

Plumbing Board
Green Committee – Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.
Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road No., Saint Paul, MN 55155-4344
DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US

Committee Members Present:

John A. Parizek
Rebecca Ames
Larry Justin
Michael McGowan
Steve Christenson

Staff Present:

Cathy Tran
Annette Trnka
Jim Peterson
Chris Thompson
Chuck Olson
Brad Jenson

Board Members Present:

Ron Thompson
Paul Sullwold

Committee Members Absent:

None

Visitors:

Carl Crimmins
Matt Marciniak
Gary Thaden
John Clark
Chris Soderholm
Brian Soderholm
Tom Hamel
Colleen Erickson
Brad Erickson
John Clark
Bill Karges

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by John Parizek at 1:38 p.m. Announcements were made and introductions were done.

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The Chair asked if there were any objections or changes to the Agenda. Hearing none, the Agenda was accepted.

III. Regular Business

- A. Approval of the April 23, 2008 meeting Minutes. Chair, hearing no objections or corrections, declared the Minutes approved.

Committee Approved

IV. Special Business

- A. Rainwater Harvesting (Graywater) – Presentation by Matthew Marciniak of IAPMO. Matt provided a handout entitled “Alternate Water Source Provisions in the Model Plumbing Codes.” Matt stated that in summary he would like to recommend that the Board adopt Chapter 16 of the 2009 UPC in water reclamation systems, titled “Chapter 16 – Gray Water Systems.” This is still proposed language for IAPMO. The 2009 standards for IAMPO will be released January 1, 2009. Matt stated that IAPMO is willing to release copyrighted materials for adoption into code language by the Board.
- B. Preliminary review of Request For Action (RFA) items. Committee will review the RFA and determine where the RFA will be directed to for further evaluation.
- i. Amend 4715 to include Rainwater Harvesting for Urban Reuse. Submitted 7/2/08 by Water Control Corporation (File PB0033.) Brian Soderholm and Chris Soderholm of Soderholm & Associates and Water Control Corporation presented. Chris stated that they are hoping to get an idea of what their system should comply with to meet the plumbing code, or what code needs to be amended before the system would be accepted. Ron Thompson asked where the demand for this type of system was coming from. Brian Soderholm answered that mostly it comes from LEED buildings, but they are hoping, for the State’s sake, to find applications for both commercial and residential, however, commercial would be their company’s field.

Carl Crimmins, a guest, stated that Great River Energy project that’s been in place for six months has a rainwater reclamation system, and perhaps a field trip would be in order to see a working system in progress and find out what kind of problems they’re encountering. Parizek stated the Twins stadium also has one. A guest from the audience stated Como Park Conservatory has two 10,000 gallon rainwater storage tanks. Parizek asked if the Committee members would be interested in going on a tour and the consensus was yes. DLI staff has not yet had an opportunity to see the aforementioned systems.

Justin stated he’d be interested to hear what the Department of Health’s standards on filtration/disinfection would be. Thompson said there are issues of inter-connection that everyone wants to protect against. It was mentioned, correctly, that there are inhalation vaporization issues; some contaminants are skin absorbable. Thompson said that the DOH would have to take a look at the standards and the level of treatment of the rainwater. Thompson asked if there are states that have a good program; that are protective of public health and safety. Brian Soderholm replied in his opinion, there are some states, including Florida, Texas, Oregon, and Washington, that have codes in place, but they don’t really address issues

of disinfection. Tran stated that her concern is homeowners being able to correctly maintain an operation of this nature.

Justin made a motion, seconded by Ames to have the Department Of Health to provide information or guidance on filtration and disinfection of the reclaimed water (rainwater) for A) landscape sprinklers irrigation; and B) plumbing fixture re-use. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed. The meeting took a break at 3:07 and reconvened at 3:21.

- ii. Amend 4715 to include Non-water Urinals. Submitted 7/3/08 by Falcon Waterfree Technologies (File PB0034). Tom Hamel of Hamel and Associates representing Waterfree Technologies presented. Mr. Hamel states there have been no changes in their product since the submission of their RFA, however, there have been thousands of installations since that time. He states that the ASME A112.19.19-2006 Standard provides for both the material and performance testing of these plumbing fixtures. Mr. Hamel also states that this Standard is included in the 2007 International Plumbing Code and is proposed for inclusion into the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code.

Mr. Hamel reviewed his proposed amendments to include water free urinals. His proposed changes to the code would include 4715.0200 – cross off water seal and replace with liquid water trap. 4715.0900 – would be the same change. 4715.0950 would be the same change. He stated that for 4715.1415 he proposes replacing code language. Mr. Hamel wanted to know what the objections are to his RFA and why the code language can't be changed and move the RFA to the full Plumbing Board.

Tran asked if there's been a standard established for the cartridges. Mr. Hamel stated no, some waterless urinals don't use cartridges at all, but rather a liquid sealant. However, there is language stating that they must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions after installation. Discussion took place on green issues such as manufacture of cartridges and the energy used to make, ship, and store the cartridges; and also the maintenance/sanitation issues associated with waterless urinals. Mr. Hamel stated that the cartridges are recyclable and bio-degradable. Peterson stated that he was concerned that in 4715.0960, the prohibition on bell traps, bottle traps, "s" traps, and other types of traps, the code would need further amendment, because in zero consumption urinals, they either meet the definition of an "s" trap or bell trap.

Justin stated another concern was regarding 4715.1415, item 4, stating "a non-water urinal shall have a water distribution line rough in to urinal location to allow for installation of an approved back flow prevention device, in the event of a retro-fit." Justin stated that it would be up to the owner to replace the urinal if they weren't happy with a waterless urinal.

Peterson stated that there could be a problem with dead-end runs and the possibility of getting a water-born outbreak. He suggested there be a water distribution size to allow or adequate capacity to allow for a replacement possibility.

Thompson asked what Peterson would recommend – a Standard or description of the fluid used in waterless urinals. Peterson stated that if the issue were addressed in the Standard, it would be easier to define.

Justin made a motion, seconded by Christenson, for the RFA to be sent back to the Presenter to provide the indicated information and to have DLI staff review the information received from the Presenter and report back to this Committee. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

C. Update on RFA's reviewed in past Committee Meetings.

- i. Amend 4715 to include Uniform Plumbing Code, Chapter 16, part I (1601.01602.0) Gray water systems. Received 1-4-08. (File PB0024) – Minnesota Pipe Trades. The representative of Minnesota Pipe trades had left by the time this came up on the Agenda. Parizek feels this should be rolled into the other reclamation system, for recommendation to the Board. Justin feels that they should be kept separate right now until the DOH comes back with and also what direction the 2009 UPC firms up.
- ii. Amend 4715 to include Uniform Plumbing Code, Chapter 16, part II (1613.01622) Reclaimed water systems. Received 1-04-08. (File PB0025) – Minnesota Pipe Trades.

D. Other – no further issues were discussed.

V. Open Forum

There were no requests for Open Forum.

VI. Discussion

There was no further Board discussion.

VII. Announcements

- A. Next Scheduled Meeting: Parizek will look into setting up a tour of the facilities.
- i. There are no scheduled meetings at this time.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by McGowan, seconded by Christenson to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Parizek

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