

**Plumbing Board
Green Committee Minutes
April 4, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.
Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road No., Saint Paul, MN 55155-4344
DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US**

Committee Members Present:

John A. Parizek
Rebecca Ames
Steve Christenson
Michael McGowan
Randy Ellingboe

Staff Present:

Cathy Tran
Annette Trnka
Jim Peterson
Andrea Livingston

Board Members Present:

None

Committee Members Absent:

Lawrence G. Justin

Visitors:

Chris Soderholm
Cindy Ojczyk
Clint Elston
Bobbi Elston
Gladys Sanders
Harold Bruner
Lori Reese
Jim Keller
John Tomas
Doug Determan
Adam Tills
Tom Hamel
Laura Millberg
Joan Gilbertson
Tony Nelson

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by John Parizek at 1:38 p.m.

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The Chair asked if there were any objections or changes to the Agenda. Hearing none, the Agenda was accepted.

III. Regular Business

A. Schedule future meeting dates. Topic deferred until after the Committee's role will be.

IV. Special Business

A. Appointment of Committee Chair. John Parizek, Chair
B. Appointment of Recording Secretary, DLI Staff Board Secretary.

- C. Committee Objectives – Randy Ellingboe went over the contents of the distributed meeting materials, including front pages of websites pertaining to pertinent Green sites.
- D. Committee Organization
 - i. Operating Procedures – Chair stated that this Committee’s function would be to take some of the burden off the Product and Code Review Committee (PCRC,) as they have a great deal of issues they are currently dealing with. In Chair’s view, the two main concerns of the Green Committee would be the low consumption fixtures and the gray water systems, to preview for the Board. He went on to state that the Committee will also have to review the State Plumbing Code to see how some of these systems fit in.
 - ii. Department Input – Ellingboe stated that the Department of Labor and Industry is seeing fixtures which, for example, may use less water than fixtures to date have used, and the DLI’s first evaluation is whether these new fixtures fit under the existing Plumbing Code and whether they comply. If they do fit under the existing Plumbing Code, no Code change is required to accept those fixtures, which is the case with some of the water conserving fixtures, however they do have to be reviewed when they are first brought to the Department’s attention.

He stated that the Department is also seeing a large interest in the re-use of storm water. There’s a large effort in Minnesota to either see that storm water is infiltrated into the soil, rather than being discharged to surface waters, but because there also may be retention or storage systems, there’s also a large interest in the re-use of storm water either for irrigation or for use of flushing plumbing fixtures. Ellingboe then informed the Committee that there is currently a Request For Action (RFA) on the use of gray water systems.

Ellingboe went on to state that the Department sees both new technology where no new code change is required and also other technologies that people are interested in having available in the State of Minnesota where significant code change would be necessary in order for them to be accepted, which the Committee would need to consider before presentation to the Board. In some cases there are existing standards by national standards organizations that the Committee can use as a reference as the proposals are reviewed for adopting new technology. In other cases there are not standards, and the Board needs to decide how to approach the review of those technologies.

Chair stated that he felt it would be the duty of the Committee to preview the products for the Board and determine how they would currently fit into the plumbing code, if at all. Chair feels that the water conservation areas, the green buildings and the LEED systems would be appropriate material for the Committee to consider first before presenting to the Board.

Ellingboe stated he felt that the RFA form currently available on the Board’s web site could be used as it is and then the Board could determine which

topics will be reviewed by the Green Committee and which topics will be reviewed by the PCRC.

- E. Miscellaneous – Ellingboe stated that the Department is working on getting a spreadsheet completed that will be posted to the Plumbing Board’s website for individuals to be able to look at to track their Request For Action.

There was a recess taken at 2:16 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:29 p.m.

V. Open Forum

Chair Parizek stated that no products were being reviewed by the Committee at this time. For review of new requests, a Request For Action (RFA) form should be completed and submitted. The RFA is found on the Plumbing Board web site.

- A. Adam Tills, Simply Green Design, also the Residential Green Building Advocate for the State of Minnesota. Mr. Tills spoke about working on a project where they would like to install the BRAC system, which is a gray water recovery system.
- B. Tom Hamel, Hamel & Associates – Mr. Hamel wanted to get information on the waterfree urinal statute status and potential change of statute. Ellingboe answered that as for the information he had, there had been no change to date. Mr. Tills inquired about filling out a Request for action form. Ellingboe explained the prohibition in Statute against waterless urinals. Even if a RFA was submitted, the Plumbing Board cannot go against the State Statute. It was stated later in the meeting that the Legislator who had taken an interest in this subject that Mr. Tills could go to is Tim Mahoney.
- C. Harold Bruner – Michel Sales Agency. Mr. Bruner asked if there could be a Plumbing Board Hearing to discuss these prohibited devices, and have the Board or the Department of Labor and Industry forward it to the right Legislative people. Mr. Bruner also wanted to know if there were documents that discuss why certain devices are prohibited. Parizek responded that as of right now there are no hearings or presentations scheduled by the Board regarding prohibited devices, however if there is any movement or changes with the Statutes that prohibit those devices, the Board would be able to hear the presentations at that time. Mr. Bruner asked about Petitions to be heard by the Board regarding these devices. Parizek responded that right now the Plumbing Board’s hands are tied because of the prohibition in Statute and that the Plumbing Board can’t overrule statute. Ellingboe added that it was a legislative action that took place to create those Statutes and it would take a legislative action to change them.
- D. Jim Keller – USGBC. Mr. Keller state that he is a consulting engineer and not lobbying on any particular product, however, he did want the Board to be aware

of products for energy conservation. Mr. Keller wanted to offer to give a presentation to the Board on LEED buildings. Mr. Keller stated that in “green buildings,” more plumbing is being done than any other industry.

- E. Clint Elston – Equaris Corp. Mr. Elston spoke about low flush toilets and waterless toilets and a water recycling system. Mr. Elston stated that their product could use gray water (water recycling) over a million times, by use of cisterns using rain water catchment.
- F. Cindy Ojczyk -Simply Green Design. Minnesota Green Star Program launched at the beginning of March with a training session on a water conservation program.
- G. Lori Reese – Wonderwoman Construction – Gray water system advocate. States that it is not just plumbers and contractors interested in it, but all green building areas. Ms. Reese stated that it isn’t just the environment that will benefit, but homeowner’s bills would be lowered, it would increase employment, etc.

VI. Discussion

Parizek stated that there are some Request For Action requests pending on reclaimed and gray water systems and wanted to let the Committee members know what the Committee will be looking at in the near future.

Ellingboe then reviewed some of the items that have come to the Department of Labor and Industry that deal with green building issues that he feels the Committee may wish to consider and review, including water conservation; storm water reuse; LEED systems for facilities; energy conservation regarding hot water heating and energy reclamation from waste water; resource re-use reduction and recycling; alternate materials, methods, fixtures and appurtenances; solar energy for hot water heating; engineered systems; national model code approaches to a variety of topics (for example, there is language in some of the national model codes for plumbing on gray water systems); and EPA’s water sense program.

Parizek suggested the Committee start with a monthly meeting and see where the Committee can go from there.

VII. Announcements

- A) Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:
 - i. Wednesday, April 23, 2008, 1:30 p.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by McGowan, seconded by Christenson to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Parizek

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