

# Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: January 16, 2018  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Minutes by: Lyndy Logan  
Location: Minnesota Room, Department of Labor and Industry  
443 Lafayette Road No., St. Paul, MN 55117-4344

## **Members**

Tom Andresen  
Michael Dryke (via teleconference)  
Grant Edwards (Vice Chair)  
John Flagg  
Mike Herman  
Rick Jacobs (Chair)  
Larry Justin  
John Parizek  
Phillip Sterner (Secretary)  
Cathy Tran (Commissioner's Designee)  
David Wagner  
David Weum (via teleconference)

## **Members Absent**

Jeff Brown

## **DLI Staff & Visitors**

Suzanne Todnem (Gen. Counsel, DLI)  
Jim Peterson (DLI)  
Lyndy Logan (DLI)  
Charles Olson (DLI)  
Brad Jensen (DLI)  
Gary Thaden (MMCA)  
Mike Johnson (J-Berd)  
Tim Power (MNLA)  
Richard Hauffe (ICC)  
David Skallet (City of St. Louis Park)  
Gary Schick (City of Rochester)  
Matt Marciniak (IAPMO)  
Dave Wagner (AWWD)  
Mark Hines (MUCA)  
Timothy Bell (AYPO) – via teleconference

## **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jacobs at 9:33 a.m. Roll call was taken by Secretary Sterner and a quorum was declared with 11 of 12 voting members present in person or via teleconference and one non-voting member. Introductions and housekeeping announcements were made.

## **2. Approval of meeting agenda**

A motion was made by Justin, seconded by Flagg, to approve the agenda with modifications as shown below in italics. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.

### **6. Special Business**

- A. Plumbing Board survey results
- B. *Ad-Hoc Code Review and Rulemaking Committee update*
- C. *Rulemaking update*

### 3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Herman, seconded by Parizek, to approve the October 17, 2017, regular meeting minutes as presented. The roll call vote was 10 votes in favor with 1 abstention; the motion carried.

### 4. **Regular Business**

Approval of expense reports – Jacobs approved the expenses as presented.

### 5. **Committee Reports**

#### A. **Department Updates**

- Tran said that Jessica Looman, DLI's former Deputy Commissioner, has taken a position as the Commissioner at the Department of Commerce. Scott McLellan, CCLD's Director and State Building Official, has taken on additional responsibilities and is now also the Assistant Commissioner overseeing CCLD and Labor Standards. Heather McGannon is also an Assistant Commissioner and Chris Leifeld is the Deputy Commissioner.
- The department is undergoing a renovation on all of its floors.
- The department's website is being redesigned to make it user friendly and documents are being made accessible.

#### B. **Executive Committee**

The Committee met this morning and approved the Plumbing Board agenda with the changes noted above.

#### C. **Construction Codes Advisory Council**

- The Council met on November 30, 2017. Todnem said the CCAC reviewed and approved Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members for reviewing building code chapters to determine if there should be any amendment recommendations for the upcoming code cycle. The TAG kick-off meeting was held on Friday, Jan. 12, 2018.
- Edwards noted that the September CCAC meeting discussed old barns being used for weddings and other gatherings.

### 6. **Special Business**

#### A. **Plumbing Board survey results - see Attachment A**

Jacobs said the survey had 218 participants and ended Jan. 5, 2018. Jacobs summarized the results and said the survey was conducted to determine whether the Inspection Uniformity Committee (Committee) should move forward. [The survey was sent to the following groups: Plumbing Board Interested Parties, PHCC, Mechanical Contractors Association, ABC, AMBO, DLI, League of Cities, Association of Minnesota Counties and Township Associations].

Edwards said consistency is the biggest complaint he hears and Justin said this is also what he hears at the plan review stage. Justin said the Board does not have the authority to direct inspections in non-code enforced areas. Peterson said the industry could propose a plan to the legislature and use the electrical program as a base, how it

would be funded, staffed, etc. Parizek said the Board can only encourage the industry to work on a plan similar to the electrical program. Weum said the Committee needs to be more detailed in what “inspection uniformity” means and what would be proposed to draft for the legislature.

Thaden, Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association, said that part of what the Board is missing are the political dynamics. He thinks there would be a lot of people in Greater Minnesota who would not be in favor of increased inspections and he sees the legislature not being in favor of expanding inspections to Greater Minnesota.

Dave Skallots, City of St. Louis Park, said that [inspecting in] outstate will be very hard to enforce. It is hard to get licensed plumbers to inspect work even in the Metro. Inspectors who are not licensed plumbers miss things because their expertise is not in the plumbing field. Peterson said his recommendation would be to tighten certification requirements for the construction code inspector. The Board can make recommendations to the legislature but that is as far as the Board can go.

Jacobs suggested that the inspection uniformity discussion be tabled until the next meeting. He recommended the Committee meet again, before the next Board meeting, and bring ideas to the Board for moving forward. Edwards said that the survey could be sent out to more people and Jacobs said the Committee can request this. Parizek asked if the Committee could find out what the building official certification requirements are in order to inspect plumbing. Jacobs said the Committee should let the Board know how and where they want to move forward, what kind of training would be considered, and what types of certifications there are currently for building officials. Jacobs said the Board has given direction to the Committee by asking the Committee to bring something to the Board to review.

The Board took a 15 minute break and resumed at 11:04 a.m.

**B. Ad-Hoc Rule and Rulemaking Committee update**

Parizek said the Ad-Hoc Rule and Rulemaking Committee met on Nov. 21, 2017, and proposed amendments to Chapter 4716 were sent to the Revisor for the Board’s consideration. Todnem noted these are proposed amendments and the Board would need to review, approve, and continue through the rulemaking process before officially complete.

**C. Rulemaking update**

Todnem said the Committee discussed making a recommendation to the Board to withdraw Chapter 4714 rulemaking and begin with a new rulemaking with a new Revisor number and a new Request for Comments.

**A motion was made by Parizek, seconded by Justin, to withdraw current rulemaking of Chapter 4714. The roll call vote was 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**

**7. Complaints**

Nothing to report

**8. Open Forum**

Nothing brought forward

**9. Correspondence**

None

**10. Board Discussion**

Sterner said he would find a date for the Inspection Uniformity Committee to meet.

**11. Announcements**

Next regularly scheduled meetings in 2018 – all meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Minnesota Room. The Executive Committee meetings occur at 8:30 a.m. prior to each regular meeting in the Minnesota Room.

- A) April 17, 2018
- B) July 17, 2018
- C) October 16, 2018

**12. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Edwards, seconded by Sterner, to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m. The vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

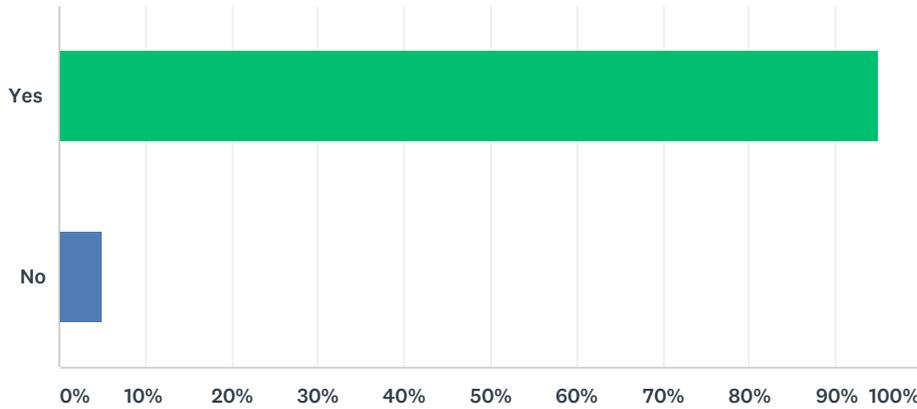
Respectfully submitted,

*Phil Sterner*

Phil Sterner, Board Secretary

# Q1 Should residential plumbing be inspected in non-code-enforced areas of Minnesota?

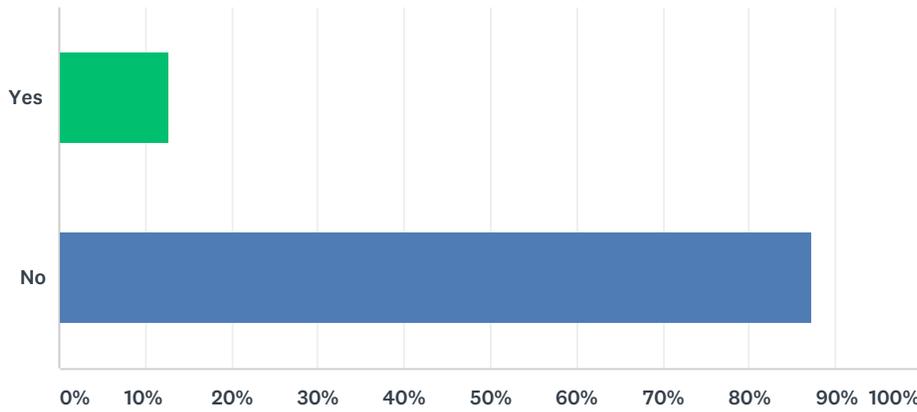
Answered: 218 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.95%	207
No	5.05%	11
TOTAL		218

## Q2 Are the current certification and competency requirements for individuals who inspect plumbing, including building officials and construction code inspectors, sufficient?

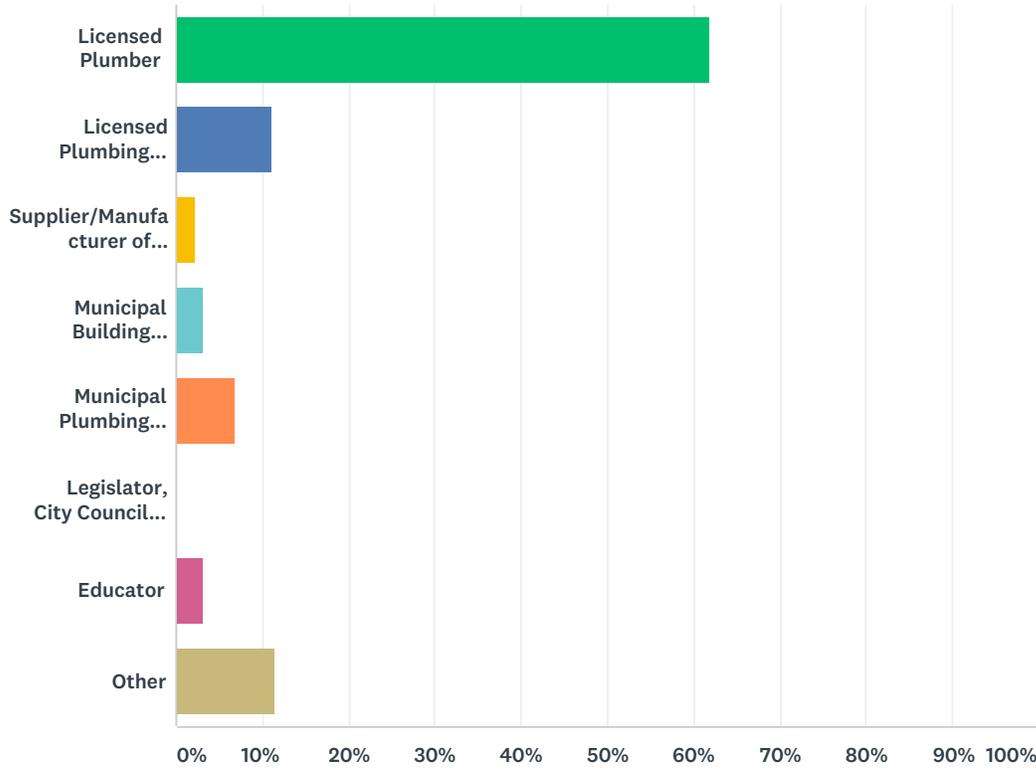
Answered: 218 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	12.84%	28
No	87.16%	190
TOTAL		218

### Q3 What segment of the plumbing industry do you represent?

Answered: 218 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Licensed Plumber	61.93%	135
Licensed Plumbing Contractor	11.01%	24
Supplier/Manufacturer of plumbing products	2.29%	5
Municipal Building Official	3.21%	7
Municipal Plumbing Inspector	6.88%	15
Legislator, City Council or County Board member	0.00%	0
Educator	3.21%	7
Other	11.47%	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>218</b>

## Q4 Please enter your contact information.

Answered: 218 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	100.00%	218
Company	100.00%	218
Address	0.00%	0
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	100.00%	218
Phone Number	100.00%	218