

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

Thursday – October 19, 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 OCTOBER 19, 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 9:32 a.m. (MDT)

Board Members Present:

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

DBS Staff Members Present:

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

◆ **Open Forum**

Shower Pan – Cindy Whitlock, homeowner from Rathdrum, questioned why the Division’s inspector stated the shower pan installed in her home was too small when the shower specifications were on the blueprints. Although Ms. Whitlock has spoken to the Division’s Region 1 Manager and Supervisor, the Chairman informed her Plumbing Program Manager John Nielsen would contact her as well.

Apprentices--College of Western Idaho (CWI) – Steve Bennett, Plumbing Program Coordinator, CWI, stated there are 202 apprentices enrolled in classroom programs, and approximately 100 students taking online courses. Twenty-five apprentices graduated in the spring of 2017. The CWI is sharing materials with the College of South Idaho, Twin Falls, and Eastern Idaho Technical College, Pocatello, to assist in their programs.

Timeframe--Journeyman Exam – Mr. Bennett asked if a plumbing apprentice does not pass the journeyman exam within the required six-month period, could the individual take an on-line test prep course rather than retake year four of the apprenticeship program. At this time, the Board is satisfied with the requirements in rule.

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

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

Due to the time constraints of a guest, Plumbing Program Manager John Nielsen requested item six *Idaho Code § 54-2606 Insurance and Bonds* be moved before item four *Schedule 2018 Board Meetings*.

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

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

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

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

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

◆ **Idaho Code § 54-2606 Insurance and Bonds**

Presented at the February 2017 meeting was a draft proposal to remove the \$2,000 compliance bond, and require plumbing contractors/specialty plumbing contractors to obtain \$300,000 in general liability and worker's compensation insurance. The Board requested an expert from the insurance industry address the pros and cons of liability insurance and compliance bonds. Deputy Attorney General Brett DeLange, Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General, provided background on this issue as it pertains to consumer protection.

Upon further discussion, it was determined to table the topic *Idaho Code § 54-2606 Insurance and Bonds*.

◆ **Schedule 2018 Board Meetings**

The proposed 2018 Board meeting dates are January 18, March 15, May 17, and September 20.

MOTION: Shaun Urwin made a motion to approve the 2018 Board meeting dates as presented. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ACTION: The 2018 Plumbing Board meeting dates will be placed on the Division's board meeting calendar, and website.

◆ **Career & Technical Education (CTE)--Spending Authority**

As discussed at the July meeting, the Plumbing Program Manager sent a Memorandum of Understanding, between the Board and CTE, to the board members prior to the meeting.

For a second time, Wendi Secrist, Director of Business Outreach, Idaho Career & Technical Education, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled *Related Training Programs, Plumbing Apprenticeship*.

The Plumbing Program Manager offered to have the presentation placed on the Division's website.

ACTION: The Division will post the PowerPoint presentation to its website.

Included in the Division's 2019 budget request is the \$41,000 spending authority for CTE to update standards for the plumbing apprenticeship programs. The budget will go before the 2018 legislative session, and if approved, the process could begin as early as July 1, 2018.

Union, school and industry representatives were all in favor of statewide standard training.

MOTION: Debbie Oberhofer made a motion to accept the proposed spending authority for CTE to set standards for the Idaho apprenticeship schooling. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Representatives of the coffee industry have discussed with the Plumbing Program Manager whether coffee makers should require a backflow protection like carbonated dispensers as written in section 603.5.12 *Beverage Dispensers* of the 2017 Idaho State Plumbing Code.

As explained by Board Member Garrett, most machines have air gaps between the actual coffee and water supply. Therefore, he is inclined to take the coffee maker out of the code.

Board Member Pond does not want a blanket statement that a reduced pressure backflow device must protect all coffee makers/coffee machines. He would like it to meet criteria, and expressed a definition or explanation would be better.

The Plumbing Program Manager offered, and the Board agreed, to bring two drafts proposals to the January 2018 meeting.

ACTION: The Plumbing Program Manager will provide two drafts at the January 2018 Board meeting.

ACTION: The topic *ISPC Section 603.5.12 Beverage Dispensers* will be placed as an action item on the January 18, 2018 Board meeting agenda.

◆ **Idaho Code § 54-2617(3) Certificate Expiration**

An individual has up to two years to renew a license once it expires. If not renewed within that period, the license is closed and the individual must retest. Several licensees have asked to pay a higher reactivation fee rather than retest. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed an individual would have to retest upon the closure of a license.

Board Member Pond suggested, and the Chairman agreed, to table the topic *Idaho Code § 54-2617(3) Certificate Expiration* until further notice.

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

The Blaine County School District has a four-year industry-related program to expose high school students to the plumbing, electrical and HVAC trades by attending industry-related classes, as well as construct a house on-site. As part of the high school program, a proposed

change to Idaho Code § 54-2602 *Exceptions* would allow, but limit, students to perform residential trade-related installations and not be required to register as an apprentice.

The Division is also working with CTE on the School to Registered Apprenticeship Program. This program allows eligible high school students to begin apprenticeship during their senior year of high school.

Having read the proposal, Kenny Calkins, Treasure Valley Master Plumbers Association Representative, would consider asking a representative or senator to sponsor the proposal at the 2018 legislature.

The Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL) law states no one under the age of 18 can run power tools. Darcy Neidigh, DeBest Plumbing, likes the idea; however, suggested that if or when a legislator is willing to carry the proposal, the IDOL be involved as well.

The Chairman stated the topic *Idaho Code § 54-2602 High School Educational Programs* would be further discussed at the January Board meeting.

ACTION: The topic *Idaho Code § 54-2602 High School Educational Programs* will be placed as an informational item on the January 18, 2018 Board meeting agenda.

Board Member Pond left the meeting at 12:10 p.m. to catch a flight.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

The Compliance Program Specialist is currently redefining the Division's processes for the compliance program.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Bullhead Two Way Cleanouts – The Plumbing Program Manager forward an e-mail to the Board prior to the meeting from a plumber not able to use a bullhead cleanout (two combo fittings facing one another). The code does not allow bullhead tees; however, there is an approved non-directional two way fitting. The Plumbing Program Manager explained he could use code section 301.3 *Alternate Materials and Methods*, and get it taken care of on the state's side without having to rewrite any rules.

Inspection Requests – For years, contractors have asked DBS to schedule inspections directly with the homeowners. The Division have complied; however, it has become more problematic, as well as time consuming for inspectors. This is a contractual issue between contractors and their customers. Moving forward, DBS will do its best to accommodate; however, will no longer contact homeowners for access to perform inspections. The Division will place notification of the change to the Division's website and on permit applications.

ACTION: The Plumbing Program Manager will post an announcement of the change on the Division's website and permit applications.

One suggestion was for the contractor or homeowner to call the inspector directly to determine a time, AM or PM, for an inspection.

International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) Conference – The Plumbing Program Manager attended IAPMO’s Business and Educational Conference in Alaska. At the conference, IAPMO board members asked him to be on a standards and products committee. If accepted, the Plumbing Program Manager will need to step down from one or both technical committees he is currently on since he will be required to travel once a month to Ontario, California.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Inspections – Today, the Division received 449 plumbing, mechanical and electrical inspection requests. Forty-six inspectors will perform those inspections throughout the state of Idaho, for an average of ten inspections per inspector.

Budget – The Division submitted its budget request for fiscal year 2019. In the request is six full-time personnel, three electrical inspectors and three plumbing/HVAC inspectors.

Damage Prevention Board – The Damage Prevention Board’s temporary rules became effective September 1, 2017, and the proposed rules will be reviewed at the 2018 legislature for permanent status. The Division has begun to take complaints on damages to underground facilities. The Deputy Administrator encouraged everyone to call 811 prior to digging.

Retirement – Ann Beebe, Special Assistant with the Office of Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter, and liaison between DBS and Idaho State Boards, Commissions, and Councils, will retire on October 31, 2017. A party in her honor will be October 24, 2017, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., in the Governor’s Ceremonial Office.

Directional Boring – In line with the damage of underground facilities, Chairman Gardner explained telecommunications and others are boring through sewer lines, etc., causing damage as well.

◆ **Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m. (MDT)

MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

CHRIS L. JENSEN, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

12/08/2017rb