

# Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: July 16, 2024  
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 (Secretary)
  2. Sam Arnold
  3. Richard Becker (Chair)
  4. Kent Erickson (Vice Chair) – WebEx
  5. Adam Johnson – WebEx
  6. Jonathan Lemke
  7. Justin Parizek – WebEx
  8. Bryce Pylkas
  9. Rick Wahlen – WebEx
  10. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO’s Designee)
  11. Shane Willis – WebEx
  12. Philip Wood
- David Weum (MDH CO’s Designee) (non-voting)

## Members Absent

Scott Stewart

## DLI Staff & Visitors

Adam Case (Board. Counsel, DLI)  
Allison Eastman (DLI)  
Thomas Eisert (DLI)

## DLI Staff & Visitors continued...

Brad Jensen  
Lyndy Logan (DLI)  
Hannah Mardaus (DLI) – WebEx  
Steve Nuebel (DLI)  
Mike Brandt (Local 15) – WebEx  
Mike Dryke (Jamar Co.)  
Nick Erickson (Housing First) – WebEx  
Steve Fernlund (City of St. Paul)  
John Galt (MDH) – WebEx  
Richard Hauffe (ICC) – WebEx  
Rick Jacobs (Local 34)  
Mike Johnson (J-Berd Mechanical)  
Dave Lillback (Local 15) – WebEx  
Jon McDonald (JP McDonald) – WebEx  
Stephanie Menning (MUCA) – WebEx  
Pete Moreau (Adspipe) – WebEx  
David Nickelson (Uponor) – WebEx  
Bradley Peters (Rochester Comm Dev) – WebEx  
David Radziej (MN PHCC)  
Gary Thaden (MMCA)  
Scott Thompson (My Plumbing Training)

## **1. Call to Order, Chair**

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker at 9:34 AM. Roll call was taken by the Secretary and a quorum was declared with 12 of 13 voting members present in person or via WebEx. Parizek’s audio through the WebEx was not working until item 5D.
- B. Announcements – Introductions (members and attendees) – Chair Becker
  - 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 Abrahamson, seconded by Lemke, to approve the agenda with the following revision to 5C as follows: RFI PB0172 (instead of RFI PB0171). The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.

## 3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion was made by Arnold, seconded by Pylkas, to approve the Apr. 16, 2024, meeting minutes. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.

## 4. Regular Business

Expense reports were approved.

## 5. Special Business

A. Enforcement & Licensing update – see **Attachment A**

- Plumbing enforcement actions are updated monthly and can be found here: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/plumbing-enforcement-actions>.

B. Department update – Mike Westemeier

C. RFI PB0172 – Scott Thompson (Section 909.0 Special Venting for Island Fixtures) – see **Attachment B**.

- Mr. Thompson said he is a plumber and lead instructor for My Plumbing Training, providing continuing education throughout Minnesota, North and South Dakota. Section 909.1, island venting, is always a challenge in Minnesota. Some inspectors allow the handwritten drawing submitted in RFI PB0172 saying it meets code compliance. However, other inspectors say it doesn't meet code requirements and they won't allow it. He would like the Plumbing Board to review the drawing. Does the drawing meet code requirements and is it okay to do island venting as shown in the drawing?
- The Board and Mr. Thompson discussed how to best state the question.
- Abrahamson suggested this could fall under alternative means and methods to meet code requirements.
- Chair Becker said so the question could be, does the submitted sketch meet the code, the letter of the code? He does not think the drawing meets the letter of the code. Does it meet the intent of the code? He would say most likely, but it would come back to what the Plumbing Board is ultimately tasked with by statute – the Board's role is to interpret the code as it's written.
- Abrahamson made a motion, but it was withdrawn.
- After further discussion, the Board and Thompson agreed on how to state the question as follows:
  - **Question:** Does the drawing submitted with PB0172, in which the island vent does not connect to the horizontal drain immediately downstream, comply with section 909 of the Minnesota Plumbing Code?
  - **Answer:** No, the return vent is required to connect to the horizontal drain immediately downstream of the fixture drain per section 909.1 of the Minnesota Plumbing Code.

- **Analysis:** Installations omitting the connection to the horizontal drain immediately downstream could be submitted under section 301.3 of the Minnesota Plumbing Code, Alternative Means and Methods, for approval by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.
- **A motion was made by Arnold, seconded by Pylkas, to answer the above question with no, the return vent is required to connect to the horizontal drain immediately downstream of the fixture drain per 909.1. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**

D. Officer nominations and elections

Election of Officers (Meeting turned over to Mike Westemeier, Commissioner’s Designee)

- **Chair**

Erickson nominated Becker. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 in favor and one abstention (Becker); the nomination passed. Becker was re-elected as Chair. (The Board was able to hear Parizek through WebEx at this point through the remainder of the meeting).

- **Vice-Chair**

Becker nominated Erickson for Vice-Chair. The roll call vote was unanimous with 12 in favor; the nomination passed – Erickson was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

- **Secretary**

Becker nominated Abrahamson for Secretary. The vote was 12 in favor; the nomination passed – Abrahamson was re-elected as Secretary.

**6. Committee Reports**

A. 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee update – Committee Chair Becker

- The Committee continues to meet monthly and unless otherwise noted RFAs will be reviewed with the chapter/section they pertain to. The 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee’s recommendation will be brought to the board.

B. Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC) – Abrahamson (rep) / Lemke (alt)

- Abrahamson gave a brief recap from the last CCAC meeting held on [Feb. 9, 2024](#).

**7. Complaints and Correspondence**

None

**8. Open Forum**

None

**9. Board Discussion**

None

**10. Announcements**

Regularly scheduled meetings occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each quarter at 9:30 a.m., in-person at DLI with WebEx/Phone options. The next regular meeting will be held Oct. 15, 2024.

**11. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Lemke, seconded by Parizek, to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m. The roll call vote was unanimous with 12 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karl Abrahamson*

Karl Abrahamson  
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.

## CCLD Licensing and Enforcement statistics – Plumbing

### License & Registration Counts

Plumbing contractors/registered employers	1,800
Master plumbers	3,633
Journeyworker plumbers	3,172
Registered unlicensed	1,685
Backflow prevention rebuilders	877
Backflow testers	690
Pipelaying contractors	268

### Enforcement

Active enforcement investigations YTD	101
Closed enforcement investigations YTD	62

### Unlicensed Lakeville contractor fined \$48,000

- A Lakeville contractor was found to have engaged in residential remodeling and roofing activities without a license. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$48,000.
- A Grand Forks, North Dakota, contractor was found to have performed unlicensed plumbing work. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activity and fined \$3,500, of which \$3,000 was stayed contingent on full future compliance.
- A St. Peter contractor was found to have performed plumbing, electric, remodeling and mechanical work without having the required contractor licenses and bonding. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$10,000.
- A Merriam, Kansas, contractor was found to have engaged in residential remodeling activities without the required license. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$6,000, of which \$3,000 was stayed contingent on full future compliance.
- A licensed residential building and electrical contractor operating out of St. Paul and Stillwater was found to have breached contracts with multiple homeowners. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from acting as a residential building contractor, from performing electrical work in Minnesota, and both licenses were revoked.



#### More information

View summaries of enforcement actions at [dli.mn.gov/workers/homeowners/file-complaint-and-view-enforcement-actions](https://dli.mn.gov/workers/homeowners/file-complaint-and-view-enforcement-actions). Contact us at 651-284-5069 or [dli.contractor@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.contractor@state.mn.us).

Plumbing Board  
 c/o Department of Labor and Industry  
 443 Lafayette Road North  
 St. Paul, MN 55155-4344  
 www.dli.mn.gov

## Plumbing Board Request for Interpretation

PRINT IN INK or TYPE

NAME OF SUBMITTER	Rule(s) to be interpreted (e.g., 4714.0330)
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The Minnesota Plumbing Code (MN Rules, Chapter 4714) is available at [www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlumbingCode.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlumbingCode.asp)

Has a request for interpretation been submitted to Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) staff, either as a verbal request or a written request?  Yes  No

If "No," contact DLI staff at 651-284-5898. The DLI is responsible for administration and interpretation of the Minnesota Plumbing Code, and all requests must be processed and provided a DLI interpretation before being referred to the Plumbing Board. This form is intended to be used to request an interpretation from the Plumbing Board only as a resolution of dispute with DLI interpretation.

Code/Rule to be interpreted:	Name of DLI employee gave interpretation:	Date interpretation originally requested:
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Provide a copy of the DLI interpretation with this request (a copy must be provided as reference).

Is there a local dispute with an Inspector or other official?

If Yes, state the name or type of official

Yes  No

State the circumstances of the initial dispute:

Explain what you disagree with the interpretation given to you by DLI staff:

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What is your interpretation of the language:

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List any other information you would like the Board to consider:

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**Information regarding submitting this form:**

- Submit any supporting documentation to be considered electronically to [DLI.CCLDBOARDS@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.CCLDBOARDS@state.mn.us). Once your Request For Interpretation form has been received, it will be assigned a file number. Please reference this file number on any correspondence and supplemental submissions.

**Information for presentation to the Committee:**

- You will be notified with the date of the Committee Meeting in which your Request For Interpretation will be heard.
- Limit presentations to 5 minutes or less.
- Be prepared to answer questions regarding the Code, the circumstances that led to the dispute and please bring copies of any documentation.

**What you can do if you disagree with the Board's determination:**

- You may appeal the Board's determination pursuant to Minn. Stat. Chapter 14.

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**Submitted by:**

NAME		FIRM NAME	
ADDRESS		CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
PHONE	SIGNATURE (original or electronic)		DATE

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## Office Use Only

RFI File No.	Date Received by DLI	Dated Received by Board	Date of Board Meeting
Title of RFI	By:		

This material can be made available in different forms, such as large print, Braille or on a tape. To request, call 1-800-342-5354 (DIAL-DLI).

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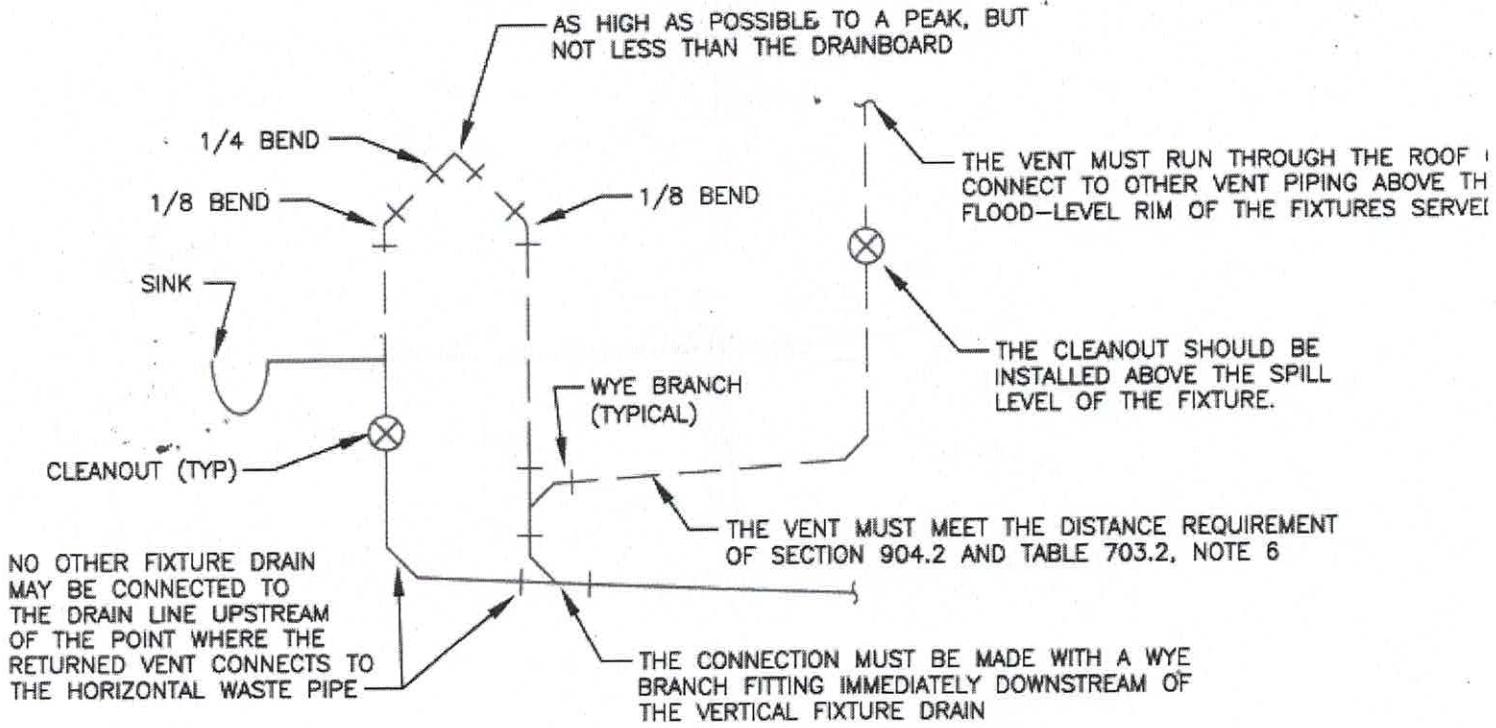
For assistance or questions on completing this form, please call 651-284-5898 or 651-284-5889.

Mailing address:

**Plumbing Board  
c/o Department of Labor and Industry  
443 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4344**

**\*\*\* Please remember to attach all necessary explanations and supporting documentation\*\*\***





- DRAINAGE FITTINGS MUST BE USED FOR ALL PORTIONS OF THE VENT LOCATED BELOW THE FLOOR
- HORIZONTAL DRAIN AND VENT PIPING MUST BE SLOPED AT A MINIMUM 1/4-INCH PER FOOT

