



MINUTES OF THE

SECOND PLUMBING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2017

DATE: May 2, 2017

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

LOCATION: Radisson Edmonton South, Edmonton

PRESENT: Sub-Council Members
David Hughes, Chair
Charles Hallett
Mark Harrold, Vice Chair
Peter Koenig
Tim Kosolofski
Quenton Kusiek
Ken Morrison
Angus Potskin

Safety Codes Council
Gerald Baron

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Sidney Manning, Claude Valliere, Dean Morin, Harry Li, Joe Petryk

REGRETS: Ken Helmer
Lawrence Hess
Kenneth Wigmore
Garnet Young

RECORDER: Sandi Orr

2017 MEETINGS: Tuesdays, September 19, December 5
Edmonton – 9:00 a.m.

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

1.1. Agenda Adoption

The agenda was corrected to read the “Second” Meeting of 2017.

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 4.4.4. Composting Toilets
- 4.9. PSDS Administrator Report
- 4.9.1. Stay of Orders Process
- 4.9.2. Probational Status of SCOs
- 4.9.3. PSDS Handbook
- 4.9.4. Certificate Review Committee
- 4.9.5. Technical Review Committee
- 4.10. Update from ULC regarding Backwater Valves

Charles Hallett / Quenton Kusiek moved to adopt the agenda, as amended; CARRIED

1.2. Previous Minutes

1.2.1. Adoption of January 24, 2017

The draft minutes were included in the portal and reviewed.

Charles Hallett / Mark Harrold moved to approve the January 24, 2017 meeting minutes, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1 Summary of Letter Ballots 01-17 and 02-17

The results of Letter Ballots 01-17 and 02-17 were included in the portal and reviewed.

Peter Koenig / Tim Kosolofski moved to accept the results of Letter Ballot 01-17 (Approval of the National Plumbing Code of Canada 2015 Code Update Training) and Letter Ballot 02-17 (Code update training and exam be a mandatory requirement for Group A Plumbing SCOs and must be completed within one year of the training being available in order to maintain their SCO Certification); CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

Tim Kosolofski and Quenton Kusiek were added to the 2020 Plumbing Code Working Group and Angus Potskin was added to the PSDS Working Group.

Date Added	Action	Responsible	Status/Update
Sep 13 2016	Review draft Water Reuse Information Bulletin and provide feedback	All	Review completed, remove
Sep 13 2016	Provide in writing clarification of NPC errata that would come in force automatically	Manning	Verbally received, remove
Sep 13 2016	Circulate document on CRCP/CACP National Meeting discussions	Manning/Karch	In today's meeting folder, removed
Sep 13 2016	Post further info on PPE failures	Manning	Ongoing
Sep 13 2016	Provide malfunction reports on PPE failures to Chief Administrator	All	Closed, remove
Sep 13 2016	Follow up on whether Acidic Waste from Condensing Appliances would affect private sewage disposal systems	Petryk	Ongoing
Sep 13 2016	Council Policy 9.8 – sections 6 and 8 need to have private sewage disposal systems added	Thomas	On hold
Sep 13 2016	Exam bank ratification	Potskin/Harrold/Hughes/Manning	Completed, removed
Sep 13 2016	Bring forward information regarding Plumbing Code Question about sizing for a potential Information Bulletin	Hughes	Ongoing
Jan 24 2017	Schedule a meeting between AMA and the Council regarding the Variance Policy	Hughes/Manning/Morin/Karch/Thomas	Ongoing
Jan 24 2017	Bring forward further information regarding water quality requirements relative to Water Reuse Alternative Solutions	Manning	Ongoing
Jan 24 2017	Bring forward next steps regarding the B128.3 Certification.	Manning	At national level, removed
Jan 24 2017	New process documents regarding 3 or 4 column documents will be added to the portal as available.	Manning/Karch	Ongoing
Jan 24 2017	Post first round of NRC consultation info to the portal (although the consultation is closed, this will allow members to familiarize themselves with NRC website)	Manning	Completed, removed
Jan 24 2017	Provide info from the NRC Standing Committee meeting on April 6-7, 2017	Manning	Completed, removed
Jan 24, 2017	Assist the CPSA and make recommendations for technical clarification regarding the PSDS SOP back to the sub-council for consideration.	Hallett/Wigmore/Morin/Hughes/Potskin	Ongoing

4. Matters for Discussion
4.1. Permit Regulation Update

It was reported that nothing has been seen yet relative to the Permit Regulation. A plumbing permit has no relationship with the water/sewer connection. It was suggested there was an opportunity to clarify the exemption as many municipalities are struggling with this.

The Chair will gather further information to bring this matter forward to the Technical Coordinating Committee. [Hughes]

4.2. Installations

The Chair reported concerns on behalf of the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating. The ABC 2014 – Section 9.36 Prescriptive Energy Efficiency Requirements for Houses is having a significant impact on the hydronic heating industry, specifically in-floor heating systems. These new energy requirements go well beyond the requirements of CSA B214.

This new requirement will only save about \$25.00 per year for a 1,500-square foot home. Installation of 4” thick insulation will take up to 147 years to recover costs. The Return on Investment isn’t there.

Hydronics Industry is feeling unjustly targeted. Based on a recent poll of the industry:

- 77% decrease overall
- 90% decrease for new installations
- 95% has affected their industry

CIPH is looking for a relaxation of the code of the R25 energy code requirement. Electrical in-floor heating would have the same requirements.

The Hydronics industry would like a Variance STANDATA to be issued by the Building discipline. Clarification was provided that a Variance would need to address equivalency in safety and energy efficiency, not a relaxation of a code requirement. A recommendation for a change to the code would have to go to the Minister.

The Chair will bring forward these concerns at the next Building Sub-Council meeting. [Hughes]

4.3. Requirements for Combination Heating Systems: Dual Purpose Water Heater STANDATA

There was nothing new to report.

4.4. Draft STANDATA Review
4.4.1. Radon Soil Gas Vent Termination

The draft STANDATA (Building Interpretation / Plumbing Information) was included in the portal and reviewed. This work is typically done by plumbers but the permit is issued by the Building discipline. A brief update was provided regarding the prescriptive requirements for piping and labeling that the City of Lethbridge are requiring. Some push back is being experienced. There was no objection to supporting the STANDATA.

4.4.2. Radon Pipe Labelling

The draft STANDATA (Building Interpretation / Plumbing Information) was included in the portal and reviewed. There was no feedback to pass along to the Building Sub-Council and no objection to supporting the STANDATA.

4.4.3. Mobile Cooking Operation Joint Interpretation

The Mobile Cooking Operations Joint Interpretation (Building, Electrical, Fire, Plumbing and Gas) was included in the portal and reviewed. It was noted that there is not much relative to plumbing. It was reported that 79% of incidents are propane related. Although some jurisdictions do not look at food trucks, this interpretation says the code does apply.

There was no objection to supporting the STANDATA.

4.4.4. Composting Toilets

The draft Building STANDATA was included in the portal and reviewed. There was no objection to supporting the STANDATA. It was noted that this is intended to be for interior systems but there could be some impacts to the Private System discipline or Alberta Environment.

All feedback regarding all STANDATAs should be forward to the Chair and the Administrator. [All]

Any STANDATA feedback will be provided to the Building Sub-Council. [Manning / Hughes]

4.5. Plumbing Code Questions

It was reported that discussions are being held at the National level regarding 2.7.1.1. as almost all jurisdictions interpret non-potable should not be connected to potable water supply as non-directional. However, Alberta has always interpreted it as meaning both ways – cannot connect non-potable to potable and cannot connect potable to non-potable. Alberta is now being advised that you can connect potable to non-potable.

It was reported that there is confusion regarding venting emergency floor drains. It was clarified that all floor drains, including emergency floor drains, require a vent.

4.6. NPC 2020

The following three issues will be discussed by the working group after the meeting, if time permits:

- 2.6.2.4. Backflow from Fire Protection Systems relative to F valves
- Legionella issues and water temperature work being done by the Technical Committee
- Report from Task Group on Water-use Efficiency

The next review of proposed changes could be available as early as September 1, 2017.

The following items are also being looked at by the technical committee:

- Cisterns
- 2.6.2.5.(1) Separation of Water Supply Systems
- Reference of new Rainwater Harvesting Standard
- 2.1.2. Service Connections

A 3-column document will be available including all changes.

CSA – CSA A504-1 N

It was reported that a technical committee has been established for basement floor protection to create a standard for back flow protection including heights of basements, window wells, what houses shouldn't have basements, etc. A participant from Alberta was requested and Mark Harrold volunteered.

4.7. Technical Coordinating Committee Update

An update was provided from the March 7, 2017 TCC Meeting:

- Builder licensing consultation
- Council organizational changes
- Requested submission of nominations
- Items being addressed by Pressure Vessels SC
- Barrier Free Design Guide should be published shortly
- A bit of discussion regarding uncertified equipment

4.8. AMOS Update

Mark Harold reported on the AMOS meeting held last week:

- Darryl Reinhart is retiring
- Gas / Plumbing training was provided
- Plumbing Administrator provided updates
- Private Sewage Administrator provided updates
- Gerald Baron provided information regarding SCO report writing

It was reported that AMOS would like to have a clause added to the STANDATA regarding Grease Interceptors. This was provided to the Plumbing Administrator for consideration.

4.9. PSDS Administrator Report

4.9.1. Stay of Orders Process

A brief discussion was held regarding Stay of Orders. It was noted that this is typically reported back to the Chair. It was clarified that this was likely just an oversight as the individual in the position is quite new to the role.

An overview was provided of the appeals process and the two paths that can be taken. New members were encouraged to take Appeals 101 when available.

4.9.2. Probational Status of SCOs

Confusion was expressed regarding probational certification for SCOs. It was explained that this is included in the Council's Probationary Certification Policy 4.120 is available at:

http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/Council/Documents/4_120%20Probationary%20Certification.pdf

4.9.3. PSDS Handbook

It was reported that a contractor has been hired to work on the PSDS Handbook. The PSDS Administrator has been reviewing the changes. The final draft will be returned to AMA for final review before being published.

It was suggested that the review of the handbook should be brought forward through the working group and presented to the PSC for approval. If time is of the essence, the working group's recommendation for approval could be addressed via letter ballot. [Hallett / Wigmore / Morin]

4.9.4. Certificate Review Committee

It was reported that there were three meetings between March and April. An overview was provided of the matrix. An overview was provided regarding challenges associated with installers getting the required mandatory training despite the number of classes provided. July 1, 2017 has been established as the final deadline.

It was noted that renewals are currently done annually and consideration is being given to changing this to correlate with each code cycle.

4.9.5. Technical Review Committee

There was nothing new to report as the Technical Review Committee has not yet met.

4.10. Update from ULC regarding Backwater Valves

It was reported at the last meeting that the Standard was approved and published. However, a questionnaire was circulated relative to climate change and it is hoped this will not require changes to the Standard. Mark Harrold will report back at the next meeting on what transpires. [Harrold]

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Meeting and Agenda Feedback

The Council was asked to check on Garnet Young's replacement. [Stroud]

It was reported that an AMA Policy person is being assigned to each sub-council to provide policy staff support. Erin Black has been assigned to the Plumbing Sub-Council.

5.2. 2017 Meetings

The following meeting schedule was established:

- June 1, 2017 – Council Conference and Annual General Meeting – Banff
- Tuesday, September 19, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton
- Tuesday, December 5, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Charles Hallett / Mark Harrold moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

--- NEW ACTION ITEMS ---

4.1. Permit Regulation Update

The Chair will gather further information to bring this matter forward to the Technical Coordinating Committee. [Hughes]

4.2. Installations

The Chair will bring forward these concerns at the next Building Sub-Council meeting. [Hughes]

4.4. Draft STANDATA Review

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Any STANDATA feedback will be provided to the Building Sub-Council. [Manning / Hughes]

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--- M O T I O N S ---

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