



**MINUTES OF THE
THIRD FIRE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2017**

DATE: May 11, 2017
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Radisson Hotel, Edmonton

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
Michael Walker, Chair
Michael Baker
Michael Bos
Joseph Davis
Robbin Foxcroft, Vice Chair
Gary Mayorchak
Mario Poser

Safety Codes Council
Peter Thomas, Danielle Paradis

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Kevan Jess, Chief Building Administrator
Tina Parker, Technical Advisor
Liz Gillean

Guests
Bruce Schultz, BSC Liaison

REGRETS: Allan Blatz
Bruce Cummins
Bob Boudreau
Eddy La Rocque
Bob Husereau
Stephen Suen

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sandi Orr

2017 MEETINGS: September 14, November 23

1. Meeting Opening

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:07 a.m. and a round table introduction was held. Regrets were provided. Correspondence was read from Bob Boudreau regarding his recent retirement and Eddy La Rocque’s relocation.

1.1. Agenda Adoption

The agenda was reviewed and the following correction was made:

- Fire SCO item – Bos not Walker

Robbin Foxcroft / Joseph Davis moved to adopt the agenda, as corrected; CARRIED

Later in the meeting, an additional item was added:

Michael Bos / Joseph Davis moved to add 4.11 - National Fire Code Change Proposal to the agenda; CARRIED

1.2. Previous Minutes

1.2.1. Adoption of March 15 and 16, 2017

It was noted that the attachments referenced in the minutes regarding the harmonization code review were just added to the portal this morning.

Michael Bos / Robbin Foxcroft moved to adopt the minutes of March 15, 2017, as circulated; CARRIED

Joseph Davis / Michael Baker moved to adopt the minutes of March 16, 2017, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Course Approval: 100171 Cause Determination

Mario Poser reported on his review of the course material.

Mario Poser / Robbin Foxcroft moved to approve the Fire SCO course material for 100171 Cause Determination; CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising / Action List

Date	Action	Responsible	Status/Update
Nov. 23, 2016	Qualified Persons Registry (E.2.06.11)	AMA & Council Management	Ongoing
Nov. 23, 2016	Food Trucks Guidelines/STANDATA draft for review	Jess	Close to completion

Nov. 23, 2016	National Fire Code Change Proposal review to be added to September 2017 agenda	Karch	Added to today's agenda 4.11
Nov. 23, 2016	Fireworks Discussion to be left on action list until info on the policy direction can be provided	Jess	
Nov. 23, 2016	Reconfirm Care Facilities Working Group members and schedule a meeting (E.1.01.11)	Jess	In Administrator's report
Nov. 23, 2016	Determine most appropriate means to get info on use of sea containers as buildings to industry	Jess	Administrator is still working on
Nov. 23, 2016	Provide feedback on AFC 2014 STANDATA being considered for reissuance	All	On today's agenda
Jan. 19, 2017	Use of Sea Cans as Buildings – provide something for review by the sub-council (E.3.05.14)	Jess	Duplicate, remove from action list
Mar. 16, 2017	Make corrections to Policy 4.60 Certification Levels – Fire as noted in March 16 minutes.	Paradis	Still in progress
Mar. 16, 2017	Provide additional feedback on Food Trucks (Mobile Cooking Operations) STANDATA to CFA by March 21, 2017	All	Completed, remove from action list
Mar. 16, 2017	Correspond to Elevators Sub-Council Chair regarding first responders evacuating passengers from stuck elevators to communicate that whether emergency services respond to calls is an operational decision within each municipality and not under the jurisdiction of the FSC.	Walker	Completed, remove from action list

4.1. 9:00 a.m. Permit Regulation Presentation (Kristopher Schmaltz, AMA)

As Kristopher Schmaltz was not in attendance, this item was deferred.

4.2. Occupant Load STANDATA Review

It was questioned regarding the priority of the Occupant Load STANDATA. The Fire Administrator reported on the challenges between the Building Code and Fire Code relative to occupant loads. It is believed there is a need for both disciplines to understand why the differences between the two codes exist. It was noted that outdoors spaces have always been problematic.

The Fire and Building Administrators have had discussions regarding this topic but a document is not ready to be shared. Gary Mayorchak suggested that a joint Building and Fire Working Group could be established to assist the Administrators in moving this forward.

No action was determined. This item will be incorporated into the agenda item titled Review of STANDATA Status.

4.3. Fire SCO Training Program

4.3.1. Reference Materials

Reference material was included in the portal.

4.3.2. Certification Equivalency

A document was included in the portal titled “NFPA 1031 Certification Equivalency” expressing concerns regarding general equivalency for Fire SCOs.

The Administrator of Certification reported on her discussions with the Department of Labour relative to the Trade Agreements, labour mobility and the limitations. Although an exemption is in place, there are limitations.

It was suggested that there should be the need to have a more comprehensive examination of looking up code references. It was noted that there is a jurisprudence examination but the Trade Agreements do not allow testing on competencies for existing certification. It was also noted that when it comes to equivalencies, it is up to the Administrator of Certification, on a case by case basis.

It was questioned and confirmed that there is a gap of knowledge that currently exists. The Fire Administrator reported that a lot of questions are received from SCOs that have moved from other provinces that would be deemed very basic code requirements. If the sub-council can provide very specific and tangible evidence then it could be brought forward for consideration.

It was clarified that even though equivalency is granted by the Administrator of Certification, it does not mean that an employer could not require additional training but justification may be a challenge since they are already certified.

Michael Bos / Gary Mayorchak moved that the Fire Sub-council requests that the Safety Codes Council review their policy of offering a general equivalency for NFPA 1031 certification to a Fire Safety Codes Officer in Alberta, and instead individually review the certification programs for equivalency or require all applicants demonstrate proficiency with Canadian Codes and Standards; CARRIED with 4 in favour, 2 abstentions

4.3.3. New Fire Courses

There was nothing further brought forward.

4.4. Review of STANDATA Status

It was reported that the Technical Advisor has gone through almost all STANDATAs and identified where revisions are needed. It was also reported that there are some very old and dated STANDATAs that need to be reviewed. A new government process of reviewing from a government policy perspective has also contributed to delaying the process.

Relative to Portable Fire Extinguisher Variances, each have been contacted and they have been asked for all locations where the variance is used and whether there have been any changes in procedures or ownership.

4.5. Office of the Fire Commissioner Report

As a representative of the Office of the Fire Commissioner was not in attendance, this item was deferred.

4.6. Withdrawal of FCI-08-06

The Fire Administrator reported on the challenges with the existing Fire Code Interpretation based on feedback from different stakeholders. Feedback was sought on the recommendation to withdraw FCI-08-06 – Existing Fire Alarm Systems and that a new version will be drafted for consideration.

It was questioned regarding the impact of withdrawing the interpretation and reported that this could require a review of all systems, which would create a lot of additional work.

It was clarified that if all systems had to be completely upgraded, this would have a major financial impact and would require a change in government policy.

After an extensive discussion, it was suggested that the Fire Administrator not withdraw FCI-08-06 until a replacement Interpretation is available.

4.7. BSC/FSC Liaison Report

A brief update was provided from the last BSC meeting:

- Consultation on Building Licensing Program
- Overview of STANDATAs being reviewed
- Matrix review
- Issues with recent Alberta Association of Architects Bulletins

4.7.1. Result of information to BSC RE. upcoming code cycle

Bruce Schultz reported that the FSC's recommendation was brought forward to the Building Sub-Council at the last meeting. The BSC found any further discussion to be a moot point as the decision had already been made at the Technical Coordinating Committee level.

4.8. Chief Administrator's Report

The Fire Administrator's report was circulated and an update was provided on the following:

- Work being done with Alberta Health and Alberta Seniors regarding housing, building classifications and the potential of an interpretation or variance being issued jointly with the building discipline

- Review all Daycare requirements relative to Fire, Building and Plumbing Codes with Alberta Children’s Services now that daycare has been removed from the B2 Occupancy Classification as a “care” facility
- Work being done relative to Minimum Housing Standards
- Participation in the Residential Care Facilities Working Group at Codes Canada
- Work being done with Environment & Parks regarding trans loading of crude oil and other dangerous goods
- Participation in webinars for SCO training
- STANDATAs awaiting the Fire Administrator’s review
- Issues with secondary containment liners
- Access to proposed code changes
- An overview was provided on issues brought forward at regional meetings and a presentation will be arranged for the next meeting
- The future of IFMA/AFSOA will be discussed at the conference
- Presentation to ULC regarding Mobile and Temporary Cooking Operations
- Gathering fire statistics relative to smoke alarms with replaceable batteries
- NFPA / IFMA automated inspection learning tool being piloted
- Completed review of Group E Tank Inspectors training material

A discussion is happening with Gas and Building regarding temporary use of furnaces during construction. Many manufacturers have gotten together and stated you cannot use their furnace during construction. This will lead to using a different source that is likely to be less safe.

A brief update was provided on discussions with the sprinkler fitters request for compulsory trade designation in Alberta and some of the challenges that has occurred since Ontario’s regulations have changed. The current scope of the Sprinkler Fitter Trade Regulation (non-compulsory) includes a scope for non-sprinkler type suppression systems and equipment which is not covered in trade training and which, if adopted verbatim in a compulsory regulation be in conflict with the AFC.

4.9. Gel Fuel Safety Tips

Gary Mayorchak reported on a lot of calls being received regarding the use of gel fuel. The code is quite clear regarding solid fuel. Included in the portal is a copy of the Gel Fuel Safety Tips bulletin issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with nine manufacturers and distributors, announcing a voluntary recall of all pourable gel fuel made or sold by these companies. This document includes warnings of the use of gel fuel. After an in-depth discussion was held regarding the potential safety issues, Gary Mayorchak agreed to work on something that could be considered as a provincial safety bulletin. [Mayorchak]

4.10 NFC/AFC Harmonization and Code Change Requests

As time permitted at the end of the meeting, the remainder of the list of issues for Part 4 - NFC15 - AFC14 Change Summary FSC March 2017 was viewed on screen. These decisions are included in:

- Part 5 - NFC15 - AFC14 Change Summary FSC March 2017 - decisions

- Part 6 - NFC15 - AFC14 Change Summary FSC March 2017 - decisions
- Part 7 - NFC15 - AFC14 Change Summary FSC March 2017 - decisions

During the review of Part 5, an in-depth discussion was held regarding water supply for fire fighting that needs to be looked at further.

It was also noted that there were no recommendations included for the Alberta-specific rules listed under 5.7 – Fireworks as this is currently a Policy Review project.

4.10.1. Work Strategy and Subcommittee Establishment

A brief discussion was held regarding splitting up the work and establishing working groups for the tasks determined at the last meeting.

It was agreed that the Fire Administrator will circulate the list of unresolved issues. [Jess]

Michael Baker / Robbin Foxcroft moved that a Code Harmonization Working Group be established and Michael Baker volunteered to work with the Administrator of Accreditation in creating the terms of reference, with the Working Group Chair to be established at a later date; CARRIED [Baker / Thomas]

4.11. Code Change Proposal

Relative to the National Fire Code, it is understood that AMA will be receiving proposed changes prior to public consultation. It was requested that these changes be forwarded to sub-council members before the September meeting. The Fire Administrator reported that he will be having discussions with Codes Canada next week. There is a need for the sub-council to determine the most effective process to move forward with the review of proposed changes.

It was questioned whether comments would be limited to codes for their respective sub-councils. It was clarified that comments could be relative to both codes. It was noted that a joint working group could be formed for proposed changes that affect both disciplines.

It was suggested that the Fire and Building Sub-Council Chairs and Administrators meet after the Building Sub-Council meeting next week to determine a path forward. It was also suggested that an August meeting could be scheduled to review proposed changes to make the September meeting more productive.

The BSC Liaisons will bring forward the recommendation that a Fire and Building Working Group be created to review proposed changes to the national codes that affect both disciplines. [Bos / Schultz]

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Meeting and Agenda Feedback

There was nothing brought forward.

5.2. 2017 Meetings

The following 2017 meeting dates were confirmed:

- June 1, 2017 – AGM – Banff
- Thursday, September 14 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton
- Thursday, November 23 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

--- NEW ACTION ITEMS ---

4.9. Gel Fuel Safety Tips

Gary Mayorchak agreed to work on something that could be considered as a provincial safety bulletin. [Mayorchak]

4.10.1. Work Strategy and Subcommittee Establishment

It was agreed that the Fire Administrator will circulate the list of unresolved issues. [Jess]

4.11. Code Change Proposal

The BSC Liaisons will bring forward the recommendation that a Fire and Building Working Group be created to review proposed changes to the national codes that affect both disciplines. [Bos / Schultz]

--- MOTIONS ---

1.1. Agenda Adoption

Robbin Foxcroft / Joseph Davis moved to adopt the agenda, as corrected; CARRIED

Michael Bos / Joseph Davis moved to add 4.11 - National Fire Code Change Proposal to the agenda; CARRIED

1.2.1. Adoption of March 15 and 16, 2017

Michael Bos / Robbin Foxcroft moved to adopt the minutes of March 15, 2017, as circulated; CARRIED

Joseph Davis / Michael Baker moved to adopt the minutes of March 16, 2017, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Course Approval: 100171 Cause Determination

Mario Poser / Robbin Foxcroft moved to approve the Fire SCO course material for 100171 Cause Determination; CARRIED

4.3.2. Certification Equivalency

Michael Bos / Gary Mayorchak moved that the Fire Sub-council requests that the Safety Codes Council review their policy of offering a general equivalency for NFPA 1031 certification to a Fire Safety Codes Officer in Alberta, and instead individually review the certification programs for equivalency or require all applicants demonstrate proficiency with Canadian Codes and Standards; CARRIED with 4 in favour, 2 abstentions

4.10.1. Work Strategy and Subcommittee Establishment

Michael Baker / Robbin Foxcroft moved that a Code Harmonization Working Group be established and Michael Baker volunteered to work with the Administrator of Accreditation in creating the terms of reference, with the Working Group Chair to be established at a later date; CARRIED [Baker / Thomas]