



**MINUTES OF THE
FIFTH FIRE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2021**

DATE: November 25, 2021

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 10:37 a.m.

LOCATION: videoconference

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*
Michael Bos, Chair
Cameron Bardas
Allan Blatz
Joseph Davis
Richard Friesen
Mark Heiderich
John Penzo
Stephen Suen
Glenn Baxter (at 9:19 a.m.)
Marc Royer
Chris Taylor
Payman Montakhebi

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Cindy Yan

REGRETS: Robbin Foxcroft, Cammie Laird, Hunter Langpap

GUESTS: Rick Gratton, BSC Liaison

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2022 MEETINGS: January 20, March 3, May 19, September 15, November 17

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A round table introduction was held and members were reminded their primary duty is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

A flexible order of business was proposed.

Joe Davis / Cameron Bardas moved that the agenda be adopted, as amended; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the September 16, 2021 Minutes

Cameron Bardas / Richard Friesen moved to adopt the minutes of the September 16, 2021, meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

Richard Friesen / Cameron Bardas moved to go into closed session; CARRIED

John Penzo / Payman Montakhebi moved to exit closed session; CARRIED

2.1.1. Reappointment of Mark Heiderich to represent Insurance Industry

Cameron Bardas / Payman Montakhebi moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Mark Heiderich to the Fire Sub-Council to represent the Insurance industry for a term ending January 31, 2025, effective February 1, 2022; CARRIED

2.1.2. Chair Election

The Chair called for nominations. Cameron Bardas nominated Chris Taylor as Chair of the FSC and Chris Taylor accepted the nomination. Two further calls were made with no further nominations being brought forward. **Chris Taylor was appointed Chair of the FSC, effective February 1, 2022, by acclamation.**

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Qualified Persons Registry (E.2.06.11)	Communicate status of registry	Nov 23/16	Orr	No update available.
2.	Farm Buildings	Administrator will provide updates on farm building issues as they arise.	Jan 21/21	Parker	No update available.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Wildland Urban Interface

Members were reminded of the comprehensive presentations given on this topic at the last meeting and the floor was opened for any further discussion. Main concerns raised at the last meeting were a lack of clarity about the application of the Safety Codes Act to wildland urban interface practices on the part of municipalities. It was discussed that the clarity provided during the presentations regarding municipalities' ability to take action to mitigate fire risk in wildland urban interface areas has resolved members' concerns and municipalities feel they can move forward.

4.2. Working Group Reports

4.2.1. Code Review

It was reported that this group has not met since the last FSC meeting. The group will meet immediately following the FSC meeting to determine next steps and set another meeting date for a comprehensive working group meeting.

4.3. BSC Liaison Report

The BSC Liaison reported on highlights from the last BSC meeting:

- Presentation from BILD Alberta and CHBA National on energy efficiency codes.
- A working group was formed to investigate concerns regarding external non-combustible insulation and the BSC suggested FSC might want to participate.
 - The intent of this working group is to be proactive, since the tiered energy code coming in 2022 will mean that at some point external insulation will become a reality, especially for existing homes with 1.2 m side yards.
 - Zero lot lines have specific requirements that wouldn't allow this.
 - There are possible implications for the NFC(AE) 5.6.1.2. Protection of Adjacent Buildings.
 - Exterior insulation may force widening of lots, which works against the desire for increased density.
 - CCBFC has started a task group on this topic but to the group's knowledge there hasn't been a code change request submitted for this.
 - The new energy code will also apply to renovations, so there will be a large impact and potentially many issues.
 - Mark Heiderich is on the CCBFC Standing Committee on Fire Protection, which has been considering many aspects of external cladding.

Chris Taylor / Marc Royer moved to create a joint working group with BSC and FSC to investigate the use of external insulation with regards to fire code requirements; CARRIED

Marc Royer / Glenn Baxter moved to recommend that members include: Cameron Bardas (co-chair), Mark Heiderich, Payman Montakhebi, and Marc Royer; CARRIED

Chris Taylor / Richard Friesen moved that the working group will bring an initial report in May 2022; CARRIED

- Discussion was held about occupancy being granted without completed exteriors due to supply chain issues. It was discussed that BSC may not be able to take action as the supply chain issues would likely be resolved before any action could be completed.
- A presentation on unvented roof assemblies focusing on spray foam insulation—see presentation in BSC portal in the November 2021 meeting folder.
- Resilient Roofing Working Group.
- Stacked Townhomes Working Group anticipates submitting a code change request.
- Building Administrator is putting on a Combustible Dust Webinar.
- Shipping Containers Working Group requested participation from FSC. Members expressed interest in being involved and a discussion was held about working group participation in general.

Glenn Baxter / Stephen Suen move to amend membership on the Exterior Insulation Working Group to be Cameron Bardas (co-chair), Payman Montakhebi, and Richard Friesen; CARRIED unanimously.

Chris Taylor / Cameron Bardas move to create a joint working group with BSC to develop recommendation regarding a draft bulletin STANDATA to address the use of shipping containers as buildings and when they would be subject to building and fire codes; CARRIED

Cameron Bardas / Richard Friesen move that membership include Glenn Baxter (co-chair), Mark Heiderick, John Penzo, and Marc Royer; CARRIED

Chris Taylor / Glenn Baxter move that the working group extend their timeline to May 2022; CARRIED

- STANDATA regarding Off-site Review of Buildings for Oil & Gas Facilities on BSC portal in the November 18th meeting folder may be of interest to FSC members.

4.4. Administrator/AMA Report

The Technical Advisor reported:

- Alberta Energy Regulators Directive—this was mentioned in the last meeting’s Administrator Report. The Provincial Fire Administrator has met with stakeholders and will bring an update in January.
- The new NFC(AE) is still expected to be available in December 2021.
- A new Firecrackers STANDATA will be published in December 2021 notifying the public that they should contact the AHJ regarding a firecrackers permit before contacting Municipal Affairs.
- Reference standards—it was suggested that the FSC consider including reference standards updates as a standing agenda discussion item so that any members who also sit on reference standard committees would be able to provide reports to the FSC as available. Tina wants members of FSC to have an idea of who is on what committees so they can reach out
- Happy Christmas holidays and Happy New Year on behalf of Municipal Affairs.

4.5. Council Updates

A written report was included in the portal and updates were provided on the following:

- Council office is anticipated to reopen in January—subject to change.
 - Staff may continue to work from home on some days.
- 2022-2023 Meeting dates – please see finalized schedule document in Portal.
 - May 19 and September 15 are anticipated to be in-person if possible; all others will be held virtually.
 - Calendar invitations will be sent shortly.
- The Council is looking for input on what kinds of safety codes system data the sub-councils would find benefit in gathering and analyzing (for example, variance data, training data, barriers to becoming SCOs). This will be added to the next agenda as a discussion item. [Council Administration]

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- The AACA met with the Provincial Fire Administrator regarding the Alberta Energy Regulators Directive and petroleum tanks, and they will likely have another meeting on this.
- Shipping containers are a big discussion topic within the AACA.
- Canadian Fuels Association met in October and continues work on SDS updates (updated version of WHMIS), as well as bonding and grounding in fuel handling.
- The member representing Professional Engineer is participating in external groups investigating mass timber structures and environmental impacts of fire and will circulate further information on these via email.
- The member representing BOMA reported that buildings are slowly being reoccupied, some security issues.
- The member representing Major Municipalities – South was invited to a group striving for consistent application of the fire code in distilleries: Municipalities with distilleries are helping each other with application, using the output of the past working group on this topic
- The use of shipping containers for storage and conversions of office buildings to residential are other topics of note raised by the representative for Major Municipalities – South.
- The member representing Electrical Industry reported there is a new executive director at ECAA, Robin Bobocel.
- A member who sits on the committee for CSA 282 regarding emergency power reported the group is working on new document and identifying gaps.
- The member representing the insurance industry reported on flooding in BC.
- A member who sits on the NRC Standing Committee for Fire Protection noted he is available to provide updates; this will be added to future agendas. [Council Administration]
- The ABOA fall meeting was held online rather than in person.
- The Provincial Building Administrator is working on a STANDATA to allow use of NFPA 13D, which won't be referenced in the National Code until 2025.

5.1.1. Reference Standards

This item is to allow for updates from members who also sit on committees for reference standards. This will be moved to discussion area of future agendas. [Council Administration]

5.1.1.1 CSA: B376, B306

No members noted participation in these groups.

5.1.1.2. ULC: S524, S536, S537, S552, S553

No members noted participation in these groups.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for January 20, 2020 via videoconference at 9:00 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

4.5. Council Updates

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– MOTIONS –

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CARRIED**

– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)
Code Review	<u>Chris Taylor</u> Marc Royer, Glenn Baxter, Hunter Langpap, Allan Blatz Municipal Affairs: Cindy Yan
Exterior Insulation (Joint w/ BSC)	<u>Cameron Bardas (FSC co-chair), David Flanagan (BSC co-chair)</u> Payman Montakhebi, Richard Friesen, Rick Gratton, Keith Jansen
Shipping Containers (Joint w/ BSC)	<u>Glenn Baxter (FSC co-chair), Corey Klimchuk (BSC co-chair)</u> Mark Heiderick, John Penzo, Marc Royer, Keven Lefebvre, Laura Ritchie, Keith Jansen, Darin Sceviour, Zachary Walker