

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Thursday - October 15, 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**

*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 9:42 a.m. (MT).

**Board Members Present:**

Matt Gardner, Chairman  
Debbie Oberhofer  
Dan Long  
Rick Garrett

**Board Members Absent:**

Gilbert Pond, Vice-Chairman

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator  
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  
Terry Blessing, Compliance Program Supervisor  
Chuck Knapp, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

**DBS Staff Members Absent:**

Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations  
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer

◆ **Open Forum**

Continuing Education Units (CEU) - To renew a journeyman license, eight hours of CEUs must be completed; four plumbing code update related and four industry-related. Currently, plumbing apprentice instructors are exempt from the four-hour code update requirement; however, must obtain the four hours of industry related education.

Steve Bennett, Plumbing Program Director, College of Western Idaho, suggested all part and full-time plumbing apprentice instructors be credited the full eight hours of CEUs.

Out-of-State Plumbers - Testing/Licensing - A plumbing contractor moving to Idaho from a non-reciprocal state must provide proof of schooling and/or work experience to be eligible to take the Idaho's journeyman exam.

Steve Bennett questioned whether there is a way to recognize a plumber's previous work experience without proof.

The Plumbing Program Manager explained the licensing requirements. A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to the journeyman exam and placement test(s). Suggestions were: 1) Out-

of-state plumbers with no academic experience would need to receive a 90% on the journeyman exam; however, individuals with schooling would only need 75% to pass; 2) Standard placement test(s) would be issued by the DBS only; and, 3) All applicants, in-state and out-of-state, could take the placement test(s).

The Administrator offered, and the Chairman agreed, for the Plumbing Program Manager to provide, at the February 2016 Board meeting, methods in which out-of-state plumbers with no academic experience could qualify to take either the journeyman exam or placement test(s).

**ACTION:** At the February 2016 Board meeting, the Plumbing Program Manager will provide ideas on how out-of-state plumbers with no schooling can take the journeyman exam or placement test(s).

**ACTION:** The topic *Out-of-State Plumbers - Testing/Licensing* will be placed on the February 2016 agenda as an informational item.

City and County Concerns - City of Boise Inspector Bill Vandegrift congratulated the DBS on its recent contract with the city of Garden City.

◆ **Approval of October 15, 2015 Agenda**

**MOTION:** Dan Long made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Debbie Oberhofer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of July 22, 2015 Minutes**

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

◆ **2016 Board Meeting Dates**

The 2016 Idaho Plumbing Board meeting dates are as follows: February 18th, May 19th, July 19th and October 6th.

**MOTION:** Dan Long made a motion to approve the following 2016 board meeting dates: February 18th, May 19th, July 19th and October 6th. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**ACTION:** The 2016 Plumbing Board meeting dates will be placed on the Division's board calendar and website.

◆ **School Curriculum**

Christine Knouff, National Director of Strategic Operations, Brown Mackie College-Central Services, reiterated the College would like to establish a one-year diploma program in plumbing at its Boise campus. The full-time program would provide graduates with the skills necessary for entry-level positions in the plumbing and gas piping trades.

At the request of the Chairman, the topic *School Curriculum* will be placed as an action item on the February 18, 2016 Plumbing Board meeting agenda.

**ACTION:** The topic *School Curriculum* will be placed on the February 2016 agenda as an action item.

◆ **Idaho Code § 54-2602(1)(e)**

The Chairman brought forth this topic in an attempt to better regulate the type of work a “maintenance” or “construction” plumber can perform.

The statute currently reads: “Work on plumbing systems on premises owned or operated by an employer who regularly employs maintenance or construction plumbers, provided that alterations, extensions and new construction shall comply with the minimum standards and rules applicable to plumbing practices provided by this chapter.” Legal counsel’s interpretation of the law is a “maintenance” or “construction” plumber is not required to obtain a journeyman license.

Following are suggestions to clarify the statute: 1) Create a definition of a “maintenance” or “construction” plumber; i.e., type of plumbing he can perform; and 2) Add the word “maintenance” or “construction” before the word “work”; i.e., maintenance work on plumbing systems or maintenance plumbing work.

For further discussion, the Chairman instructed that the topic *Idaho Code § 54-2602(1)(e)* be placed as an informational item on the February 2016 board meeting agenda.

**ACTION:** The topic *Idaho Code § 54-2602(1)(e)* will be placed on the February 18, 2016 agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Drinking Water/Waste Water Professionals**

The Chairman and Plumbing Program Manager recently participated in a meeting of the Drinking Water/Waste Professionals. A legislative proposal, to allow licensed backflow assembly testers to inspect, maintain, repair and conduct like/kind replacements of backflow prevention assemblies, was discussed. Except for testing, backflow devices currently fall under the plumbing code.

The Board agreed the topic *Drinking Water/Waste Water Professionals* should be discussed further at the February 2016 Board meeting.

**ACTION:** The topic *Drinking Water/Waste Water Professionals* will be placed as an informational item on the February 18, 2016 board meeting agenda.

◆ **Adoption of the 2015 UPC for the ISPC**

Prior to the incorporation of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) into the Idaho State Plumbing Code, a committee comprised of John Nielsen, DBS; Gilbert Pond, Board Member; Adam Bowcutt, DBS; Eric Strole, city of Boise; Steve Bennett, CWI; Garret Christofferson, city of Idaho Falls; and Cache Olson, city of Nampa are reviewing the 2015 UPC.

As the Board moves forward with the adoption of the 2015 UPC, Jed Scheuermann, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) Representative, offered the services of IAPMO.

◆ **Plumbing Program Manager Report**

Reports - The following reports were addressed: 1) Plumbing Journeyman First Exam Attempts; 2) Plumbing NOV Cases; 3) “Verification” of Inspections by Inspectors; and 4) “Verification” of Inspections by Inspector Table.

IAPMO Conference - In September, the Plumbing Program Manager attended IAPMO’s 89th Annual Education and Business Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

◆ **Compliance Program Supervisor Report**

The Compliance Program Supervisor has been meeting, statewide, with the Division’s program managers, regional managers, regional supervisors and inspectors; ensuring everyone is abreast of the new program and procedures.

◆ **Operational Report**

In the absence of the Deputy Administrator-Operations, the Administrator presented the Operational Report.

Reorganization - The deputy administrators have traded several of their responsibilities within the Agency. The Deputy Administrator, Operations now supervises the program managers and the Customer Resource Team (CRT). The Deputy Administrator, Administration oversees the Safety Program, as well as school and government facilities.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Annual Regional Manager Conference - The Division hosted its third annual Regional Manager Conference on October 7-8, 2015. Regional supervisors, regional managers and logging safety personnel attended this one and a half day conference.

Financial Report - The Idaho Plumbing Board Fund, FY 2016 financial statement as of September 30, 2015, was reviewed.

Cities of Meridian and Garden City - On October 1st, the Division signed a contract with the city of Meridian; expanding its services to include building inspections and plan reviews.

Also on the first of October, the DBS signed a contract with the city of Garden City. The Division will now provide building, electrical, energy, mechanical and plumbing inspections, as well as plan reviews.

◆ **Old/New Business**

Continuing Education Units (CEU) (Cont’d) - The question arose why inspectors and instructors automatically get credit for the four-hours of plumbing code-related training; however, the board members are not offered this benefit.

At the October 2013 Board meeting, the Board agreed the verbiage “plumbing board members” should be removed from the course approval requirements as it is a conflict of interest since board members receive monetary compensation for board meetings.

The Deputy Attorney General offered to review Idaho’s ethics law with regard to board members and possible exemption of CEU training.

**ACTION:** The Deputy Attorney General will research the ethic laws of Idaho as it pertains to the board members and required four-hours of code-related training.

Board Member Garrett requested, and the Chairman agreed, the topic *Continuing Education Units (CEU)* be placed as an action item on the February 2016 board meeting agenda.

**ACTION:** The topic *Continuing Education Units (CEU)* will be placed on the February 18, 2016 agenda as an action item.

Pressure Testing - With the weather getting colder and no set times for inspections, pressure tests on drain, waste and vent systems do not hold long enough to be inspected. Board Member Garrett suggested the contractor perform a self-test or self-inspect on the apparatus.

This issue had been addressed at previous board meetings. Board Member Garrett suggested, and the Chairman agreed, the topic *Pressure Testing* be placed as an informational item on the February 18, 2016 board meeting agenda.

**ACTION:** The topic *Pressure Testing* will be placed on the February 2016 agenda as an informational item.

Website - The DBS's website has a page titled "Boards". Information on the Division's seven boards; i.e., agendas, packets, minutes, etc., are available for viewing at <http://dbs.idaho.gov/boards/index.html>.

To avoid repeating previous topics at future meetings, Board Member Oberhofer suggested the Board review past packets.

◆ **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Debbie Oberhofer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Long seconded.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:17 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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DATE

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