

Plumbing Transition Commission
November 5th, 2014
1:30 PM
8181 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed all present and **called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair requested a roll call of the members which reflected the following:

Members Present: S. Maher; M. Wich, C. Benjamin; R. Kothe; J. Baker;
T. Smith; T. Crawford; H. Heier

Members Absent:

Notice of Absence:

8 members present and 0 members absent constitute a Quorum.

Verification was made that the agenda was displayed according to public records meeting law, on Monday November 3rd, 2014 due to Tuesday holiday and meeting being held Wednesday Nov. 5th, 2014

A **motion** was made by Mr. Maher to add to the agenda The Attorney Opinion requested at the previous meeting concerning some legal matters concerning the commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 8 I's and 0 opposed, and the **motion was adopted**.

Old Business:

A **motion** was made by Mr. Wich to adopt the minutes from the October 7th, 2014 meeting as amended. It was requested by Mr. Heier and Mr. Maher to be added to the meeting minutes, as an addendum, the request of the rules by which the commission would follow from Attorney Ron Crouch. The minutes, as presented with the addendum and requested addition, received a second from Mr. Crawford. The chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 8 yes and 0 no, and the **motion was adopted**.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Wich to conduct the next regular PTC meeting in Baton Rouge, LA at the Office of State Fire Marshal November 18th @ 1:30 P.M. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maher. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 8 I's and 0 nays and the **motion was adopted**.

The Chair turned the floor over to Mr. Crouch to discuss and present the requested attorney opinions present to him at the previous meeting. Discussion between the commissions included discussion of Robert Rules of Order and how that will apply to the commissions meetings. Mr. Crouch provided the attorney's opinion in writing to the commission. Discussion from Mr. Barker concerning DHH's role to continue to inspect locations for concerns for sanitary safety conditions as it pertains to plumbing construction. It was advised that an Attorney General Opinion concerning Act 836 and DHH's role concerning the agencies authority concerning addressing and citing sanitary issues in public establishments and how it relates to the Plumbing Code.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Baker to allow public input. The Chair reminded the commission that changing the agenda required a unanimous vote of the members. The Chair requested a show of hands for the vote. The motion was seconded by Mr. The Chair requested a vote of the members by a show of hands which reflected that the **motion was denied**.

Mr. Smith opened discussion on how the changes would be presented to the code officials and those who would be responsible to following the code. Mr. Joiner discussed how the amendments are sent to the register and how the publication would be presented. Mr. Heier and Mr. Kothe also spoke concerning on how the code would be prepared and presented.

New Business:

1. Discussion on items for review in the 2012 International Plumbing Code (Stephen Maher) – Chapters 1 through 3.

The Chair lead the discussion on items listed on review handout provided, Chapters 1 to 3, to the members. Each item was discussed and Mr. Joiner noted the items as tabled, amended or unchanged. (A strikethrough copy of the handout will be provided to the commission members to review at the next meeting of the changes discussed and voted on.)

(A)101.2 Scope

A **motion** was made by Mr. Maher that a letter A after 101.2 to pertain to the information that – A. Nothing in this Part or any provision adopted pursuant to this Part shall prohibit the Department of Health and Hospitals from the following: (1) Regulating stored water temperatures through enforcement of the Sanitary Code. (2) Regulating medical gas and medical vacuum systems. (Keep the exception afterwards.) The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Crawford. The chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 8 I's and 0 opposed, and **the motion was adopted**.

(A)102.2 Existing Installations

The Chair requested a **motion** to adopt the proposed amendment for 102.2 Existing Installations. The **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin and **then seconded** by Mr. Baker. The Chair requested a vote of the members present by a show of hands. The Chair noted that the vote was 4 **hands in favor of and 4 opposed to, the matter will be moved to the Code Council.**

A **motion** was made by Ms Benjamin to table section 102.2 of the Plumbing Code until the next meeting for further consideration and discussion. The **motion received a second** from Mr. Smith. The chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 8 I's and 0 opposed, and **the motion was adopted.**

(A)103.1 General

The Chair opened discussion on proposed changes to 103.1. It was discussed that the LSUCCC does not have the statutory right to govern the code officials. The LSUCCC can only review, amend, adopt, and register. The code officials are the local governing body and they are the ones that oversee their areas.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Smith to amend 103.1 to change the wording from Code Official to Plumbing Official. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Heier. The Chair requested a vote of the members present by a show of hands. The Chair noted that the vote was 3 hands in favor of and 4 opposed to therefore 1 abstained; the **motion was denied.**

(A)105.2 Alternative materials, methods and equipment and 105.2.1 Research reports

Recommendation was for the LSUCCC to be able to review alternative designs. Mr. Joiner stated that these reviews are normally done on the local level concerning special designs, new methods, etc. Local officials and building code officials have the expertise and/or access to those who can provide the expertise to any concerns he may have. Discussion between the commission members included qualifications and training required of the Certified Building Officials. The Chair pointed out the Law that states that those who oversee code areas are to be trained and properly certified in the area that they oversee. Also noted that the previous section discussed (103.1) and leaving the name as Code Official that is the same as the Certified Building Official. The two exceptions to this are that a Louisiana Licensed Architectural or Engineer can also serve as a CBO.

With no motion on the table and no changes recommended, there was no action taken on 105.2 and 105.2.1 by the Commission.

Chapter 2 - Definitions

A **motion** was made by Mr. Barker to adopt the definition of Air Break (Drainage System) as recommended - An unobstructed horizontal distance of free atmosphere between the outside of the indirect waste pipe and the inside of the receiving sink or other receptor must exist so as to allow a back-flow of sewage to spill over the flood-level rim of the receiving sink or other receptor to prevent such back-flow from reaching the fixture, device, appliance or apparatus served by the indirect waste pipe. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Crawford. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote by show of hands 4 in favor and 3 opposed, and the **motion was adopted**.

Recommendations were made to amend the definitions of Backflow, Back-Pressure Backflow, and Back-Siphonage. Mr. Wich discussed concerns on changing definitions prior to addressing areas that address these areas in the code. Mr. Kothe requested that the definitions be addressed during the time that the areas were addressed throughout the code and as each area is discussed.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Smith that the Definitions of Backflow, Back-Pressure Backflow and Back-Siphonage be amended as stated in the recommended changes: Backflow—the undesirable reversal of flow of water or other liquids, mixtures, or substances into the distribution pipes of a potable water supply system and/or water distribution system from any source or sources other than its intended source. Back-Pressure Backflow—a condition which occurs when the downstream pressure is higher than the supply pressure causing a reversal of the normal direction of flow. Back-Siphonage Backflow—a reversal of the normal direction of flow in the pipeline due to a negative pressure (vacuum) being created in the supply line with the backflow source subject to atmospheric pressure. The **motion was seconded** by Ms. Benjamin. The Chair opened discussion to the definitions of each. After discussion the definition for Backflow was not changed from the wording in the code. At that time the above motion was rescinded and a new motion was made.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Maher to amend the definitions for Back-Pressure Backflow and Back-Siphonage. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Smith. The Chair requested a vote of the members by a show of hands, 8 in favor and 0 opposed, and the motion was adopted. Back-Pressure Backflow—a condition which occurs when the downstream pressure is higher than the supply pressure causing a reversal of the normal direction of flow, usually a pressure less than or equal to 4.33 psi(29.88kPa) or the pressure exerted by a 10 foot (3048 mm) column of water. (there was not a clearly defined definition cited for Back-Siphonage nor was a motion to amend with a specific definition other than what was already specified in the code.).

Mr. Joiner discussed public comment and that this is not on the agenda for the LSUCCC and it is not required to be noted on the agenda. Mr. Barker noted that at the next meeting that there be allowed public comment. Mr. Crouch voiced concerns that with no public comment those areas where motions had been voted on then it is set. The Chair opened the floor for public comment and opened the floor to Mr. Roberts to please speak to the Commission. The Chair recognized Mr. Jeremy Harris, Office of Public Health. Mr. Harris suggested to leave low head back pressure and leave the definition of back pressure and back siphonage due to the fact that these may be used to define a certain situation in the code. It was noted that since this may be the case that consideration be taken to address the definitions when they address throughout the code in those areas.

The Chair recognized Mr. Bechnel. Mr. Bechnel suggested that the commission consider amending the term of Code Official to the term Building Official. Mr. Joiner address the suggestion of Mr. Bechnel and noted that the LSUCCC reviews, adopts and amends the code but does not have the authority to tell the local building official how to govern their jurisdiction. If there is a disagreement then it goes to the local appeals board. Discussion followed. Mr. Bechnel voiced his concern of the definitions for Backflow.

The Chair then requested a 5 minute break.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 3:21 p.m. and suggested ending the meeting at 4 p.m.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Maher to table the rest of the definitions to when they come up in the code discussions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 6 yes and 0 no and 2 abstained, and the **motion was adopted**.

Chapter 3

Sections 303 to 303.5 - Materials

The Chair discussed that from Section 303 to 303.5 is self-explanatory and is required by state law. The Chair asked for discussed from the commission and any discussion from the public. There was no comment.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to accept the Section 303 – Materials as is written. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Smith. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of a raise of hands 8 yes and 0 Nays, and the **motion was adopted**.

Section 305.4.1 – Sewer depth

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Wich noted that this is standard in code and is determined by local due to the fact that it will vary between areas of the state. Discussion followed on the matter, including suggestions of providing a frost line map area due to the differences within the state. Mr. Joiner agreed to provide information.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Maher to table Section 305.4.1 until the next meeting in order to obtain more information and for further discussion. The **motion was seconded** Mr. Wich. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 8 I's and 0 Nay's, and the **motion was adopted**.

Section 312.5 – Water supply system test

The Chair opened the floor for discussion for the Commission. A certain pressure and that would be determined at the next meeting. Mr. Joiner requested that the commission address who would be the responsible party to conduct the pressure test and that it be spelled out in the code. Discussion followed by Mr. Heier, Mr. Barker, and public comment with concerns on the proper psi.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Wich that the water pressure be tested at 1½ times the operating pressure but no less than 100 psi. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Kothe. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of a raise of hands 4 yes and 4 nays, and **the motion will move to the LSUCCC.**

The Chair opened further discussion on the matter. Discussion followed by the commission and the public comment.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Kothe that the water pressure be tested at 1½ times the design pressure but no less than 140 psi. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Crawford. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of a raise of hands 6 yes and 2 nays, and **the motion was adopted.**

312.10 Inspection and testing of backflow prevention assemblies.

The Chair read the suggested recommendations. The Chair recognized Mr. Barker. Mr. Barker suggested that due to the complexity of this matter that this section be tabled until the next meeting so that it could be thoroughly discussed.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Barker that the discussion on Section 312.10 be deferred to the next meeting. The **motion was seconded** Mr. Wich. The Chair requested a vote of the members which reflected a vote of 8 yes and 0 no, the **motion was approved.**

Section 314 – Condensate Disposal

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Joiner suggested concerns with using the words plumbing and instead look at using the words such as plenum. May want to move toward “environmental controlled air” and expressed concerns of consideration of overhead duct work recognition. Mr. Wich continued the discussion and noted the term “chamber”. Mr. Roberts noted the definition of “plenum” as defined in the International Mechanical Code. Discussion followed.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Maher to take the definition of “plenum” from the IMC and add that definition to the IPC. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Heier. The Chair requested a vote of the members which reflected a vote of 8 yes and 0 no, the **motion was adopted**.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Maher to take definition of “plenum” and add that to the Section 314.3 shall read - No floor drain or other plumbing fixture except electric water heaters shall be installed in a room containing air handling machinery when such room is used as a plenum. When rooms are used as a plenum, equipment drains shall be conveyed through an indirect waste receptor located outside such rooms or other approved point of disposal. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Smith. The Chair requested a vote of the members reflected a vote of 8 yes and 0 no’s, the **motion was adopted**.

The Chair directed the floor to Mr. Wich. Mr. Wich discussed recommendation of change to 312.1, adding to the wording – The code official shall verify the test. The Chair requested a motion.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Wich to add the wording - The code official shall verify the test results. - to Section 312.1 of the IPC code. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Kothe. The Chair requested a vote of the members reflected a vote of a show of hands 8 yes and 0 no’s, the **motion was adopted**.

Mr. Wich discussed recommendation of changes to 312.3 delete the wording under Drainage and Vent Test, “Plastic piping shall not be tested by using air” and 312.1 deleting wording “for piping systems other than plastic”

A **motion** was made by Mr. Wich to delete the wording under Drainage and Vent Test, 312.3 “Plastic piping shall not be tested by using air” and 312.1 deleting wording “for piping systems other than plastic.” The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Maher. The Chair requested a vote of the members reflected a vote of a show of hands 5 yes and 3 no’s, the **motion was adopted**.

2. Review and discussion of 2012 IPC Chapter 4. (Stephen Maher)

The Chair recognized Ms. Benjamin. Ms. Benjamin passed out Chapter 4 changes that will be recommended at the next meeting.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Wich to table Chapter 4 until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maher. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 8 yes and 0 no, and the **motion was adopted**.

With no other items on the agenda and no motion to accept other business, a **motion** was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Benjamin to adjourn. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

END OF MINUTES