



Safety Codes Council

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH PLUMBING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2023

DATE: November 16th, 2023

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 10:38 a.m.

LOCATION: Videoconference

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*
Jonathan (Mitch) Colwell
Joe Howdle
Quenton Kusiek
Al Steenbergen
Stephen Laurie
Roger Lebeuf
Angus Potskin, Chair
Shawn Van Velzen
Robert Nygaard

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Jennifer Johnson

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Sidney Manning, Claude Valliere, Jody Thrush, Ljubomir Dupalo

REGRETS: Mark Harrold
Paul Fullam, Vice Chair

GUESTS: n/a

RECORDER: Jennifer Johnson

2024 MEETINGS: February 27, May 28

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A round table introduction was held and videoconference functionality was reviewed, and members were reminded that 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

- It was noted that the meeting will focus on discussion about cisterns and many items may be deferred due to time constraints.

Joe Howdle/Stephen Laurie moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the October 3 Minutes

Robert Nygard/Shawn Van Velzen moved to adopt the minutes of the October 3 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

None identified.

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

Item deferred to next meeting.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Cisterns

The following was discussed regarding the potential to propose changes to the National Plumbing Code regarding potable water cisterns:

- There are reports of difficulties with water line sizing by a few different jurisdictions, and the use of certified potable water cisterns could alleviate water availability challenges while maintaining safety.
- Feedback indicated more concerns with installations than evidence of failures.
- Strathcona County does not require permits for installations so they are unaware of who is installing them; they are not aware of any licensing requirements for trucking companies to supply water to cisterns; and it was noted that if a cistern is tied to a municipal system a water connection permit is required.
- There is some concern about having requirements in the plumbing code when a plumber doesn't typically install cisterns.
- It was noted that proposed changes could introduce requirements about cistern certification; maintenance would not be within scope.
- Discussions with Alberta Health indicate that they also recognize the gap but have no enforcement abilities under their regulation. If cisterns are included in the code that may provide Alberta Health an opportunity to introduce requirements for maintenance, protection from thermal shock and scalding, etc. like those in place for other systems.
- Jurisdictions could require a water quality management plan as part of the permitting process.
- Cisterns would likely be installed by a private sewage installer unless it was located in a house, in which case it would be installed by a plumber.

- It is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure appliances and equipment (ex. furnaces, water wells) stay in good condition, and it is reasonable to expect that cistern maintenance would be handled the same.
- As there was little data on cistern failures, the code change proposal will focus on the absence of requirements for cisterns for potable water in the NPC.

Roger LeBeuf/Shawn VanVelzen moved to recommend to the President and CEO that a proposed change to the National Plumbing Code regarding certification for potable water cisterns be considered for recommendation; CARRIED.

4.2. Reference Standards

4.2.1. NSF

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.2.2. ULC

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.2.3. CSA

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.2.4. IAPMO

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.3. Working Group Reports

4.3.1. NPC 2025

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.4. AMOS Report

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.5. PSSC Liaison Report

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.6. Administrator/AMA Report

Item deferred to next meeting.

4.7. Council Updates

Item deferred to next meeting.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

Item deferred to next meeting.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for February 27 at 9:00 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

– MOTIONS –

1. Meeting Opening

1.1 Agenda Adoption

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- All items except 1.1, 1.2, and 4.1 will be deferred to the next meeting.

Joe Howdle/Stephen Laurie moved that the agenda be adopted, as amended; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the October 3 Minutes

Robert Nygard/Shawn Van Velzen moved to adopt the minutes of the October 3 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Cisterns

Roger LeBeuf/Shawn VanVelzen moved to recommend to the President and CEO that a proposed change to the National Plumbing Code regarding certification for potable water be considered for recommendation; CARRIED.

– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)
NPC 2025	<u>Stephen Laurie</u> Joe Howdle, Al Steenbergen, Paul Fullam