MINUTES
SECOND BUILDING TECHNICAL COUNCIL
MEETING OF 2010

DATE: April 15, 2010
TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Executive Royal Inn, Leduc
PRESENT: Maurice Otto, Chair
Bill Barnowich, Vice Chair – South
Ken Block (until 1:30 p.m.)
Burgess Bredo, Vice Chair – North
David Dixon
Colin Friesen
Hermann Gloge
Barry Laviolette
Scott Lee
Ken McLaren
Chuck Perry
Steve Walton
Robert Zifkin
Chris Salvian, Alberta Municipal Affairs
Leith Atkinson, Safety Codes Council
Celia McDonagh, Safety Codes Council (arrived at 11:35 a.m.)

GUEST: Keven Lefebvre
Allan Partridge (1:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.)
Ian Morgan (1:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.)

REGRETS: Don Dessario
Cal Ploof
Mark Iantkow (BFC)

RECORDER: Sandi Orr

NEXT MEETINGS: Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in Red Deer
Thursday, September 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in Leduc
Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in Calgary
A. **Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and a round table introduction was held.

B. **Adoption of Agenda**

The following new item was re-added to the agenda:

- E.6.01.10 Iconic Structures

*Burgess Bredo / Ken McLaren moved to adopt the agenda, as amended; CARRIED*

C. **(a) Adoption of Minutes**

*Ken McLaren / Burgess Bredo moved to adopt the minutes of the February 3, 2010 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED*

D. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

**E.2.01.08 Approval of Revised & Updated Building SCO Certification Course Material**

The Acting Manager of Training was welcomed to the meeting and reported on the courses ready for review and the following individuals volunteered to review each of these courses on behalf of BTC.

- 100045, Building, Group A1, Housing and Small Buildings Part 9, Term 3 – Ken McLaren and a representative of City of Edmonton (to be mailed to reviewers next week)
- 100040 Building, Group A3, Fire Alarm Systems – Ken Block and a representative of City of Edmonton (To be mailed to reviewers next week)
- 100054 Building, Group B3, High-Rise Measures and Other Smoke-Control Systems – Burgess Bredo and Chuck Perry (course provided to reviewers at the meeting).

Members were asked to provide their feedback to SCC by May 6, 2010.

[McLaren / Block / Bredo / Perry / Otto]

A discussion was held regarding the process for course review and revisions. Once the developer has completed the revisions to a course it is reviewed for technical accuracy by an AMA technical advisor and corrections made before being brought to BTC for final approval.

BTC reviewers were asked to provide feedback to the Acting Manager of Training. In consultation with AMA technical advisors, the Council will incorporate any applicable revisions and return the final document to the reviewers. The reviewers will bring forward a recommendation for approval to the entire BTC. The Acting Manager of Training will provide a list of changes at the next BTC meeting.

Concern was expressed regarding the length of time to publish some of these courses. This delay was recognized by SCC and a review is being conducted regarding the course development, review and approval process. The Acting Chief Building...
Administrator commented that as there is a great deal of review that is conducted, he questioned how much value is added by the delay in waiting for the entire technical council to approve the recommendations from the council member reviewers.

It was requested that SCC suspend sales of the existing Alberta Fire Alarm Systems guide Blue Book as purchasers are assuming it is based on the current code.[McDonagh]

E.2.05.08 Barrier Free Items

a) Parking

In the absence of Mark Iantkow, this item was carried forward to the next meeting.

b) Draft STANDATA – Barrier free seating

In the absence of Mark Iantkow, this item was carried forward to the next meeting.

c) Enforcement of barrier free issues – update

In the absence of Mark Iantkow, this item was carried forward to the next meeting.

E.6.01.09 b) Draft STANDATA – Foam Plastic in Direct Contact with Duct Work

As mentioned at the last meeting, the company that brought this issue forward has not submitted any proposals or alternate solutions from a provincial scope.

The following action item remained outstanding:

- The Chair will follow up on this issue. [Otto]

E.7.01.09 GTC – Mechanically Vented Appliances

The Acting Chief Building Administrator reported that there is a great deal of work being done by the Gas Technical Council relative to depressurization and side wall venting. As a result of discussions held at their last meeting, an industry meeting was held in Red Deer to attempt to come to consensus on the appropriate distance required to allow side wall venting. Although numerous figures were discussed, a decision has not yet been made.

The Chief Gas Administrator is developing a package for review by the Acting Chief Building Administrator regarding classifications of mechanically vented appliances.

It was noted that the Building Technical Council formally requests that as a key stakeholder we have the opportunity to review the STANDATA before its adoption by the Gas Technical Council. [Otto]

E.8.01.09 NRC Floor System Test Results

The recommendation from the HIRF Task Group was read, as follows:

*It is recommended that Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Safety Codes Council, on release of research data from the NRC's Fire Research Program study of fires in single-family homes, review:*
o existing fire incident report data involving homes and multi-family dwellings; and
o the Alberta Building Code (ABC) relating to tested structures.

The review will determine whether the ABC should assign existing fire safety objectives to pre-engineering structural floor and roof systems to increase the time these systems remain viable under fire conditions.

The recommendation is vague as to which test result data is referred to in the HIRF Task Group recommendation. The Acting Chief Building Administrator will bring this forward to Senior Management for further discussion and will report at the next meeting.  [Salvian]

E.7.03.09  FTC/BTC Liaison - update

An informal discussion was held on a few topics as there were no building representatives available for the meeting held on April 12, 2010.

It was requested that Keven Lefebvre bring forward the following issues to the Building Technical Council:

- ABC 3.2.4.19 – It was recommended that the words ‘where required’ be included for clarification. It was noted that this issue has already been addressed and clarified through a STANDATA.
- ABC 3.2.5.7 – It was recommended that the word ‘pressure’ be removed. It was clarified that this is an issue to be discussed between the designer and the local fire department. If the fire equipment is not capable of creating this pressure then the designer needs to incorporate pressure at the water supply.
- ABC 3.4.6.10 – Concern has been expressed regarding the camouflage of exit doors in such places as Alzheimer units, etc. The building code provision was reviewed and it was uncertain whether a similar provision was contained in the Alberta Fire Code. It was reported that a reference to this provision is included in the Alberta Fire Code.
- ABC 3.3.3.5 – Definition of a Nurse is being discussed.
- Discussions are being held regarding Security Systems with add-on life safety components and whether these should require ULC approved equipment if a life safety component is added to the security system. The Acting Chief Building Administrator will follow up on this issue.  [Salvian]

It was noted that as a result of David Dixon’s relocation, he is no longer able to serve on this committee. Consensus was reached not to add another representative from the Building Technical Council.

E.1.04.09  Sept. 11/08 Letter from MD of Rockyview #44
Re: depressurization in houses

It was noted that an issue still exists and should be discussed in more detail. The Chief Gas Administrator will be invited to attend a future BTC meeting to discuss this issue along with other venting issues.  [Otto]
E.7.05.09 Review of the Matrix

A memo was issued to all TC Chairs and circulated to the BTC (Handout #1). A copy of the current matrix was circulated for review (Handout #2). It was suggested by the BTC that the SCC be the collection point for any organizations or industry sectors that may express interest in particular councils.

Hermann Gloge / David Dixon moved to form a Matrix Review Task Group to review the matrix on an annual basis and to make recommendations to the BTC for revisions; CARRIED

It was suggested that these meetings could take place in conjunction with council meetings to minimize expenses. Representatives from AMA and SCC will be asked to work with the committee. Chuck Perry (Task Group Chair), Scott Lee, Hermann Gloge and David Dixon volunteered to serve on this task group. The task group was asked to review the request to consider a representative from the manufactured housing industry.

[Perry]

E.8.05.09 Lateral Bracing Guidelines for Foundations

In the absence of Don Dessario, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

E.11.05.09 STANDATA – Retaining Walls – update

The redrafted STANDATA was circulated and reviewed (Handout #3). Revisions to Interpretation relative to guards were reviewed.

Ken McLaren / David Dixon moved to adopt and release STANDATA 06-BCI-XXX – Retaining Walls, as circulated; CARRIED

E.4.01.10 Table 9.23.4.3 – Steel Beams

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

E.5.01.10 Summary of Letter Ballot 10-04

Burgess Bredo / Bill Barnowich moved to accept the results of Letter Ballot 10-04, appointment of Chuck Perry, as information; CARRIED

E.6.01.10 Iconic Structures

Allan Partridge and Ian Morgan were welcomed to the meeting and provided a presentation on Iconic Structures relative to assisting Safety Codes Officers. It was reported that the province has designated 11 grain elevators as historic sites. It was requested that a committee work together to attempt to find common ground on building and life safety issues. Reference was made to the Standards and Guidelines for the Preservation of Historic Places in Canada.
There are three safety issues that are common with all 11 grain elevators:

- Secondary access and egress.
- Limiting distance / property line.
- Fully sprinklering the building.

This may be an opportunity for the BTC, Safety Services and Cultural Resources to work together to develop guidelines that are reasonable and suitable for all concerned. These guidelines could be available to legacy and preservation organizations, the government grant budgeting purposes and to Safety Codes Officers for the evaluation and approval of site specific alternative solutions.

A more detailed explanation was provided on the various issues, from railway property being too close to the grain elevators and the challenges associated with sprinklering the entire structure. It was suggested that a number of guidelines could be recommended to mitigate the risk to visitors including limiting the total number of visitors permitted in the structure at one time, limited access to potential dangerous areas or equipment and only permitting the structure to operate as an interpretive centre and not a working museum.

The Acting Chief Building Administrator is concerned that the change of use is significantly different – converting an industrial plant to an interpretive centre with public access, that staff at these types of facilities are typically volunteers with limited knowledge of the risks and the majority of fire resistant paints have not been tested to provide fire ratings.

It was questioned why each grain elevator not simply be dealt with by site-specific variances and alternative solutions. It was clarified that these guidelines would be high level guiding principles to assist each Authority Having Jurisdiction to evaluate and approve the proposed alternative solutions.

Robert Zifkin / Burgess Bredo moved to form a task group to meet with Allan Partridge to establish guiding principles for the restoration of grain elevators as interpretive centres and bring this back to council at our next meeting; CARRIED

Robert Zifkin (Chair), Burgess Bredo, David Dixon and Steve Walton volunteered for the task group. The Administrator of Certification will forward information to the task group on behalf of Allan Partridge. [Atkinson]

E. New Business

E.1.02.10 Permitting of Temporary Structures

As a result of the collapse at the Big Valley Jamboree, it was originally suggested to develop an Alberta Building Code STANDATA to address the permitting of temporary structures. During the process, it was determined that the Acting Chief Building Administrator is not able to issue this type of STANDATA as only the Minister would have that authority to issue a STANDATA on the Permit Regulation.
As a result of meetings with many regulator and event organizer stakeholders, an amendment is being proposed to the Permit Regulation to address permitting for tents, stages and other temporary structures over a particular size. This amendment will require adoption by Cabinet.

It was noted that even without a permit, this does not negate the organizers from ensuring code compliance.

F. Standing Agenda Items

a) Technical Coordinating Committee Report

The Chair reported on the last Technical Coordinating Committee meeting. Topics of discussion included:

- New Education and Training Working Group.
- Electronic permitting relative to the new Permit Issuer Course.
- SCO qualifications relating to furnace installations.
- SCA Review.
- Revisions to the SCC Bylaws will be presented at the AGM.
- A high level consultation was held regarding energy efficiency codes. A brief overview was provided regarding the work and decisions being made at the national level.

b) Appeals/Review of Orders

It was reported that one order was reviewed and two appeals were held since the last meeting.

It was requested that the discussion regarding the publishing of a generic list of appealed orders and their relative decisions on the Council’s website needs to be brought forward again for discussion and resolution. [Atkinson / Alford]

c) Alberta Building Code 2006

(i) Professional Involvement Committee

Excerpts from the November 2009 meeting were reviewed:

- Due to travel restrictions and lack of provincial resources, this committee has been placed on hold.
- This committee continue on its own through the SCC and when the provincial committee is reinstated, the SCC committee will have documentation already drafted.
- Burgess Bredo was appointed as the Chair and Mark Brodgesell, as co-chair on behalf of Maurice Otto.

Burgess Bredo had nothing new to report. Some issues are attempting to be resolved and a report will be provided at the next meeting.
Mark Brodgesell has been committed on behalf of Edmonton and Chuck Perry will solicit a representative on behalf of Calgary. [Perry]

G. Next Meeting

The schedule for the remainder of the year was reconfirmed as follows:
- Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in Red Deer
- Thursday, September 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in Nisku
- Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in Calgary

Barry Laviolette / Ken McLaren moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.
--- ACTION ITEMS ---

E.2.01.08 Approval of Revised & Updated Building SCO Certification Course Material
- provide their feedback to the SCC by May 6, 2010. [McLaren / Block / Bredo / Perry / Otto]

It was requested that the SCC suspend sales of the existing Fire Alarm Blue Book as purchasers are assuming it is based on the current code. [McDonagh]

E.6.01.09 b) Draft STANDATA – Foam Plastic in Direct Contact with Duct Work

The Chair will follow up on this issue. [Otto]

E.7.01.09 GTC – Mechanically Vented Appliances
- formally request that as a key stakeholder we have the opportunity to review the STANDATA before its adoption by the Gas Technical Council. [Otto]

E.8.01.09 NRC Floor System Test Results

The Acting Chief Building Administrator will bring this forward to Senior Management for further discussion and will report at the next meeting. [Salvian]

E.7.03.09 FTC/BTC Liaison - update

Discussions are being held regarding Security Systems with add-on life safety components and whether these should require ULC approved equipment if a life safety component is added to the security system. The Acting Chief Building Administrator will follow up on this issue. [Salvian]

E.1.04.09 Sept. 11/08 Letter from MD of Rockyview #44
Re: depressurization in houses

The Chief Gas Administrator will be invited to attend a future BTC meeting to discuss this issue along with other venting issues. [Otto]

E.7.05.09 Review of the Matrix
- review the request to consider a representative from the manufactured housing industry. [Perry]

E.6.01.10 Iconic Structures
- will forward information to the task group on behalf of Allan Partridge. [Atkinson]

F. b) Appeals/Review of Orders
- publishing a generic list of appealed orders and their relative decisions on the Council’s website needs to be brought forward again for discussion and resolution. [Atkinson / Alford]

F. c) i) Professional Involvement Committee
- will solicit a representative on behalf of Calgary. [Perry]
MOTIONS –

B. Adoption of Agenda

Burgess Bredo / Ken McLaren moved to adopt the agenda, as amended; CARRIED

C. (a) Adoption of Minutes

Ken McLaren / Burgess Bredo moved to adopt the minutes of the February 3, 2010 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

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G. Next Meeting

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