

**Plumbing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2008  
Department of Labor and Industry  
Minnesota Room  
443 Lafayette Road North  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4344  
[dli.cclboards@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.cclboards@state.mn.us)**

**Members Present:**

Karl Abrahamson  
Rebecca L. Ames  
Steve Christenson  
Jim Gander  
Lawrence G. Justin  
Kenneth Kammerer  
James Kittelson  
Allen J. Lamm  
Michael McGowan  
Rick Palmateer  
John A. Parizek  
Paul Sullwold  
Ronald Thompson (MDH Commissioner's designee)  
Randy Ellingboe (DLI Commissioner's designee)

**Members Absent:**

None

**Staff Present:**

Wendy Legge  
Annette Trnka  
Cathy Tran  
Jim Peterson

**Visitors:**

Chuck Higgins  
Mike Lipke  
Dave Ash  
Bob Wolf  
Merrill Green  
David Shusterich  
Danti Osland  
Jeremy Blackhurst  
Matthew Marciniak  
John Tilton  
Roger Baldwin  
Alan Thomas  
Brian Soderholm  
John Knight

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Parizek at 9:51 a.m., and parking instructions, information on Open Forum forms and breaks were given and introductions were made.

**II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Chair asked if there were any objections to the meeting Agenda. Hearing none, Chair declared the Agenda approved.

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### **III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chair asked if there were any objections or changes to the previous meeting minutes. Hearing none, Chair declared the previous Minutes approved.

### **IV. Regular Business**

- A. Minnesota Plumbing Code Update
  - i. Wendy Legge gave an update on the Request For Comments which was published January 7, 2008. All comments received were forwarded to the Board members. A new Request For Comments was published March 31, 2008, and copies were distributed. No comments have been received in response to this Request For Comments.
- B. Plumbing Licensure and Registration Update
  - i. Wendy Legge included this item in the report above.
- C. Approval of Expense Reports
  - i. Chair found the Expense Reports in order and declared them approved.
- D. Committee Reports
  - i. Executive Committee
    - a. The Committee met this morning prior to the Board meeting. Chair wanted to bring to attention that 2008 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Minnesota Plumbing Code, which could possibly be recognized at the July annual meeting.
    - b. A motion was passed not to refer any products or items to Committees that would require a rule amendment prohibited by current Statutes.
  - ii. Product and Code Review Committee
    - a. Justin gave an update on the March 26, 2008 meeting. He stated there were a number of items that were forwarded on to the Plumbing Board for review. The next scheduled meeting is April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - iii. Code Interpretation Committee
    - a. Gander stated that the Code Interpretation has not met and there have been no requests for code interpretation at this time.
  - iv. Licensing and Registration Committee
    - a. Gander stated that this Committee has not yet scheduled its first meeting, however, he anticipates that a meeting should be scheduled within the next 30 days.
  - v. Green Committee
    - a. Parizek stated that the Committee had its first meeting April 4<sup>th</sup>, with an overwhelming turnout. Seven parties addressed the Committee at Open Forum. Parizek stated that the first item the Committee will be addressing is the language for reclaimed and gray water systems. The next meeting will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, following the Product and Code Review Committee meeting.
- E. Other – Forms

### **V. Special Business**

- A. Legislative update
  - i. Ellingboe stated that there has been no change in the previous month. Legislation

to extend the deadline for Restricted Plumber License application has made its way through the Senate, but is still making its way through the House. The Code bill that had a number of items of “cleanup” is still making its way through the Legislature.

B. Forms

- i. RFA (Request For Action). This form is now on line available in both pdf format and Microsoft Word format, on the Plumbing Board’s website.
- ii. RFI (Request For Interpretation). This form is also on line, available in both pdf format and Microsoft Word format, on the Plumbing Board’s website. Ellingboe reviewed both forms. A motion was made by Lamm, seconded by Gander to approve the RFA and RFI forms, giving the Department of Labor and Industry the authority to modify them as needed. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

C. Minnesota Plumbing Code – Board Action

**i. DLI Proposed Code Revisions**

1. 4715.1000

- i. Justin made a motion, seconded by Kittelson to accept the proposed DLI recommended revisions. Parizek, Justin, Abrahamson, Palmateer, Ellingboe, Lamm and Ames voted Aye. Gander, McGowan, Kammerer, Christenson, Sullwold and Kittelson voted Nay. The motion did not receive the required 2/3 majority and the motion failed.  
Gander made a motion, seconded by Kammerer to strike “will not receive fouling waste and the floor drain...” from the fifth paragraph of the proposed SONAR language. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Ellingboe, seconded by Justin to accept the proposed DLI recommended revision, as amended. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

2. 4715.1250 – Dishwashing Equipment.

- i. Gander made a motion, seconded by Ames to approve both 4715.0100, subp. 67a (the definition of Food Establishment) and also 4715.1250 with revisions (striking “in a food establishment or similar facility”.) The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

3. 4715.1590 – Receptors or Sumps

- i. Ellingboe made a motion, seconded by Lamm to accept the revisions. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

4. 4715.2310 – Selecting size of drainage piping.

- i. Gander made a motion, seconded by Justin to approve the proposed language. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

5. 4715.2580 – Common Vents – Subparts 1 and 2.

- i. Gander made a motion, seconded by Ellingboe to accept the DLI proposed language. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

6. 4715.2800 – Inspections and Testing.

- i. Ellingboe made a motion, seconded by McGowan to accept the proposed DLI changes. After discussion, it was proposed the language be “No plumbing permit, inspection or testing shall be required for the following

plumbing work in a single family home, unless required by the local administrative authority or unless the plumbing work requires approval of a plan under part 4715.3130.” Gander made a motion to strike the words “in a single family home” in Subp. 3, seconded by Justin. Parizek, Gander, Justin, Palmateer, McGowan, Kammerer, Sullwold, Kittelson and Lamm voted Aye. Ames, Christenson, Ellingboe, and Abrahamson voted Nay. The majority ruled and the motion passed. A vote to accept 4715.2800 as revised was unanimous and the motion carried.

7. 4715.2820 – Method of Testing.
    - i. A motion to accept the DLI proposed language was made by Gander, seconded by Lamm. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.
- ii. Requests For Action**
1. 4715.2790: Siphonic Roof Drainage Systems and Code Change.
    - i. Justin reviewed what the Product and Code Review Committee’s conclusions on this RFA were. Justin stated the Committee’s opinion is that this is a system that should be looked at further, but as an engineered system. Lamm made a motion, seconded by Abrahamson to deny the Request For Action. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.
  2. 4715.2760 Subp. 1: Froet Roof Drains.
    - i. A motion to accept the language as presented with the amendment of moving the third paragraph above the “Exceptions” paragraph made by Ellingboe, seconded by Gander. After discussion, Gander voted Nay, Parizek, Justin, McGowan, Kammerer, Abrahamson, Ames, Christenson, Kittelson, Palmateer and Sullwold voted Aye. The majority ruled and the motion passed.
  3. 4715.0420 and 4715.0800, Subp4: Cast Iron Soil Pipe Institute.
    - i. Update MN code to current Cast Iron Soil Institute (CISPI) Pipe Standard, CISPI Standards 301-05, and the coupling specification used in connection with hubless cast iron soil piping and fittings, CISPI Standards 310-04. The addition of CISPI Standards to Minnesota Plumbing Code is proposed to reflect the most current standard on mechanical joints in hubless cast iron. Justin moved to accept the language as presented by DLI, seconded by Ellingboe. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.
  4. 4715.0420 and 4715.0800, Subp. 4: Standardize Cast Iron DWV pipe, fittings, & couplings using ASTM specifications.
    - i. See item V(C)(ii)(3).
  5. 4715.1710, Subp. 2, Para. E: Polyethylene pipe for storm sewers when the water service pipe crosses over the sewer pipe. Ellingboe made a motion, seconded by Lamm to accept the Product and Code Review Committee’s recommendations. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.
  6. 4715.0420, Subp. 3 and 4715.0520: CPVC for Water Distribution. (File PB0007 9/18/06.)
    - i. No change is necessary for 4715.0520. Gander made a motion, seconded by Sullwold to accept DLI’s recommended changes. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

#### D. Minnesota Plumbing Code –

- i. Updates / Board Action
  1. 4715.2280 – Water Meter Installation: DLI/DOH update on section.
    - i. A motion to accept proposed language made by Lamm, seconded by Ellingboe. Amended motion made by Lamm, seconded by Ellingboe to move the Exception paragraph to be the last paragraph. Gander made a motion, seconded by Abrahamson, to strike the sentence “Water meters shall not be installed in any toilet room or within five feet of a service sink measured horizontally.” Parizek, Gander Justin, McGowan, Christenson, Abrahamson, Sullwold and Kittelson voted Aye. Palmateer, Kammerer, Lamm, Ames and Ellingboe voted Nay. The majority ruled and the motion carried.
    - ii. Lamm made the motion, seconded by Gander to change the last sentence to “Water meters installed within five feet of a plumbing fixture must be shielded from contamination.” Parizek, Gander, Justin, Palmateer, McGowan, Ames, Sullwold, Lamm, Kittelson, and Ellingboe voted Aye. Kammerer, Christenson and Abrahamson voted Nay. The majority ruled and the motion carried.
    - iii. The original motion to accept the proposed language with the amendments was voted upon. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.
  - ii. 4715.0420, Subp. 3 and 4715.0510: CPVC for Water Service.
    - i. Cathy Tran gave an update. This file is being sent back to the Product and Code Review Committee.
  - iii. 4715.1941 – Heat Exchangers.
    - i. Cathy Tran reported working with the Department of Health on this issue, and is looking into referencing a Federal Register standard. Cathy is seeking more information from the FDA before bringing this back to the Board.
  - iv. Other.
    - i. Parizek asked Cathy Tran to come up with a new definition for “factory trained installer.” Cathy presented proposed language for 4715.0100, Subp. 45a: “Factory trained installer means a person who has received training from a manufacturer on installation of that manufacturer’s specific plumbing product, and holds a valid certificate of competency issued by the manufacturer for the completion of that training.”
    - ii. Lamm made a motion, seconded by Kittelson to accept the proposed language. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

#### **VII. Complaints - None**

#### **VIII. Open Forum**

Bob Wolf, City Inspector for Minneapolis, reported that a citizen has petitioned to install a gray water system. Mr. Wolf asked the Board for feedback regarding design, odor, backflow protection, maintenance, and what fixtures can discharge into that system. Parizek reported that the Green Committee would begin considering these issues next week.

## **IX. Board Discussion**

- A. Bylaws. Wendy Legge reported discussion at the Executive Committee meeting of consideration of change to the Bylaws (Article VII(C)). Lamm made a motion, seconded by Justin to add the “Approval of expense reports” and “Other” to Regular Business, and also move “Committee Reports” before “Special Business.” The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.
- B. Plan Submittal Requirements in Code. Gander requested consideration for change regarding plan submittal requirements in code. The Plumbing Code requires plan submittal with two exclusions according to DLI website: moving toilets for ADA requirements that don’t substantially change concealed plumbing; and simple changes with approval of authority. Gander stated that Wisconsin law requiring submittal of plans, excluding health care facilities, requires that project have 16 or more fixtures, including water heaters, water drains, and sill cocks as fixtures. Wisconsin allows submittal of plans to 5 different places, and you can get on-line appointment for review (at whichever place you want, depending on which fits your time-frame or your schedule.) So plans do not need to be submitted until two days before the review. Gander would like for smaller projects to be excluded from plan review. Ellingboe said it would be fine to have a discussion to bring greater clarity to this, and talk about implications; plan review may be the only review that DLI sees. Sullwold sees DLI as bogged down in reviewing small projects that any local inspector should be able to review. There should be a completely separate review section that could review quickly (on the spot or within a day or two.) If local inspector believes it’s too difficult to look at, they can send it to the State. Ellingboe stated that DLI has concerns about the amount of time this takes. Gander approved forwarding this issue to the Product and Code Review Committee. Gander stated he will submit an RFA.
- C. Lamm asked a question: is a compression fitting a mechanical fitting? Gander said that there’s an AWWA Standard for flare fittings, but not mechanical joints. Mechanical joints seem to be manufacturer specific. The Department of Labor and Industry will get information to Lamm about this.
- D. Ellingboe reported that our plan review turn-around time is approximately one week on accelerated and approximately a week and a half on standard. It varies during the year and peaks during the construction season. Ellingboe said there may be other factors DLI would be happy to discuss with Gander regarding the cost of turn-around time resulting in increased fees.

## **X. Announcements**

- A. Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings
  - i. May 20, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
  - ii. June 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- B. Executive Committee Meetings
  - i. May 20, 2008, 8:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
  - ii. June 17, 2008, 8:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- C. Product and Code Review Committee
  - i. April 23, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

D. Green Committee

i. April 23, 2008, 1:30 p.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

E. Licensure and Registration Committee

i. May 7, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - Department of Labor and Industry. (Tentative.)

**XI. Adjournment**

Kittelsohn moved, Lamm seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Gander*

Jim Gander