

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Thursday - May 19, 2016 - 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**

*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. (MDT)

**Board Members Present:**

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

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations  
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator, Administration  
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General  
Fred Sisneros, Financial Manager  
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager  
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer  
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Terry Blessing, Compliance Program Supervisor  
Chuck Knapp, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Support

**DBS Staff Members Absent:**

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator  
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3

◆ **Open Forum**

No items or concerns were brought forth.

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

◆ **Approval of May 19, 2016 Agenda**

Agenda item 05 *Pressure Testing* was moved above agenda item 03 *Administrative Appeals Hearing*; allowing the HVAC tradesmen in the Pocatello office to return to work.

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

◆ **Approval of February 18, 2016 Minutes**

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

◆ **Pressure Testing**

Due to the time constraints of DBS inspectors, it can take several days for a plumbing system in outlying areas to get inspected. In IDAPA 07.02.06 *Rules Concerning Idaho State Plumbing Code*, Section 103.5.3.1 *Test*, by changing the word “shall” to “may”, contractors will be allowed to self-verify pressure tests only.

If approved, the Division will create a policy or procedure for its inspectors to verify the test was witnessed prior to the inspection.

The City of Idaho Falls Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector Garret Christofferson explained that although testing is required on the systems; the City does not inspect them. This process has been going on for more than 25 years and the City has never had a problem.

**MOTION:** Rick Garrett made a motion in Section 103.5.3.1 *Test*, the word “shall” be changed to “may” be conducted in the presence of the Authority Having Jurisdiction or the Authority Having Jurisdiction’s duly appointed representative. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Administrative Appeals Hearings**

Dale James - NOV PLB1601-0025 - Dale James did not show up nor call into the meeting to petition his appeal; therefore, he is in default.

**MOTION:** Dan Long made a motion it is the Board’s intent to take default and the fine remain in place. Debbie Oberhofer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**ACTION:** The Deputy Attorney General will create the default documentation for the Chairman’s signature; providing a signed copy to Mr. James.

◆ **Continuing Education Units (CEU)**

At the February 2016 meeting, it was decided board members and attendees of board meetings and board-related activities were eligible to receive a percentage of code-related CEUs. Unable to come up with a proper motion, the Deputy Attorney General was asked to prepare a motion for the Board to review and vote on at the May 2016 meeting.

At today’s meeting, the Board agreed to a handout provided by the Deputy Attorney General; outlining the requirements for board-related CEU credit.

**MOTION:** Gilbert Pond made a motion to include time spent attending plumbing board meetings and other board activities as eligible for CEU credit for all licensees - up to 50% of the required CEUs in a license cycle - in accordance with the prior approval and criteria as established and advertised by the Division. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Solar Energy & Hydronics Code**

2015 Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code - The topic *2015 Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code* was introduced to the HVAC Board at its May 11th meeting. The Board is interested in the possible adoption of the code. For uniformity purposes, it was suggested a

joint panel, consisting of two members from the HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing Boards, meet to review the code. Plumbing Board Members Garrett and Pond offered their services.

Board Member Pond stated the topic *2015 Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code* should be placed on the July board meeting agenda as an informational item.

**ACTION:** The topic *2015 Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code* will be placed as an informational item on the July 2016 board meeting agenda.

**ACTION:** Board Member Pond will update the Board on the progress of the panel.

Board Member Garrett requested the Division provide copies of the code to the joint panel for review.

**ACTION:** The Deputy Administrator-Operations will provide copies of the code to board members on the panel.

◆ **Tile Showers and Thresholds**

A temporary and proposed rule to implement Section 408.5 *Finished Curb or Threshold* of the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) would allow showers without thresholds.

The Plumbing Program Manager recently attended the 2018 UPC Technical Committee meeting. The majority of pre-manufactured shower pans are 1/8 inch. It was proposed at the meeting to change the slope from 1/4 inch per foot to 1/8 inch per foot. The verbiage in Section 408.5 *Finished Curb or Threshold* would read: “The finished floor of the receptor shall slope uniformly from the sides towards the drain not less than 1/8 inch per foot (10.4 mm/m), nor more than 1/2 inch per foot (41.8 mm/m).”

**MOTION:** Gilbert Pond made a motion to accept the shower enclosure as written in the packet with the exception of the 1/8 inch per foot change. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Out-of-State Plumbers -- Testing/Licensing**

Currently, an individual from another state who wants to take the Idaho journeyman exam must provide a journeyman license OR proof of four (4) years of plumbing work experience and four (4) years of schooling.

Some jurisdictions do not provide nor require schooling/licenses. The Division does not want to deter anyone from working in Idaho; therefore, an additional option was provided in the form of a temporary/proposed rule. The proposal would require an out-of-state plumber to provide verifiable documentation of eight (8) years (16,000 hours) to be eligible to take the journeyman exam.

**MOTION:** Rick Garrett made a motion that, in principle, the Division move forward with placing language in IDAPA rule; requiring an apprentice to provide four (4) years of experience and four (4) years of schooling OR eight (8) years of experience (16,000 hours) to be able to take the journeyman exam. Debbie Oberhofer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Adoption of the 2015 UPC**

A proposed rule change to update the year of the Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC) to 2017, as well as operate under the 2015 UPC was briefly addressed. The Board will vote on the proposal at the July 2016 meeting.

The Plumbing Program Manager also brought forth two additional proposals, chemical dispensers and quality of fixtures, the 2018 UPC Technical Committee would like to add to the 2018 code. The proposed changes would clear up any issues among inspectors and industry.

**ACTION:** The topic *Adoption of the 2015 UPC* will be placed as an action item on the July 2016 board meeting agenda.

◆ **Idaho Code -- Title 54**

A rewrite of the plumbing statute, Title 54 *Professions, Vocations, and Businesses*, Chapter 26, *Plumbing and Plumbers*, was distributed. Proposed changes are: 1) New concept of licensure; 2) Establish difference between certificate of competency, license and registration; 3) New “facility” (industrial) account; 4) Board member compensation status changed to “honorarium”; 5) Change from bonds to proof of liability insurance; 6) Duration of license/registration; 7) Fees for certificate of competency, license and registration; and 8) Administrator to promulgate rules establishing fees.

The Deputy Administrator-Operations suggested a work session be held the morning of July 19th with the regularly scheduled meeting in the afternoon. No action was taken by the Board.

**ACTION:** The topic *Idaho Code -- Title 54* will be brought to the July 2016 Board meeting as an action item.

◆ **AWWA Rule**

The standard for backflow prevention on plumbing systems is already in the ISPC. Rather than require plumbers to use two books, a proposed rule was presented; removing the Cross Connection Control Manual, published by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), from IDAPA 07.02.04.012 *Requirements in Addition to the Plumbing Code*.

**ACTION:** The topic *AWWA Rule* will be placed as an action item on the July 2016 board meeting agenda.

◆ **Contractors and Civil Penalties**

In the past, plumbing contractors have been exempt from civil penalties on fees, permits, inspections and corrections. The proposed rule would remove the verbiage; ensuring every plumber is subject to civil penalties.

**ACTION:** The topic *Contractors and Civil Penalties* will be placed as an action item on the July 2016 board meeting agenda.

◆ **Plumbing Program Manager Report**

Reports - The following reports were addressed: 1) Plumbing Journeyman First Exam Attempts, 2) Plumbing NOVs/Civil Penalties Issued (1/1/2016 - 3/31/2016) and 3) “Verification” Inspections by Inspector (1/1/2016 - 3/31/2016).

Technical Committee Meetings - The first week in May, the Plumbing Program Manager attended the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and 2018 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) Technical Committee meetings in Denver, Colorado.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Program - The Compliance program is very busy. The Division’s regional supervisors and inspectors were acknowledged for the assistance with the program.

Classes - The Compliance Program Supervisor continues to provide PWCL classes. As stated at a previous meeting, he will teach the class in each county in Idaho; 22 in the spring and 22 in the fall. As of April, he has been to 12 counties.

Homeowner Permit - It was brought to the Board’s attention a general contractor (GC) can pull a homeowner permit and do the work himself since he is the legitimate homeowner of the house being built. Title 54, Chapter 26, Idaho Code, is currently being revised. The Deputy Administrator-Operations offered, and the Board agreed, to modify the verbiage to require the GC to hire licensed individuals in the plumbing/electrical/HVAC trades to pull permits and perform the work.

**ACTION:** The Deputy Administrator-Operations will make the necessary changes in statute with regard to general contractors and homeowner permits. At the July 2016 Board meeting, the topic *Homeowners Permit* will be addressed under the topic *Idaho Code -- Title 54.*

◆ **Operational Report**

Refund/Transfer of Plumbing Permits/Fees - At the request of Chairman Gardner, a proposed rule change to IDAPA 07.02.03.011 *Fee Schedule* was distributed at the meeting. The proposal adds two new subsections; transferring of permits and refunding of permit fees. The Deputy Administrator-Operations gave kudos to the city of Boise on how well its policy is written; thus, using it as the foundation of the new rules.

With no objection from the Board, the topic *Refund/Transfer of Plumbing Permit/Fees* will be brought to the July 2016 meeting as an action item.

**ACTION:** The topic *Refund/Transfer of Plumbing Permit/Fees* will be placed as an action item on the July 19, 2016 board meeting agenda.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Due to a medical procedure, the Administrator was unable to attend the meeting.

Financial Report - Financial Manager Fred Sisneros addressed the Idaho Plumbing Board Fund, FY 2016 financial statement as of March 31, 2016.

◆ **New/Old Business**

No new or old business was brought forth.

◆ **Plumbing Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the Plumbing Board will be Tuesday, July 19, 2016.

◆ **Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m. (MDT).

---

MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

---

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

---

DATE

06/02/2016rb

---

DATE