



Pat Quinn, Governor  
LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director

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**TO:** Plumbing Code Advisory Council Members  
**FROM:** Frank Shimkus, Plumbing Program Manager  
**DATE:** July 11, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes- June 25, 2012 Open Plumbing Code Advisory Council Meeting

**Attendance and Meeting Location**

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. on June 25, 2012 at the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 8<sup>th</sup> St. & Sangamon Ave., Springfield, Illinois.

The following were in attendance:

IDPH Staff

David Culp, Deputy Director, Office of Health Protection  
Kevin Jacobs, Assistant General Counsel  
Ken McCann, Chief, Division of Environmental Health  
Justin Dewitt, Chief, General Engineering Section  
Frank Shimkus, Manager, Plumbing Program  
Tiago Maia, Intern  
Irma Anaya Villa, Administrative Assistant

Plumbing Code Advisory Council Members

Jim Flemming  
Dennis Doolan  
Doyle James  
Jeremiah Deakin  
David Menzel  
Beverly Potts  
James Majerowicz  
Lincoln Cochran  
Gerald Tiestra

Guests

Larry Swope, Executive Director of Illinois Pipe Trades  
Len Fassett, Central Illinois ASPE  
"Friend of Doyle James"

### **Introductions**

Ken McCann introduced himself and welcomed everyone. Irma Anaya Villa took roll call to establish a quorum. Self introductions were made by everyone in attendance.

### **Comments from the Floor**

- Swope expressed his interest in adding rainwater usage into the Illinois Plumbing Code. He was contacted maybe three years ago by legislators/politicians wanting to make this happen. He represents 30,000 union workers in Illinois and 22 different unions, and would like to work with the Plumbing Advisory Council. Is aware of ICC's interest for a single plumbing code across the U.S., but he would like to see the Illinois Plumbing Code presented to JCAR
- Potts would like to see the green supplement and other amendments to be considered. They took 6 years to compile and she hopes they will be used as base documents to start again, since a lot of "blood, sweat and tears" went into them

### **Agenda**

- Jacobs reminded the Council of the requirement to complete ethics training, open meeting act training /FOIA training. He distributed a copy of the information for the Attorney General's website to complete the trainings online and referred any questions to ethics officer, Rukhaya Alikhan
- Culp asked if the ethics training is the same for employees as for board members. Jacobs responded that the FOIA training is different. Both trainings are mandated. Jacobs briefly explained the content, purpose and importance of the trainings
- Dewitt read House Bill 4496 to the Council and expanded on the significance and stated the goal is to submit the revisions by January 1, 2013
- Culp explained to the Council that the bill must be reviewed by several groups (e.g. Governor's Office, State Board of Health) before it's presented to JCAR
- Majerowicz expressed concern about another committee meeting that he and several other Council members will be attending. He asked if it would constitute another official advisory board meeting under the Open Meetings Act. Jacobs replied that as long as there isn't a quorum/majority, they should be OK. If the group has 12 members, then there must be less than 7 Council members present to be in compliance.
- James: Can the members who cannot be at the meeting contact other members afterwards to discuss the meeting? Jacob's response was that as long as the contact was made directly to a single member, it is acceptable
- McCann cautioned the Council about electronic communications as well. The same rules apply and members should be careful not to open an e-mail conversation between all members by using the "reply all" feature.

- James asked if it is permissible to talk to outside groups about what is discussed in today's meeting. McCann responded, "yes, absolutely" and explained that the Department would actually encourage it
- Majerowicz asked if forming a sub-group from the Council members is allowed. Jacob's answered "yes, as long as it is under quorum"
- Fassett mentioned having spoken to Council member Menzel who allegedly stated he had quit the Council by simply not participating or responding to the Department's communications. Justin explained that the Council currently has new members as well as expired members and we anticipate that the Governor's office will issue letters of official termination.
- Fassett asked if a member who is an architect had to be replaced by another architect, to which Dewitt responded: "yes, it's a statutory requirement".
- Dewitt pointed out that there were several groups/stakeholders (real estate industry, home builders, home buyers) that had not been involved in the existing revisions draft and we would like to include them now before taking them to JCAR, so the Department has accepted an invitation to meet with the MPC (Metropolitan Planning Commission).
- The Council discussed the need to review the green plumbing section and the Code amendments in phases by tackling the less controversial first with the green plumbing addition likely to be first priority for House Bill 4496
- Majerowicz cautioned the Council on using the term "green" loosely and asked not to approve anything that makes a bigger carbon footprint (consider amount of water, sewage, energy/fossil fuels use).
- The green plumbing section is anticipated to be added as a separate section, rather than be incorporated into the existing Code, to serve as guidelines, but is not intended to be mandated
- Dewitt distributed a copy of the Sustainable Plumbing draft to all for review and discuss at a later date
- Culp suggested the Council consider scheduling another meeting to review the "six years of work" on amendments and possibly review those concurrently, but the focus of the next six meetings will be green plumbing
- Shimkus agreed to provide all Council members with a copy of the amendment revisions at a later date to make sure all have the latest version of that work
- Majerowicz: The goal at this point is to codify green plumbing, not make it part of the license law
- McCann: The plan is to participate in the stakeholders meeting with the intention of bringing back all the information, not to get around this group
- Potts asked if the meeting could be held in Springfield and Dewitt agreed to make the suggestion, but it's not his meeting to make that decision
- Majerowicz noticed there were 4 water systems described in the sustainable plumbing document and asked if the Council could form a working group to expand on the document and provide more detail and McCann approved
- Swope and Potts reminded the Council that last time they had tried something like that, they were told they hadn't done it right and the work was not acceptable

- McCann replied that we would need to work on the bylaws and include it as an action item for the next meeting to formalize it
- James recommended the amendments be given priority over the green plumbing considering that the Code has not been updated since 2004 and everyone is asking when a new version will be released
- McCann thought the green plumbing section is less complicated and should be done first, but the Council can review both sections and make a determination later
- McCann proposed the schedule for the remainder of 2012: July 23<sup>rd</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>, September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup>. There were no objections, although the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting may need to take place at a different location due to the State Fair.
- The group discussed the process for calling an emergency meeting should it be necessary. It would have to be called by the Chair with 10 calendar days of notice.

**Motion**

To hold the next meeting on July 23, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m with a one hour lunch break

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote

**Meeting adjourned**