

Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: Jan. 17, 2023
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Minutes by: Lyndy Logan
Location: Minnesota Room, DLI, 443 Lafayette Rd. No., St. Paul, MN 55155

Members

1. Karl Abrahamson
2. Sam Arnold
3. Richard Becker (Chair)
4. Mike Dryke – WebEx
5. Kent Erickson (Secretary) – WebEx
6. Mike Herman (Vice Chair)
7. Jonathan Lemke
8. Justin Parizek
9. Troy Seitz – WebEx (phone)
10. Scott Stewart
11. Rick Wahlen
12. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO's Designee)
David Weum (MDH CO's Designee) - WebEx

Members Absent

None

DLI Staff & Visitors

Brittany Wysokinski (Board. Counsel, DLI)
Lyndy Logan (DLI)
Sean O'Neil (DLI)
Brad Jensen (DLI)
Chuck Olson (DLI)
John Roehl (DLI)
Nick Erickson (Housing First)
Dean Gale (Plumbers Local 34) – WebEx
Adam Hanson (MN ABC)
Rick Jacobs (Plumbers Local 34)
Mike Johnson (J-Berd Mechanical)
Stephanie Menning (MUCA) – WebEx
Tom Pahkala (Plumbers #15)
Jim Peterson
Gary Schick (City of Rochester) – WebEx
Gary Thaden (MMCA)
Scott Thompson (My Plumbing Training)

1. Call to Order, Chair Presiding

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker at 9:33 AM. Roll call was taken by the Secretary and a quorum was declared with 10 of 12 voting members – Seitz and Dryke joined the meeting late via WebEx resulting in 12 of 12 voting members present in person or via WebEx.
- A. Announcements – Introductions (members and attendees) – Chair Becker
 - **New members:**
 - Jonathan Lemke, Comm/Ind Journeyworker Plumber – Metro
 - Karl Abrahamson, Municipal Plumbing Inspector – Metro
 - Everyone present in person and remotely are able to hear all discussions.
 - All votes will be taken by roll call if any member is attending remotely.
 - All handouts discussed and WebEx instructions are posted on the Board's website.
 - WebEx instructions/procedures can be found on the board's website at:
<https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board>

2. **Approval of meeting agenda**

A motion was made by Herman, seconded by Arnold, to approve the agenda as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous with 10 votes in favor; the motion carried.

3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Arnold, seconded by Parizek, to approve the Oct. 18, 2022, regular meeting minutes with the following correction made by Becker to item 10: Next regularly scheduled meeting in ~~2023~~ 2022. The roll call vote was unanimous with 8 votes in favor and two abstentions (Lemke, Herman); the motion carried.

4. **Regular Business**

Expense reports were approved.

5. **Special Business**

- A. Enforcement & Licensing update – Sean O’Neil – summarized plumbing enforcement actions found [here](#).

Mike Dryke joined the meeting via WebEx at 9:43 a.m. resulting in 11 voting members.

- B. Department updates – Mike Westemeier

- C. Request for Interpretation PB0157 and PB0158 – Scott Thompson, My Plumbing Training – provides continuing education classes around the state of Minnesota for licensed plumbers.

Request for Interpretation PB0157 – Scott Thompson, My Plumbing Training

- Rule to be interpreted: 609.10
- **Circumstances of initial dispute:** When are water hammer arrestors required?
Some inspectors are requiring an arrestor to be installed during the water rough-in on a house. Other inspectors are not requiring them unless the building has a water hammer issue.
- **Explain why you disagree with the interpretation given to you by DLI staff:**
I disagree because code clearly states that arrestors are required when there is a problem; it does not say they are required on every installation.
- **What is your interpretation of the language:**
Water hammer arrestors are not required (unless) the building has a water hammer issue. This would require water hammer arrestors to be installed (if required) after building start up but before a plumbing inspection final is issued.
- **List any other information you would like the Board to consider:** Are we required to install water hammer arrestors before we have a water hammer issue? When the manufacturer installation instructions do not require water hammer arrestors, does code require the installation of an arrestor before we have a water hammer issue?
- Thompson said he is getting a lot of questions; therefore, he is bringing these questions to the Board. If building a new building, does a water hammer

arrestor need to be installed in front of the dishwasher if the building's not running and they don't know if there is a water hammer issue at the dishwasher. According to the code, you don't have to install anything until there is a problem and you won't know if there is a problem until final inspection. After further discussion the Chair asked Thompson if this would be his question: If you have a quick acting valve, does that automatically require a hammer arrestor or is that hammer arrestor only required if there is water hammer? Thompson said yes, this would be his question. Wysokinski noted that per statute a final interpretation must be published within 10 days.

Troy Seitz joined the meeting via WebEx at 10:04 resulting in 12 voting members.

- A motion was made by Herman, seconded by Stewart, then amended by Herman to read as follows:
A motion was made by Herman, seconded by Stewart, to authorize the Chair to issue a final interpretation that states that water hammer arrestors are not required unless water hammering has been identified at location. The majority roll call vote ruled with 11 votes in favor and one against (Arnold); the motion carried.

Request for Interpretation PB0158 – Scott Thompson, My Plumbing Training

- Rule to be interpreted: 711.0 suds relief
- **State the circumstances of the initial dispute:** Is a shower considered a suds-producing fixture?
- **Explain why you disagree with the interpretation given to you by DLI staff:** Showers are not listed in 711.1 as a suds-producing fixture.
- **What is your interpretation of the language:** Showers are not a suds-producing fixture according to 711.1
- **List any other information you would like the Board to consider:** The DLI web site under plumbing illustrations shows a shower as a suds-producing fixture. How can DLI have plumbing illustrations on the department's web site that do not conform to MN plumbing code? How can DLI post plumbing illustrations that have not been approved by the Plumbing Board as MN code compliant?
- The Chair asked if there is a disclaimer on plumbing referenced plans that these are for reference only. From an interpretation standpoint, the interpretation reads "Is a shower considered a suds-producing fixture?"
- Westemeier said the detail found on DLI's website is just a reference, the code language is there. We do not list showers as a suds-producing fixture in the language, they show a shower but on the same stack as a kitchen sink. The shower is just a fixture. We could have put any fixture on there. One kitchen sink on the stack does produce it to be a suds-producing stack.
- Thompson said then could the shower be removed or changed to a tub or laundry.

- Westemeier said they wanted to make sure people were aware that one kitchen sink on a stack creates a suds-stack. He could put it as toilets or any fixture and Thompson replied, please do.
- Westemeier said code language does not list showers as a suds-producing fixture; therefore, it is not a suds-producing fixture. A disclaimer could be added that plans/drawings are for reference only, please refer to code. Thompson said adding this would help tremendously.

A motion was made by Herman, seconded by Arnold, to authorize the Chair to provide a final interpretation that states showers are not suds-producing fixtures. The majority roll call vote ruled with 12 votes in favor; the motion carried.

6. Committee Reports

Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC) – Mike Herman (rep) / Richard Becker (alt). The last CCAC meeting was held on Sept. 29, 2022. The presentation can be found at <https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ccac-presentation092922.pdf>

7. Complaints and Correspondence

None

8. Open Forum

Stephanie Menning, Minnesota Utility Contractor’s Association, addressed the board regarding

Pipelayer Certification – update to DLI's Water and sewer pipelayer best practices

- MUCA has been training, certifying, and issuing the majority of Pipelayer Cards in Minnesota for decades. In 2016, MUCA successfully created and deployed on-line Pipelayer Certification training, with review from the Department of Labor, for Pipelayer Certifications. MUCA currently provides a downloadable list of Certified Pipelayers, with their Name, Card Number, and Expiration Date on its website for anyone to view, print or check the status of an individual claiming to have a Pipelayer Certification. MUCA now seeks approval to issue Digital Certification Cards for Pipelayer Certification in the State of Minnesota. The Digital Certification cards can be accessed by any smart phone, laptop, or computer with web access. The process of creating 'traditional certification cards' (printed cards, then laminated) for contractors to physically carry and share with cities, counties, authorities having jurisdiction, inspectors, etc. is out of date, not environmentally friendly, and time-consuming to produce. The language on DLI's Plumbing website refers to 'This certificate, or "pipelayers card" may be carried by an individual in lieu of a plumber license ...' and "Cards are carried in the field when performing pipe-laying work." Note it does not specify the manner in which a Pipelayer Card is "carried."
- DLI Web Page: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/plumbing-license-types-and-credentials>
- Plumbing bond registration (pipe layer): a person who contracts to perform or offer to perform building sewer and water service installation work in all areas of the

state; and does not perform any other plumbing work that requires a plumbing license under Minnesota Statute 326B.46 and must file an original plumbing contractor code compliance bond and SSTS business license surety bond. Person is defined as an individual proprietor, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, limited partnership, or any other legal entity. [Application forms are available here.](#)

- Certified pipelayer: an individual who has completed pipe-laying training recognized by this agency and has a certificate to show record of the training. This certificate, or "pipelayer's card," may be carried by an individual in lieu of a plumber license to work on water service pipes, building drain/sanitary sewer pipes and storm sewer pipes within the property lines of a facility or residence, but not inside of buildings. This does not qualify a person to work on interior plumbing (which requires a plumber license). This credential authorizes the person to work statewide on these exterior plumbing systems. [Water and sewer pipe-layer training best practices](#)
- DLI Web page: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/water-and-sewer-pipe-layer-training-best-practices>
- Water and sewer pipe-layer training best practices
To perform water and sewer pipe-laying work, Minnesota law requires individuals to obtain a plumbing bond or be an employee of a person in compliance with the bond and insurance requirements of Minn. Stat. §326B.46, subd. 2. Individuals performing building sewer or water service installation are not required to hold a plumber's license if they have completed pipe-laying training.
- **Best practices**
The following are best practices for water and sewer pipe-laying training:
 1. Those performing water and sewer pipe-laying training are responsible for providing qualified instructors. Qualifications generally include a mix of directly related formal training and field experience.
 2. The instructors maintain records of those who have completed the training and issue pipe-layer cards with the expiration date to those who pass the course. Cards are carried in the field when performing pipe-laying work and expire every three years.
 3. Instruction for water and sewer pipe-laying includes:
 - all applicable parts of the Minnesota Plumbing Code,
 - trench safety,
 - utility locating,
 - pipe materials,
 - pipe cutting and joining techniques,
 - sanitary and storm sewers,
 - trench dewatering,
 - setting elevations,
 - hydrants,
 - manholes and catch basins,
 - confined space entry,
 - blueprint reading,
 - testing, and
 - erosion/sediment control.

4. Refresher pipe-laying training consisting of at least four hours of training is provided at least once every three years to maintain a pipe-layer card.
5. Successful completion of the course includes passing the course test.

Questions? Contact us at dli.license@state.mn.us.

- Becker and Wysokinski said this appears to fall under the purview of the department's enforcement unit, not the Plumbing Board. Lyndy noted she would provide Sean's contact information to Stephanie following the meeting.

9. Board Discussion

None

10. Announcements

Next regularly scheduled meeting in 2023, 9:30 a.m., in-person at DLI / WebEx

- April 18, 2023

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Wahlen, seconded by Herman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 a.m. The roll call vote was unanimous with 12 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Erickson

Kent Erickson
Secretary

Green meeting practices

The State of Minnesota is committed to minimizing in-person environmental impacts by following green meeting practices. DLI is minimizing the environmental impact of its events by following green meeting practices. DLI encourages you to use electronic copies of handouts or to print them on 100% post-consumer processed chlorine-free paper, double-sided.