MINUTES
FOURTH BUILDING TECHNICAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 2011

DATE: September 22, 2011
TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.
LOCATION: Holiday Inn, Red Deer
PRESENT: Maurice Otto, Chair
Bill Barnowich, Vice Chair – South
Gregory Beck
Don Dessario
Colin Friesen (arrived at 9:40 a.m.)
Barry Laviolette (arrived at 9:55 a.m.)
Scott Lee
Ken McLaren, Vice Chair – North
Chuck Perry (arrived at 9:45 a.m.)
Steve Walton
Robert Zifkin
Asnake Tiruneh, Alberta Municipal Affairs
Alex Morrison, Alberta Municipal Affairs
Mike MacPherson, Safety Codes Council (until 12:30 p.m.)
GUESTS: Braden Hirsch (for Mark Iantkow, BFC Liaison) (9:55 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.)
REGRETS: Ken Block
David Dixon
Kenneth Roskell
Mark Iantkow (Regular Guest - BFC Liaison)
Keven Lefebvre (Regular Guest - FTC Liaison)
RECORDER: Sandi Orr
NEXT MEETINGS: Thursday, November 17, 2011 – Leduc
A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and a round table introduction was held.

B. Adoption of Agenda

A notation was made of a few agenda items that would be deferred to a future meeting and noted under the applicable agenda items.

Don Dessario / Robert Zifkin moved to adopt the agenda, as circulated; CARRIED

C. (a) Adoption of Minutes

The following omission was noted:

- E. Code Review Items
  ABC 9.8.7.5. – clarification will be provided in the form of a STANDATA for Ergonomic Design for handrails once the new code is adopted. [Salvian]

Don Dessario / Robert Zifkin moved to adopt the minutes of the July 7 & 8, 2011 meeting, as amended; CARRIED

D. Business Arising from the Minutes

E.2.05.08 Barrier Free Items

b) Draft STANDATA – Barrier free seating

The Barrier Free Council has a subcommittee that is working on this and recommendations will be brought forward at a later date.

c) Enforcement of barrier free issues – update

Background on the issues were provided. The greatest issue is which discipline, department or jurisdiction is accountable for changes that are made after building occupancy. Historically, the building discipline’s role would end at occupancy and the fire discipline’s focus is on life safety provisions being maintained. In many cases, gaps exist particularly relative to maintaining barrier free issues.

An update was provided on the BFC Chair’s recent meeting with senior management of Municipal Affairs and the Safety Codes Council. The direction of the BFC should be more focussed on policy recommendations that will be presented directly to Ministry, as well as public education. However, it is anticipated that the BFC will continue to provide technical recommendations to BTC based on realistic needs. It is believed there is definitely a need to clarify who has the authority for enforcement and ensure that this is known through a STANDATA.

Clarification was requested regarding jurisdiction and whether BTC even has any authority to make decisions regarding enforcement as the ABC addresses design and construction, not maintenance. The Administrator of Accreditation explained where
overlaps occur between the fire and building disciplines and the authority of SCOs granted through the Safety Codes Act.

It was suggested that this is much bigger than the BTC and the issuance of a STANDATA may not be the most effective means of addressing the issue. It was recognized that it may be more appropriate for the BTC to make recommendations to the SCC regarding the need for increased enforcement in specific areas. It was also suggested that perhaps there is a need to consider a multi-discipline Maintenance SCO if maintenance is an issue or to address some of the gaps that currently exist.

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

The Chair will correspond with MD of Rockyview #44. [Otto]

E.4.01.10 Table 9.23.4.3 – Steel Beams – update

It was reported that the Chief Building Administrator has provided this information to NRC and it is under review.

The Chief Building Administrator was asked to provide BTC with communications from NRC that this is being reviewed. [Salvian]

Being no further action on behalf of the SCC, this item will be removed from the agenda. [Paches]

E.6.01.10 Iconic Structures – update

It was reported that although a draft STANDATA was included in the agenda package, new developments have taken place and a redrafted STANDATA is being worked on for future review.

Concern was expressed regarding limiting the STANDATA. The intent of the STANDATA is specific to non-operating grain elevators being restored as museums. Robert Zifkin requested being noted on record that he is in total disagreement regarding the historic designation requirement. It is believed that this STANDATA should be applicable to all non-functioning grain elevators operating as a museum and not just those designed as a historic site by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. Members were reminded that this STANDATA would not be retroactive and would not affect existing museums.

Don Dessario requested that the wording regarding appropriate cribbing and 1 hour fire separation be reworded to remove the contradiction. [Salvian]

E.1.04.10 Firefighter Emergency Operation (FEO)

It was reported that a STANDATA is still under development and further discussion was deferred to the next meeting.
Chuck Perry reported on the excellent discussions held with the working group and recommendations have been made to the Safety Codes Council. One recommendation is relative to notification to the Authority Having Jurisdiction. This Alberta-specific recommendation has been included in the consultation and other recommendations have been forwarded to NRC for consideration in the next National Building Code.

A discussion was held regarding SCO training relative to accidents that occur on construction sites due to the Labour legislation being fairly narrow-focused.

Being nothing further action, this item will be removed from the agenda.

**E.8.05.10 Update from SCC on Accredited Organization Monitoring**

The Administrator of Accreditation reported on the checklist monitoring program that has been around for some time. Alberta Municipal Affairs conducts these audits on behalf of the SCC. The current monitoring is centred on administration. Once reports are received, SCC staff members review and analyze these reports. The bottom line is life safety risk relative to infractions. Trending can be done by organization and reports can be reviewed at any point in time, right down to the individual inspector.

A new initiative is underway at SCC to hire three in-house Safety Codes Officers with the objective being to go in the field to conduct check-list monitoring to enhance the program. The vision is to work together with AMA. This new focus will not be limited to administrative paperwork but also going on-site, looking at active files, going into the field with SCOs in more of a mentoring role and meeting with senior municipal officials on bylaws and policies that could be in contravention with the Safety Codes Act.

Although the council supported the new mentorship focus, caution was expressed regarding application consistency and whether a SCC SCO’s interpretation being perceived as superseding AMA’s interpretation. It was clarified that SCC and AMA will be working closely together on this initiative.

A brief discussion as also held on Accredited Agencies. It is anticipated that this will be more focussed as an auditing role rather than simply checklist monitoring.

**E.9.05.10 Status Updates – AMA – Permit Inspection Services**

Alex Morrison explained his two teams relative to monitoring.

The Partnership Team is responsible for the checklist monitoring program and unless there are reoccurring issues, each Accredited Organization is monitored once every three years.

The Contract Management Team is quite different and monitors the Accredited Agencies under contract with AMA to provide service to unaccredited municipalities. This is quite different from regular government contracts, empowered under Regulation as the agency is delegated by the Minister to provide this service. Each Accredited Agency is monitored quarterly. An example of the Authorized Accredited Agency Quarterly Review Summary was circulated and explained in detail (Handout #1).
Contracts are signed annually and three-month probationary contracts have been made when issues have occurred with agencies in the past. During this probationary period, monitoring is greatly increased.

Examples were provided of challenges inherited by AMA regarding open files when an agency shuts down. Relative to the recent bankruptcy of Permit Pro, the Administrator of Accreditation reported that the trustee will be meeting with the SCC next week to pass along all files which are the property of the applicable municipalities.

A discussion was held regarding variances and orders. As they are acting on behalf of the Minister, the Agency must inform AMA of any order issued.

E.5.02.11 Building Envelope Training (certification requirement)

The Administrator of Certification reported that notification has gone out to all Group A Building SCOs and the training is ready to roll out.

Discussions are also being held regarding equivalencies. It was suggested by the council that equivalencies not be granted but there be an opportunity to challenge the exam.

As part of the agreement with AMA, the SCO training is provided at no charge. It was suggested that this training, including multi-media, be available on the SCC website free of charge, also until the end of the year, as a means of educating industry.

This recommendation will be brought forward to the Manager of Training. [McDonagh]

E.8.02.11 Geothermal

This item was deferred until the Chief Plumbing & Gas Administrator is able to attend the BTC meeting. [Manning]

E.10.02.11 Code Change Proposals Review

All code proposals that were approved for consultation have been formatted and ready to be released. Although it was originally anticipated that consultation would have begun already, this has been delayed due to the leadership election.

Public comments will be brought back to council for review and then final documents will also be reviewed before being recommended to the Minister.

All proposed changes will be available on the AMA website and electronic communication will be sent to all stakeholders with links to the PDF documents with a process to allow for comments.

E.11.02.11 Roof Failure / Snow Loads / Canadian Farm Building Code

This item was deferred to the next meeting. [Laviolette]
E.12.02.11 Waterless Urinals

It was reported that harmonizing with the national code, these will be allowable. It was reported that the Chief Plumbing Administrator is drafting a STANDATA Variance to allow the use of waterless urinals. It was suggested that the Chief Plumbing Administrator be asked to discuss this subject at the next meeting. [Manning]

E. New Business

E.1.04.11 Summary of Letter Ballot 11-11
Alberta Specific Code Changes

Ken McLaren / Bill Barnowich moved to accept the results of Letter Ballot 11-11 (Alberta Specific Code Changes) as information; CARRIED

E.2.04.11 Reappointment of Colin Friesen (Jan 31, 2015)

Robert Zifkin / Barry Laviolette moved to recommend to the Coordinating Committee the reappointment of Colin Friesen to the Building Technical Council for a term until January 31, 2015, effective February 1, 2012; CARRIED

F. Standing Agenda Items

a) Technical Coordinating Committee Report

There was nothing to report.

b) Appeals/Review of Orders/Certification

A summary of appeals and decisions for the last year was provided and reviewed (Handout #2). It was noted that this does not include all orders, just those that have been appealed. The Administrator of Accreditation provided a brief overview of some of the issues leading to the cancellation of an agency accreditation.

c) Alberta Building Code 2006

(i) Professional Involvement Committee

With the delay in the consultation and the new small window of opportunity, the committee is attempting to move this forward now that the new Architects member is on board.

Clarification was requested regarding whether there is any legislation that limits the C Schedule from being used as a Letter of Compliance relative to an alternate solution. Currently some municipalities are requesting a separate Certificate of Compliance for an alternate solution / variance, separate from the C Schedule, prior to occupancy. It was suggested that since more than just professional involvement could be the preparer of an alternate solution, this is likely the reason for it being separate from the C Schedule. Perhaps this could be separate if there is no professional involvement but where there is, it could be embedded into the C Schedule. A recommendation relative to this will be brought forward by the committee. [Dessario]
ii) Upcoming Code Cycle

There was nothing further to report.

d) Conditional Grant Agreements

The Administrator of Accreditation reported on the two grants currently in progress:

1. OBIEC (Objective-based Industrial Electrical Code) – the final report was presented to the Electrical Technical Council. The report is being reviewed for discussion at their next meeting.
2. Risk-based inspections – Final report draft has been provided to the steering committee for editorial adjustments.

e) Correspondence

There was no correspondence to bring forward.

f) Review of Matrix

There was nothing to report.

G. Next Meeting

The next meeting date was reconfirmed as Thursday, November 17, 2011 – Leduc.

Don Dessario / Barry Laviolette moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.
– ACTION ITEMS –

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

The Chair will correspond with MD of Rockyview #44.

[Otto]

E.4.01.10 Table 9.23.4.3 – Steel Beams – update

The Chief Building Administrator was asked to provide BTC with communications from NRC that this is being reviewed.

[Salvian]

Being no further action on behalf of the SCC, this item will be removed from the agenda.

[Paches]

E.6.01.10 Iconic Structures – update

Don Dessario requested that the wording regarding appropriate cribbing and 1 hour fire separation be reworded to remove the contradiction.

[Salvian]

E.7.05.10 Public Safety During Construction  
- On-Site Construction Safety Working Group

Being nothing further action, this item will be removed from the agenda.

[Paches]

E.5.02.11 Building Envelope Training (certification requirement)

This recommendation will be brought forward to the Manager of Training.

[McDonagh]

E.8.02.11 Geothermal

This item was deferred until the Chief Plumbing & Gas Administrator is able to attend the BTC meeting.

[Manning]

E.10.02.11 Code Change Proposals Review

ABC 9.8.7.5. – clarification will be provided in the form of a STANDATA for Ergonomic Design for handrails once the new code is adopted.

[Salvian]

E.11.02.11 Roof Failure / Snow Loads / Canadian Farm Building Code

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

[Laviolette]

E.12.02.11 Waterless Urinals

It was suggested that the Chief Plumbing Administrator be asked to discuss this subject at the next meeting. [Manning]

F. c) iii) Professional Involvement Committee

A recommendation relative to this will be brought forward by the committee.

[Dessario]
– MOTIONS –

B. Adoption of Agenda

Don Dessario / Robert Zifkin moved to adopt the agenda, as circulated; CARRIED

C. (a) Adoption of Minutes

Don Dessario / Robert Zifkin moved to adopt the minutes of the July 7 & 8, 2011 meeting, as amended; CARRIED

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G. Next Meeting

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