



MINUTES OF THE

FIRST PLUMBING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2017

- DATE:** January 24, 2017
- TIME:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
- LOCATION:** Radisson Edmonton South, Edmonton
- PRESENT:** Sub-Council Members
David Hughes, Chair – Manufacturers and Suppliers
Charles Hallett – Private Sewage Disposal Contractors
Mark Harrold, Vice Chair – Mechanical Inspectors
Ken Helmer – Education & Training
Lawrence Hess – Public at Large
Tim Kosolofski – Urban Municipalities
Quenton Kusiek – Professional Engineers
Kenneth Wigmore – Rural Municipalities
- Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch
- Alberta Municipal Affairs
Sidney Manning, Claude Valliere, Dean Morin, Paul Chang
- REGRETS:** Peter Koenig – Large Municipalities - Edmonton
Ken Morrison – Large Municipalities - Calgary
Angus Potskin - Labour
Garnet Young – Mechanical Contractors
- RECORDER:** Sandi Orr
- 2017 MEETINGS:** Tuesdays, May 2, September 19, December 5
Edmonton – 9:00 a.m.

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

1.1. Agenda Adoption

It was noted that an update regarding the 2015 Plumbing Code Regulation would be provided under 3.1.5.

Charles Hallett / Ken Helmer moved to adopt the agenda, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2. Previous Minutes

1.2.1. Adoption of September 13, 2016

The draft minutes were included in the portal and reviewed.

Mark Harrold / Lawrence Hess moved to approve the September 13, 2016 meeting minutes, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1 Appointments

2.1.1. Reappoint Ken Morrison to January 31, 2020

Correspondence from the nominating organization was included in the portal and reviewed.

Kenneth Wigmore / Qenton Kusiek moved to recommend to the Board the reappointment of Ken Morrison to the Plumbing Sub-Council for a term until January 31, 2020, effective February 1, 2017; CARRIED

2.1.2. Reappoint Qenton Kusiek to January 31, 2020

Correspondence from the nominating organization was included in the portal and reviewed.

Kenneth Wigmore / Charles Hallett moved to recommend to the Board the reappointment of Qenton Kusiek to the Plumbing Sub-Council for a term until January 31, 2020, effective February 1, 2017; CARRIED

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1. Technical Matters for Discussion

3.1.1. Variance Policy Review

It was reported that Private Sewage Disposal Systems have more variances requiring approval by the Administrator than any other discipline. With new staff and changing roles at both AMA and the Council, it was suggested that a separate meeting be held to further discuss the Council's Variance Policy. A draft document is in progress but designed to primarily assist the Gas, Plumbing and Private Sewage Administrators. The Chair reported that he has brought this subject forward to the Technical Coordinating Committee relative to how it may impact other disciplines.

A meeting will be scheduled between AMA and the Council regarding the Variance Policy.

3.1.2. Water Reuse Alternative Solutions Update

The Alternative Solutions Guide for Small System Reclaimed Water Reuse Fact Sheet and the P-17-01-NPC2015 – Reclaimed Water Systems within a Single Property Information Bulletin STANDATA were included in the web portal and reviewed.

It was reported that the STANDATA mirrors the guidance included in the original Variance but converted to an Information Bulletin so this information is still available for industry. With the adoption of the 2015 National Plumbing Code, the variance is no longer required. Further information will follow regarding water quality requirements. [Manning]

Photographs were shown on screen of a large water reuse operation in Alberta and a thorough explanation was provided of each of the processes and the systems used, with 100 testing points throughout the facility, 24/7 monitoring and three levels of redundancy.

A brief update was provided regarding the upcoming closure of Edmonton's Waste Management Centre of Excellence (April 2017) based on a business decision of the City of Edmonton. The facility is accredited to test and certify products to CSA-B128.3. A Board meeting was held recently and investors/partners are being sought out relative to the certification side of the business. The Chief Plumbing Administrator will bring next steps forward at the next meeting. [Manning]

Four other documents regarding water reuse were available for anyone interested in further information.

3.1.3. PP Failures

It was noted that no new information has been reported relative to Polypropylene failures and manufacturers have no concerns.

Members were asked to continue to advise the Chief Plumbing Administrator of any malfunction reports or failures. In the meantime, this item will be removed from the agenda under further information is available. [Karch]

3.1.4. Plumbing Code Questions

A brief discussion was held on some of the questions that have arose with the 2015 Plumbing Code for:

- Water sizing
- Level of inspections from the Building discipline regarding insulation requirements
- Water closet cleanouts

3.1.5. Update on Information Bulletins & Variances issued by AMA

The Chief Plumbing Administrator reported that the 2015 National Plumbing Code was declared in force on January 1, 2017. Although originally slated for December 1, 2016, many questions were asked from Premier's Office that needed to be addressed before the Regulation could be brought to Cabinet.

This has resulted in new processes being put in place that will change the look of future 3 or 4 column

documents. The new process documents will be added to the portal for future reference as available.

[Manning / Karch]

The updated regulation is available at:

http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=2007_119.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779794423

It was noted that the only place to find the in force date is by reviewing the Order in Council which could cause confusion regarding which code is currently in force.

It was reported that there are 9 Information Bulletins and 1 Variance that have been updated based on the new code and these will be published by the Chief Plumbing Administrator in the new future.

This led to a discussion regarding the need for a thorough review of the requirements for combination heating systems. The Working Group is conducting further research relative to the changes in the 2015 Plumbing Code and the extensive changes that will be required to the STANDATA.

Requirements for Combination Heating Systems: Dual Purpose Water Heater STANDATA will be added as a separate agenda item for the next meeting. [Karch]

Information was circulated regarding new technology that will allow for converting larger vents to smaller sized vents for high efficiency appliances which could be considered as an option for some through a variance.

3.1.6. NPC 2020

3.1.6.1. Update on meeting with NRC

A discussion was held regarding a process for the review of proposed code changes for the 2020 National Plumbing Code. It was reported that the first round of public consultation was held online from October 11, 2016 to December 9, 2016.

Options to consider include:

- Reviewing and commenting on the public consultations each year
- Reviewing information available from the National Standing Committees, recognizing that not all proposed changes will move forward
- Reviewing the proposed changes directly at the sub-council level or reviewing the proposed changes as a Working Group making recommendations to the sub-council

The Chief Plumbing Administrator will upload the first round of consultation information to the portal and although the consultation is already closed, this will provide members with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the NRC website. [Manning / All]

The Chief Plumbing Administrator will provide information from the next NRC Standing Committee meeting scheduled for April 6-7, 2017. [Manning]

Discussion regarding the 2020 NPC Working Group was deferred to the next meeting.

It was later questioned whether any discussion is needed relative to ¾" service relative to considering if a proposed code change should be submitted to the National Plumbing Code.

3.1.7. UL/ULC Technical Committee on Backwater Valves

It was reported that the UL/ULC Backwater Prevention Systems Standard was published on December 16, 2016 and is now available on the Standards Council of Canada webpage.

Being no further action, this item will be removed from agenda. [Karch]

3.1.8. Private Sewage Disposal Systems Update

The Chief Private Sewage Administrator reported that there has been a big push for installers and SCOs to get training on the new Standard of Practice.

Volunteers were requested for a review of some technical challenges that have arisen from the new Standard of Practice. Charles Hallett (Working Group Chair) and Kenneth Wigmore volunteered to assist the Chief Private Sewage Administrator and will make recommendations for technical clarification back to the Plumbing Sub-Council for consideration. [Hallett/Wigmore/Morin]

3.1.9. Composting Toilets & Waterless Urinals Update

Background was provided regarding the agenda item and the need for clarification by the Chief Building Administrator. The Chief Building Administrator reported that with the publication of the 2014 Alberta Building Code, waterless urinals are now allowed in Alberta.

Relative to Composting Toilets / Non-Waterborne Toilets, the Chief Building Administrator reported that he has reviewed the Building Sub-Council's Working Group Report and confirmed that all Non-Waterborne Toilets will require a building permit and that other permits may also be required depending on the system (e.g. electrical, plumbing, etc.).

A brief update was provided regarding a large housing development in central Alberta where 88 single family homes will have non-waterborne toilets. The county will begin managing this once 80% of the homes are completed.

Being no further action, this item will be removed from the agenda. [Karch]

3.2. Technical Coordinating Committee Update

A brief update was provided on agenda items discussed at the last Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting held in October 2016:

- Approval of redrafted Quality Management Plans for Accredited Municipalities, Accredited Agencies and Accredited Corporations
- Alberta Safety Codes Authority (ASCA) was launched to manage the Act in all unaccredited municipalities
- Details regarding Administrative Penalties are still being worked on
- A new system is being created for Accreditation, Certification and Training (ACT)
- A discussion was brought forward from the Electrical Sub-Council regarding increased issues where work is done months or years before a permit is taken out
- Food trucks – a STANDATA is being drafted for review by the impacted disciplines
- Additions were made to the TCC matrix

Examples were provided to the Chair of unpermitted work in the plumbing discipline.

3.3. Education and Training Update

An overview was provided regarding the ACT Project which will be an integrated IT system to manage data for accreditation, certification and training, including self-reporting of SCO professional development.

A brief update was provided on the Plumbing Code Update training under development.

3.4. AMOS Update

An update was provided regarding the AMOS meeting in October 2016 and discussions being held regarding how to increase future participation.

3.5. Council Organizational Changes & Dr. Sauer Award reminder

Allison Karch provided an overview of her new role with the Council as well as changes in roles of other staff members:

- Director of Operations: Tyler Wightman
- Director of Corporate Strategy and Communications: Erin Stroud
- Director of Strategic Projects: Gerry Baron
- Administrator of Accreditation: Peter Thomas
- Manager of Policy and Legislation: Vacant, being filled
- Manager of Stakeholder Relations: Vacant, being filled

Members were reminded to consider and submit nominations for the Dr. Sauer Award. It was clarified that this could be a member that currently serves on any sub-council or retired from a sub-council for less than one year.

4. Meeting Finalization

4.1. Review Actions to be Taken

Date Added	Action	Responsible	Status/Update
Sep 13, 2016	Bring forward Variance Policy Review at October 2016 Technical Coordinating Committee meeting	Hughes	Done
Sep 13, 2016	Upload red-line draft of Water Reuse Information Bulletin into	Manning	Done
Sep 13, 2016	Review draft Water Reuse Information Bulletin and provide	All	In progress
Sep 13, 2016	Provide in writing clarification of NPC errata that would come in force automatically	Manning	Verbally received
Sep 13, 2016	Circulate document on CRCP/CACP National Meeting	Manning/Karch	On hold—waiting for public document
Sep 13, 2016	Post further info on PPE failures	Manning	On going

Sep 13, 2016	Provide malfunction reports on PPE failures to Chief	All	On going
Sep 13, 2016	Follow up on whether Acidic Waste from Condensing Appliances would affect private sewage disposal	Petryk	On going
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	In progress
Sep 13, 2016	Bring forward information regarding Plumbing Code Question about sizing for a potential Information Bulletin	Hughes	On going

Relative to revisions and errata, the Chief Plumbing Administrator reported that Central Operations has verbally confirmed that revisions and errata will come in force upon publication. This includes any new standard, if referenced in a revision or errata.

The Chief Building Administrator reported that the building discipline is currently reviewing the differences between the newly published A-277 Standard and the current one referenced in the Alberta Building Code.

4.2. Meeting and Agenda Feedback

Positive feedback was received on the agenda. It was agreed that Action Items would be listed directly after Matters for Decision on future agendas. [Karch / Hughes]

It was requested that “Permit Regulation Update” be added to the next agenda. [Karch / Hughes]

4.3. 2017 Meetings

The following meeting schedule was established:

- Tuesday, May 2, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton
- Tuesday, September 19, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton
- Tuesday, December 5, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton

4.4. Meeting Adjournment

Charles Hallett / Ken Helmer moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

--- ACTION ITEMS ---

3.1.1. Variance Policy Review

A meeting will be scheduled between AMA and the Council regarding the Variance Policy.
[Hughes/Manning/Morin/Karch/Thomas]

3.1.2. Water Reuse Alternative Solutions Update

Further information will follow regarding water quality requirements. [Manning]

The Chief Plumbing Administrator will bring next steps forward at the next meeting regarding the B128.3 Certification. [Manning]

3.1.3. PP Failures

This item will be removed from the agenda under further information is available. [Karch]

3.1.5. Update on Information Bulletins & Variances issued by AMA

The new process documents will be added to the portal for future reference as available.[Manning / Karch]

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Being no further action, this item will be removed from agenda. [Karch]

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2.1.1. Reappoint Ken Morrison to January 31, 2020

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2.1.2. Reappoint Quenton Kusiek to January 31, 2020

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