MINUTES OF THE
SECOND PLUMBING TECHNICAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 2013

DATE: June 5, 2013

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

LOCATION: Rimrock Resort, Banff

PRESENT: Richard Burk, Chair

Cameron Braun
Mark Cardwell
Wayne Ducharme
Charles Hallett
David Hughes
Chad Rich
Dean Taylor
Joe van Weenen, Vice Chair South
Kenneth Wigmore
Garnet Young

Sidney Manning, Alberta Municipal Affairs
Alf Durnie, Alberta Municipal Affairs
Claude Valliere, Alberta Municipal Affairs
Tyler Wightman, Safety Codes Council
Len Ranch, Safety Codes Council

REGRETS: Greg Francis

GUESTS: John Semeniuk
Dean Morin, Alberta Municipal Affairs

RECORDER: Sandi Orr

2013 MEETINGS: Tuesday, September 10, 2013
(moved to Sept. 24)
Tuesday, November 19, 2013
A. **Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:56 a.m.

B. **Adoption of Agenda**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- E.2.02.13 – Heat Recovery Devices
- E.3.02.13 – Correspondence from Leduc
- E.4.02.13 – Water Reuse - Centre of Excellence
- E.5.02.13 – Errata Package for 2010 Plumbing Code
- E.6.02.13 – Island Vents vs. Peninsulas

Ken Wigmore / Cameron Braun moved to adopt the agenda as amended; CARRIED

C. **Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes were corrected as follows:

- E.4.04.12 – Cameron Braun was added to task group.

Joe van Weenen / Cameron Braun moved to approve the March 5, 2013 meeting minutes, as corrected; CARRIED

D. **Business Arising from the Minutes & Review of Action Items**

**E.1.03.10 At-Grade Effluent Disposal Method – update**

The Chief Private Sewage Administrator reported that At-Grade standards were discussed at the last working group meeting and they will be recommending it to be included in the Private Sewage Standard of Practice (SOP). The recommended standards are being cross referenced with the full SOP to remove duplication.

One of the primary discussions at the working group meeting was relative to the cover of At-Grades and the minimum 12 inches of wood chips required, not just at the time of installation but after settlement.

It was also reported that BC is working on a Standard Practices document and references Alberta guidelines for at-grades. The Chief Private Sewage Administrator has made a few recommendations to the standard to ensure consistency with the TILMA agreement and labour mobility.

As the new Alberta SOP will not likely be adopted for at least 2years, the Chief Private Sewage Administrator would like to issue a province-wide variance to provide the at-grade guidelines. This will also provide the opportunity to monitor the guidelines to make changes prior to the adoption of the SOP. It was questioned whether the council wished to review and endorse the variance prior to its release or to empower the Administrator to do so.

Charles Hallett / Kenneth Wigmore moved to endorse the Administrator to issue the province-variance for At-Grade systems; CARRIED
E.8.04.10  Composting Toilets and Waterless Urinals – Composting Toilets

The Chair reported that the proposal for the building discipline to take over composting toilets was discussed at the last BTC meeting. Several members were uncertain how this should fit under their jurisdiction and a working group has been established.

Diagrams were shown on screen of the different type of systems from several manufacturers to show the complexity of the systems and the crossover of several disciplines and government departments.

An overview was provided of the systems being installed in Alberta and it was reported that although the cost was initially 10 times more than a conventional water closet, prices have come down considerable.

One of the reasons it was suggested that this fall under the building discipline is because it is believed that all of them will require a building permit and some will also require other permits. It was noted that environment policy changes may also affect the installation of these systems, particularly relative to disposing of the waste material.

It is believed that this has to move forward as a joint effort and Richard Burk is the PTC representative on their working group. It was also reported that composting toilets are not even referenced yet in the plumbing code. It was reported that although some discussions have been held nationally regarding the development of standards, there has been no discussion relative to inclusion of composting toilets in the plumbing code.

It was clarified that plumbers are typically installing these systems and some of the PTC members believed that this should remain under their discipline.

E.2.05.11  Cisterns and Certification – update

It was reported that the standard should be published by the end of July 2013 and that there will be a need for the PTC to review this to determine whether to reference this standard for use in Alberta. As there is Health involvement, maintenance will be included in the Standard.

It was reported that it is believed there are products out there that will likely already meet these requirements. It was uncertain how quickly these products could be certified.

E.3.05.11  Water/Sewer/Interceptor – Draft STANDATA

The redrafted STANDATA P-13-01-NPC10 – Drainage systems with municipal requirements and correspondence from the County of Leduc will be circulated with the minutes. (Handout #1)

The County of Leduc does not believe that plumbers are the only workers that can do the job. Private Sewage installers are doing inspections and finding issues. Because this there is a connection to the main it removes this from the Private Sewage discipline. Leduc’s correspondence references the need to consider changes to the SCA and the Permit Regulation to allow this under the Private Sewage discipline.
It was noted that the STANDATA is an interim solution and other options cannot be given until the SCA is changed. It was also recognized that there may be gaps in the PS training that may need to be addressed.

It was reported that consideration could be given to continue to require a Plumbing Permit but a variance issued to allow a PS installer to take out these types of permits. It was also suggested that consideration be given to developing a comprehensive guideline document for the permit issuer to ensure all aspects of the system are addressed. It was also suggested that if complex, the authority having jurisdiction could require the system to be engineered.

The Chief Plumbing Administrator will bring the County of Leduc’s suggestion to AMA for consideration of reviewing the SCA and/or Permit Regulation. [Manning]

The Chief Private Sewage Administrator will provide additional recommendations to be incorporated into the draft Variance.

The redrafted variance will be circulated for consideration at the next meeting. [Manning]

E.2.01.12 Definition of equipment in relation to Plumbing Code and Regulation

It was reported that this is ongoing and there was nothing new to report.

E.3.04.12 Irrigation Systems Utilizing Harvested Rain Water

At the last meeting, suggested definitions were provided and feedback sought from council. All of the feedback received was positive with no recommended changes.

Clarification was provided on permit requirements under both the PSDS SOP and the Alberta Plumbing Regulation.

E.4.05.12 BTC Transfer of Medical Gas – update

It was reported that based on consultation feedback, the Building SCO certification levels will include a standalone Medical Gas Piping Systems certification, and the entry qualification for this standalone certification will be certification as a Plumbing and Gas SCO. Medical gas training will also be included in the courses that a Building SCO needs to complete to obtain either Part 3 or HVAC All certification. This change provides flexibility for accredited organizations by allowing them to decide which SCOs they want to have inspect medical gas systems.

Technical requirements for medical gas systems will remain under the Building Code and it is anticipated that the new certification levels and training structure will take effect upon the in force date of the upcoming Alberta Building Code.

Being no further action, this item will be removed from the agenda. [Paches]
E.5.05.12 Apply to BTC for Hydronics

It was reported that based on consultation feedback, the Building SCO certification levels will include a standalone Hydronics certification, and the entry qualification for this standalone certification will be certification as a Plumbing SCO. Hydronics training will also be included in the courses that a Building SCO needs to complete to obtain the HVAC Residential certification. This change provides flexibility for accredited organizations by allowing them to decide which SCOs they want to have inspect hydronic heating systems.

Technical requirements for hydronic systems will remain under the Building Code and it is anticipated that the new certification levels and training structure will take effect upon the in force date of the upcoming Alberta Building Code.

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

E.4.04.12 Water Reuse Alternative Solutions – Review of STANDATAs

It was reported that the working group has not yet met. Members were asked to keep the five handouts issued at the last meeting so that everyone is working from the same documents.

It was reported that the report provided was from AMA’s intern and the approach provided may not be the direction of the Minister. It was also suggested that consideration could be given to having one single document with multiple layers rather than 3 separate variances.

The Working Group Chair will work on setting up a meeting in July or August. [Braun / Ducharme / Burk / Wightman / Manning]

E.8.01.13 SCC Gift Policy

The SCC Gift Policy and accompanying memo were circulated as information (Handout #1). It was noted that this is specific to an individual’s role as a council member and is not intended to have anything to do with personal or business dealings.

E. New Business

E.1.02.13 Continuing Education for Safety Codes Officers

The presentation was included in the agenda package and highlights of the presentation included:

- What is Continuing Education
- Current Continuing Education amongst SCOs
  - Some disciplines already include continuing education requirements.
  - All SCOs are required to take code update training.
  - Some SCOs take self-initiated training.
- Formal Program
  - Opportunities – public safety, professionalism and consistency.
  - Challenges – costs, administration and accessibility.
- Elements of Continuing Education
  - Different methods of delivery could be available.
  - Could be measured by units/points or hours.
A need to determine how much an SCO would require, what would be considered eligible activities, whether any limitations claimed in any one category, how the program would be administered, and meeting occupational continued education requirements could be considered equivalent (e.g. NEASA, APEGA, ASET, etc.).

Examples were provided of what a continuing education program might look like. It was suggested that a list of examples, per discipline, would eventually be developed with the need to be flexible.

- Timeline and Next Steps were provided.

The floor was opened for questions and the following feedback was provided:

- There was consensus that continuing education is definitely a positive step and something that AMOS has discussed.
- Concern was expressed regarding the costs particularly for those SCOs that might have to pay for courses themselves.
- It was questioned if discussions have been held with agencies and noted that the presentations at this point have been strictly to the sub-councils.
- It was questioned whether the SCC would consider subsidizing continuing education and suggested that a percentage of the levies be allocated toward education.
- It was suggested that consideration be given for different requirements between urban vs. rural.
- It was suggested that ABOA and AMOS be included in the consultation.
- It was questioned whether this would move SCOs closer to professional status and clarified that this project is only being considered within the current framework of the SCA.

Members were asked to provide feedback to the Administrator of Certification by June 30, 2013. [All]

It was reported that a task group from each technical council is being created to assist the Administrator of Certification on this project. David Hughes volunteered as the PTC representative.

E.2.02.13 Heat Recovery Devices

It was reported that some manufacturers are supplying products that are supposed to collect heat loss. The current guideline requirements ¾" but these devices are only ½". Another manufacturer is selling an assembled device as a piece of equipment with shut off valves. However, they’ve taken multiple certified pieces and assembled them together. It was noted that as a result this is no longer considered certified and the entire assembly would have to be certified by an Inspection Body.

It was noted that CSA-B55 only speaks to material and not flow rates. The major municipalities reported on how they are dealing with these devices.

It was suggested that a STANDATA be considered to require all devices to be ¾" and anything else would require an alternate solution. Then as enough alternate solutions are developed, consideration could be given for a province-wide variance and/or proposed code change.
E.3.02.13  Correspondence from Leduc

This item was discussed under Agenda item E.3.05.11.

E.4.02.13  Water Reuse – Centre of Excellence

It was reported that CMHC has provided funds to CSA to develop a standard for water reuse. AMA has also provided some funds. CMHC’s reason for providing these funds is to test the standard and establish a facility to do the testing.

The Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence (EWMCE) is interested in doing testing to the CSA B128.3 Standard. CMHC has provided a grant to the Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association (AOWMA) and the bulk of the funds will go to Centre of Excellence to evaluate how well the Standard works.

A business plan and Memorandum of Understanding are being developed. EWMCE will be testing and certifying to not only CSA-B128.3, but also the BNQ standards and NSF 40.

It was reported that the SCC has been asked whether they would consider contributing to the project, and this would have to be brought forward to the Coordinating Committee along with a project description and the support of the PTC.

E.5.02.13  Errata Package for 2010 Plumbing Code

It was reported that NRC has recently released an errata to the National Plumbing Code. However, several errors have also been found within the errata that need to be corrected. (Handout #2)

It was noted that an errata does not require to be taken to the legislature for approval as these are merely corrections to errors.

The Chief Plumbing Administrator will be asking AMOS to post the errata on their website, with the appropriate corrections to Division B A-75 and sentence 2.4.6.3.(6). [Manning]

E.6.02.13  Island Vents vs. Peninsulas

It was reported that some engineers have proposed the use of air admittance valves. It was noted that there have been no failures reported in the past 5 years, there have been no complaints on the use of them and institutes have no issue.

Consensus was reached that allowances need to be made and that consideration could be given to issue a variance. It was also noted that this could remain at the discretion of the SCO and that discussions could be held with AMOS to ensure consistency. [Burk]

F.  Standing Agenda Items

a)  Technical Coordinating Committee Update

The next meeting is scheduled in November 2013 and there was nothing new to report.
b) Private Sewage Initiatives

The Chief Private Sewage Administrator reported on a new treatment plant on the market (Sludge Hammer) certified to NSF 40. This can only be used in new installations. It was noted that authorized representatives have to be listed by NSF 40.

It was noted that there is a need to start working on guidance on how to fix failing systems.

c) Education & Training Update

It was reported that October 31, 2013 is the deadline for all SCOs to complete code update training.

It was further reported that the Certification Policies for all disciplines are being reviewed and this will be brought forward at the September meeting.

d) Plumbing Code Questions

It was reported that there was nothing new to bring forward from the Advisor Committee meetings.

It was reported that work is progress toward Red Seal certification for Gasfitters A and B.

e) AMOS Update

It was reported that two training programs and code update training was provided at the last AMOS meeting.

f) Private Standard of Practice Review

(f)(1) Private Sewage Standard of Practice Recommendations to the Task Group for Consideration and Review

(f)(2) Variance

VAR-PSOX.12 – Acceptance of Wastewater treatment plants Certified to the CSA B128.3 Standard for use in Private Sewage Systems will be circulated with the minutes. [Paches]

It was reported that the task force has reviewed this and have recommended it for publication.

Kenneth Wigmore / Joe van Weenen moved to endorse the release of VAR-PSOX.12 - Acceptance of Wastewater treatment plants Certified to the CSA B128.3 Standard for use in Private Sewage Systems; CARRIED

G. Next Meeting

The 2013 meeting scheduled was established as follows:
- Tuesday, September 10, 2013
- Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Charles Hallett / Cameron Braun moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
--- ACTION ITEMS ---

E.3.05.11 Water/Sewer/Interceptor – Draft STANDATA

The redrafted STANDATA P-13-01-NPC10 – Drainage systems with municipal requirements and correspondence from the County of Leduc will be circulated with the minutes.

The Chief Plumbing Administrator will bring the County of Leduc's suggestion to AMA for consideration of reviewing the SCA and/or Permit Regulation. [Manning]

The Chief Private Sewage Administrator will provide additional recommendations to be incorporated into the draft Variance.

The redrafted variance will be circulated for consideration at the next meeting. [Manning]

E.4.05.12 BTC Transfer of Medical Gas – update

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

E.5.05.12 Apply to BTC for Hydronics

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

E.4.04.12 Water Reuse Alternative Solutions – Review of STANDATAs

The Working Group Chair will work on setting up a meeting in July or August. [Braun / Ducharme / Burk / Wightman / Manning]

E.1.02.13 Continuing Education for Safety Codes Officers

Members were asked to provide feedback to the Administrator of Certification by June 30, 2013.

E.5.02.13 Errata Package for 2010 Plumbing Code

The Chief Plumbing Administrator will be asking AMOS to post the errata on their website, with the appropriate corrections to Division B A-75 and sentence 2.4.6.3.(6). [Manning]

E.6.02.13 Island Vents vs. Peninsulas

It was also noted that this could remain at the discretion of the SCO and that discussions could be held with AMOS to ensure consistency. [Burk]

F. f) (2) Variance

VAR-PSOX.12 – Acceptance of Wastewater treatment plants Certified to the CSA B128.3 Standard for use in Private Sewage Systems will be circulated with the minutes. [Paches]
--- MOTIONS ---

B. Adoption of Agenda

Ken Wigmore / Cameron Braun moved to adopt the agenda as amended; CARRIED

C. Adoption of Minutes

Joe van Weenen / Cameron Braun moved to approve the March 5, 2013 meeting minutes, as corrected; CARRIED

E.1.03.10 At-Grade Effluent Disposal Method – update

Charles Hallett / Kenneth Wigmore moved to endorse the Administrator to issue the province-variance for At-Grade systems; CARRIED

F. f) (2) Variance

Kenneth Wigmore / Joe van Weenen moved to endorse the release of VAR-P Sox.12 - Acceptance of Wastewater treatment plants Certified to the CSA B128.3 Standard for use in Private Sewage Systems; CARRIED

G. Next Meeting

Charles Hallett / Cameron Braun moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED