authority to make ultimate decisions about licensure.

Kay Christensen, Division Chief with the Attorney General’s Office, stated if the Board still had questions on what CTE’s power and authority is, it may be appropriate to hold off on this statutory change. In the interim, there is nothing to prohibit the Board from continuing to work with CTE without having a statutory change.

Chairman Gardner asked for a motion. Hearing none, the Board agreed to table this topic until further notice.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Personnel – Compliance Program Supervisor Terry Blessing officially retires at the end of July 2017. Amy Kohler, DBS employee for almost 20 years, has accepted the position of Compliance Program Specialist. Regional managers will become more involved in all aspects of compliance and the compliance program specialist will spearhead the program.

Deputy Attorney General Patrick Grace recently accepted the position of Southwest Idaho Regional Manager with DBS. New legal counsel for the Division is Deputy Attorney General Spencer Holm. Ron Whitney is the Chief of Staff for DBS.

◆ **Plumbing Manager Report**

Negotiated Rulemaking Dates – Providing the Board with a handout of the *2018 Bulletin Publication Schedule*, the Plumbing Program Manager explained the regimented process of negotiated rulemaking. In the past, the Board began the process at its first meeting in February, followed by a first hearing in May and second hearing/voting at the July meeting. After the July meeting, proposals were submitted to the Governor’s office for approval and then to the next year’s legislative session.

At the Board’s October 2017 meeting, the Plumbing Program Manager suggested scheduling the 2018 meetings in January, March and May with a fall meeting in September. This would allow the Division ample time to draft proposals, and resolve any major issues before the deadlines set by the Office of the Administrative Rules Coordinator.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – In August, the Plumbing Program Manager will meet with DEQ to discuss boundaries, as well as update the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – The program is in good shape. The plumbing fund is coming back and at the end of the year will have achieved one year’s budget in reserve.

Personnel (Cont’d) – The Administrator reiterated the positions of Mr. Grace and Mr. Holm. The Customer Resource Team obtained four new employees to assist in the issuance of permits/licenses and inspector support. In addition, DBS recently hired a new supervisor for the Twin Falls area and building inspector for the Meridian area.

CE Broker – In the past, DBS has kept track of continuing education units (CEU) for journeymen and contractors. The Division has signed a contract with a company by the name of CE Broker. This is a free service for DBS and its users. A compliance-tracking tool lists educational providers and their courses, as well as allows licensees to access official records and view any unmet CE requirements. CEU providers furnish the licensee’s information to CE Broker upon completion of their course. For an additional fee, the company will keep track of a licensee’s CEUs required by other jurisdictions.

Paperless Board Packets – Beginning September 2017, board packets will only be available electronically through the Division’s website. This is a great cost-savings for the Division’s eight boards.

Journeyman Exam – For statistical reasons, the Plumbing Program Manager is working with staff to create approximately five schooling questions for applicants to answer prior to taking the journeyman exam.

◆ **Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. (MDT).

---

MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

---

RON WHITNEY, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

---

DATE

09/20/2017rb

---

DATE