

Meeting Minutes: 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee of the Plumbing Board

Date: June 4, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Minutes by: Lyndy Logan
Location: DLI, 443 Lafayette Rd. No., St. Paul, MN 55155

Committee Members

1. Karl Abrahamson (Committee Secretary)
2. Richard Becker (Chair)
3. Justin Parizek
4. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO's Designee)

Committee Members Absent

None

DLI Staff & Visitors

Adam Case (Board Counsel, DLI)
Ken McGurran (Board Counsel, DLI)
Lyndy Logan (DLI)
Brad Jensen (DLI)
Tom Eisert (DLI) – Webex
Steve Neubel (DLI)
Anita Anderson (Dept. of Health) – Webex
Lew Anderson (City of Mpls.) – Webex

DLI Staff & Visitors continued...

Jason Bethke (City of Blaine) – Webex
Nick Erickson (Housing First)
John Galt (MDH) – Webex
Jim Hauth (City of Vadnais Hts) – Webex
Luke Hoffman (MDH) – Webex
Douglas Johnson (Keenworks) – Webex
Don M – Webex
Stephanie Menning (MUCA) – Webex
Tom Pakkala (Local 15)
Bradley Peters (City of Rochester) – Webex
David Radziej (MNP HCC)
Brian Soderholm (Water Control Inc.) – Webex
Sam Steffl (Water Well Drilling) – Webex
Scott Thompson (My Plumbing Training) – Webex
Rick Wahlen (BOP Member – Eden Prairie) – Webex
David Weum (BOP member – MDH) – Webex

1. Call to Order

- A. Committee Secretary Karl Abrahamson (“Abrahamson”) called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and took roll call. A quorum was declared with 4 of 4 Committee members present in person.
- B. Announcements/Introductions
 - Everyone present in person and remotely can hear all discussions.
 - All votes will be taken by roll call if any member is attending remotely.
 - All handouts and WebEx instructions are posted on the Committee’s website.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

A motion was made by Mike Westemeier (“Westemeier”), seconded by Justin Parizek (“Parizek”), to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous with 4 votes in favor; the motion carried.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion was made by Westemeier, seconded by Parizek, to approve the April 29, 2025, minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous with 4 votes in favor; the motion carried.

4. Regular Business

No expense reports.

5. Special Business

The Committee deliberated on whether to recommend adopting Chapter 15, along with Appendices K and S. They also reviewed previously tabled items from Chapter 16 and RFA numbers [PB0190](#), [PB0197](#), [PB0198](#), [PB0199](#), [PB0200](#), and Appendix I. Additionally, the Committee addressed tabled matters from Chapter 17 and revisited sections 407.5, 504.3, 504.3.1, as well as RFA number PB0187. Looking ahead, they scheduled new RFAs for discussion at the upcoming meeting on July 2, 2025.

- [RFA PB0204](#) – Jim Hauth and Rick Wahlen, Chapter 15 | Rec'd 6/2/2025
 - **Jim Hauth** ("Hauth") introduced himself and stated that he works for the City of Vadnais Heights. He explained that he was speaking on behalf of the Minnesota American Water Works Association, emphasizing the increasing pressure on cities and public water supply systems to find alternative methods for water conservation. He noted that in Vadnais Heights, the ongoing White Bear Lake lawsuit has necessitated efforts to reduce groundwater usage. However, he highlighted that White Bear Lake is not unique in experiencing the effects of groundwater consumption on surface water levels. He explained that this interconnected relationship, known in the industry as a "one water solution," recognizes that groundwater and surface water are linked. He stated that multiple areas across the state are already witnessing the impacts of groundwater depletion on surface water bodies.
 - **Hauth** discussed strategies used by other states for more than a decade, specifically those outlined in Chapter 15, which supports the reuse of water for both potable and non-potable applications. He expressed concern that the exclusion of Chapter 15 removes a valuable tool in efforts to conserve groundwater. He stated that including Chapter 15 in Minnesota's framework would facilitate discussions on safe water reuse and allow the Minnesota Department of Health ("MDH") to develop treatment guidelines and standards. He further noted that other states have already incorporated modifications to Chapter 15, providing potential models for Minnesota. He concluded his remarks by requesting, alongside Rick Wahlen ("Wahlen"), that Chapter 15 be considered in the upcoming revision.
 - **Chair Richard Becker** ("Becker") stated that he agreed, emphasizing the importance of providing guidance on alternate water sources. He noted that while these sources could play a role in responsible water stewardship, it was essential to ensure they were properly vetted by the appropriate parties, including the MDH. He stressed the need for a thorough review to confirm that any proposed solutions were appropriate and effective in achieving the goal of improved water conservation. Additionally, he underscored the importance of balancing these efforts with the primary objective of protecting public health.
 - **Anita Anderson** ("Anderson"), representing MDH, stated that comments had been submitted to the Committee – see **Attachment A**. She inquired whether those comments had been shared with the group, and upon confirmation, she acknowledged their receipt. She explained that an interagency work group had been working on this issue for several years, and although progress had been made, it was not moving as quickly as desired. She noted that one of the main challenges in fully adopting Chapter 15 was the lack of clear authority for either the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ("MPCA") or the MDH to establish water quality standards for non-potable water. She stated that the MDH typically handles drinking water, while the MPCA oversees environmental discharges. Anderson mentioned that they were in the process of determining appropriate regulatory authority and acknowledged that statutory changes might ultimately be needed to formally establish water quality standards. She referenced their submitted comments, highlighting that one of the primary concerns with Chapter 15, as outlined in the 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code ("UPC"), was that its gray water recommendations appeared to conflict with current Minnesota septic system regulations. She noted that if anyone from the MPCA was present, they might be able to elaborate further on those conflicts.

- **Anderson** stated that the MDH supported the reclaimed water provisions, which pertain to municipal wastewater treated to a safe level for non-potable uses. She explained that the MPCA already had guidance in place for such uses, and while cross-connection control and other plumbing-related matters would fall under the plumbing code, the permitting process would remain under the MPCA's jurisdiction. Regarding onsite treated non-potable systems, Anderson noted that a few such systems currently exist under variances. However, based on feedback from those who have implemented them, she believed additional support was needed, including training, certified operators, and responsible parties for oversight. She explained that building owners sometimes take on these systems, but long-term operation and maintenance require dedicated commitment. She stressed the importance of ensuring proper operation after installation and establishing ongoing support mechanisms such as inspections, similar to those conducted for water and wastewater systems, as well as training programs. Anderson concluded by stating that while the MDH hoped to advance this initiative in the future, they did not yet feel fully prepared to move forward.
- Webex Chat message: **Brian Soderholm** ("Soderholm"), Water Control Corporation (Ramsey, MN). They have built and commissioned hundreds of rainwater and gray water recycling systems over the last 20 years (for commercial and industrial facilities). They would happily participate in any committee meetings and would be willing to at least provide advice on how these commercial systems should be constructed and maintained. Many of their systems are installed and operating in California and the Pacific NW.
- **Abrahamson** stated that after reviewing the materials and considering the discussions, he believed the matter would be best handled by a special committee to be established by the Plumbing Board. He emphasized that a thorough review was essential, stating that spending only two hours that morning examining the issue was insufficient to fully address its complexity. He expressed concern that rushing the process could pose significant risks. Abramson recommended bringing the discussion back to the full board at the July meeting and forming a special working committee. He suggested that representatives from the MPCA, the MDH, and other interested parties participate to collaboratively assess the next steps for Chapter 15.
- After further deliberation, **Becker** stated that he recommended not adopting Chapter 15 at this time. Instead, he suggested that the Plumbing Board establish a new Committee to further examine the issue, develop recommendations, and explore the possibility of mid-cycle rulemaking. He emphasized that this approach would allow for adequate time to address the matter while avoiding a six-year delay.
- **Abrahamson** responded, stating that he had no objections and supported moving forward with Becker's recommendation.
- **Chapter 15, Alternate Water Sources for Nonpotable Applications – The Committee recommended against adopting Chapter 15 at this time. Instead, they proposed recommending to the full Plumbing Board the formation of a special committee to conduct a comprehensive review, ensuring participation from key stakeholders. In addition, the tabled definitions below will be reviewed by the special committee.**
 - Diverter Valve, Gray Water
 - Ground Water
 - Mulch
 - Mulch Basin
- **Appendices K & S – The Committee recommended tabling a recommendation regarding these appendices until the MDH interagency work group completes its work and reports its findings. Further review will be conducted by the committee that the 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee will recommend the Board to create to evaluate Chapter 15.**
 - Appendix K, Potable Rainwater Catchment Systems
 - Appendix S, Onsite Storm Water Treatment Systems

- **Westemeier** explained that Appendix S pertains to onsite stormwater treatment and Appendix K addresses potable rainwater catchment systems. He noted that both appendices align closely with Chapter 15 discussions and should not be considered separately from the supporting chapter.
- **Becker** said that rainwater is more directly tied to Chapter 16.
- **Westemeier** acknowledged Anderson's earlier comments regarding an interagency group currently working on solutions for stormwater use beyond rooftop collection. He described the group's efforts as productive but emphasized the challenge of aligning agency requirements with user needs. He recommended waiting for the interagency group to complete its work, as their findings could inform stormwater treatment systems more effectively than Chapter 15 alone. The interagency group includes the MDH, the MPCA, the Department of Natural Resources ("DNR"), and the Department of Labor and Industry ("DLI"), along with various landscape professionals, users, and building officials. Westemeier noted that participation had expanded as stormwater systems become more common in certain municipalities, making the group broad and inclusive.

Previously tabled items from Chapter 16, Nonpotable Rainwater Catchment Systems, were addressed as follows:

- 1603.3.1 Other Surfaces – Leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 1603.4 Minimum Water Quality – Leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code (as 1602.9.6)
- Table 1603.4 Minimum Water Quality – Leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code (with renumbering to 1603.12)
- 1603.15 Water Quality Devices and Equipment – Leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
- 1603.18 Required Filters – Delete in its entirety

Previously tabled RFAs:

- [RFA PB0197](#) – Brad Jensen, Chapter 6, Section 604.1.1 Building Supply | Rec'd 4/16/2025
 - **The Committee will recommend adopting RFA PB0197 as presented.**
- [RFA PB0198](#) – Brad Jensen, Chapter 6, Section 609.11.1 Pressure Tanks | Rec'd 4/16/2025
 - **The Committee will recommend not adopting RFA PB0198.**
- [RFA PB0199](#) – Karl Abrahamson, Chapter 16, Section 1601.1.1 Irrigation, 1601.1.2 Combination Systems (2020), 1602.1 General, and 1602.2 Plumbing Plan Submission | Rec'd 4/24/2025
 - 1601.1.2 Combination Systems (2020) – Leave as amended in the 2020 MN Plumbing Code
 - **The Committee will recommend adopting RFA PB0199 with the following change noted below (amended at the June 4th meeting, Abrahamson agreed):**
 - 218 Plumbing System. Includes all potable water **and alternate water sources**, building supply, and distribution pipes; all plumbing fixtures and traps; all drainage and vent pipes; and all building drains and building sewers, including their respective joints and connections, devices, receptors, and appurtenances within the property lines of the premises and shall include potable water piping, potable water treating or using equipment, **and** non-potable water piping serving plumbing fixtures.
- [RFA PB0200](#) – Karl Abrahamson, Chapter 6, Section 606.9 Building Valve | Rec'd 4/24/2025
 - **The Committee will recommend adopting RFA PB0200 as presented with the change noted below (amended at the June 4th meeting, Abrahamson agreed).**
 - 204 Building Supply. Means the **water service** pipe carrying potable water from the municipal water supply or source of water supply **intended for potable use** to a building water meter, pressure tank, building valve, or other point of use or distribution on the lot.

Appendix I, previously tabled, was reviewed as follows:

- Appendix I, Installation Standards
 - 2022 TCNA Handbook for ceramic, glass, and stone tile installation – **The Committee will recommend not adopting Appendix I.**

Potential discrepancies were clarified and final minutes, along with PB0187, were reposted to the Committee's website as follows:

- March 6, 2024, final minutes were revised to read: Chapter 4, Section 407.5: Keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- April 3, 2024, final minutes were revised to read: Chapter 5, Section 504.3 and 504.3.1: Keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
- March 5, 2025, final minutes were revised to read: The Committee accepted RFA PB0187 with the following revision [Brad Jensen ("**Jensen**") agreed] to read: The elevator drain and pump requirements shall be per Minnesota Building Code and Minnesota Rules Chapter 1307.
- RFA PB0187 was revised to read: 418.6 Elevator Pit Drain. An Elevator pit drain shall discharge to the sanitary sewer using an indirect connection that precludes the possibility of sewage backup into the pit. if a sump is used, it shall be outside of the pit with a dry pan drain flowing to it. **The Elevator drain and pump requirements shall be per Minnesota Building Code and Minnesota Rules Chapter 1307. [Jensen agreed]**

The Committee will recommend adopting Chapter 17, Referenced Standards, as shown in the 2024 UPC.

Chapter 17

- Table 1701.1 Referenced Standards

ARCSA

- ARCSA/ASPE/ANSI 63-2020

ASME

- ASME A112.4.4-2017 Plastic Push-Fit Drain, Waste, and Vent (DWV) Fittings Table 701.2

ARCSA

- ARCSA/ASPE/ANSI 63-2020

IAPMO

- IAPMO IGC 324-2019
- IAPMO IGC 325-2016
- IAPMO PS 59-2016ae2
- IAPMO/ANSI Z1002-2020

NSF

- NSF/ANSI 350-2020

UL

- UL 723-2018

1701.2

- Table 1701.2 Standards, Publications, Practices, and Guides

ARCSA

- ARCSA/ASPE 78-2015

ASPE

- ARCSA/ASPE 78-2015 Stormwater Harvesting System Design for Direct End-Use Applications Miscellaneous
- WQA/ASPE/ANSI S-803-2017

EPA

- EPA/600/R-12/618-2012

IAPMO

- IAPMO PS 86-2019

WQA

- WQA/ASPE/ANSI S-803-2017

The outstanding RFAs below will be reviewed at the meeting on July 2, 2025:

Chair Becker noted that he would resubmit a revised RFA for PB0190 and would submit new RFA(s) for tabled items in Chapters 10 and 11, as shown below.

- [RFA PB0190](#) – Richard Becker, Chapter 6, Section 601.2.2 – Rec'd 2/4/2025 | Revised 2/5/2025
- [RFA PB0201](#) – James Ellis, MIFIB, Chapter 11, Section 1101.12 Siphonic Drainage | Rec'd 5/2/2025
- [RFA PB0202](#) – Jason Krueger, MN Concrete Pipe Assoc., Section 719.6 Manholes | Rec'd 6/2/2025
- [RFA PB0203](#) – Jason Krueger, MN Concrete Pipe, Section 1101.4.7 Storm Drainage | Rec'd 6/2/2025
- [RFA PB0205](#) – Anita Anderson, Chapter 6, PVC | Rec'd 6/2/2025
- Chapter 10, 1017.2 Interceptor Design Alternatives (tabled): **Becker to submit RFA for review**
- Chapter 11, 1101.12.2.2.2 Combined System (tabled): **Becker to submit RFA for review**
- Chapter 11, 1106 Siphonic Roof Drainage System (tabled): **Becker to submit RFA for review**

During the next meeting, the agenda will include RFA numbers [PB0190](#), [PB0201](#), [PB0202](#), [PB0203](#), and [PB0205](#), along with new RFAs for Chapters 10 and 11 and any related matters. If time allows, the Committee will address tabled items, schedule new RFAs, and review/adjust any discrepancies to previous minutes and/or RFAs, if applicable. Additionally, the Committee may discuss potential rulemaking recommendations for the Plumbing Board.

6. Announcements

- The Committee scheduled upcoming meetings. Notices will be distributed to the Plumbing Board's interested parties one week in advance. To be added to this email group, please send your request to lyndy.logan@state.mn.us
- The meetings will be held in person at DLI in the Minnesota Room unless otherwise noted. Remote attendance options include WebEx and phone. Meetings will start at 9 a.m. and may extend past noon, concluding by 3 p.m. **Please check future agendas for updates.**
 - July 2, 2025
 - Aug. 6, 2025 (Isanti Room)
 - Sept. 3, 2025 (Washington Room)

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Parizek, seconded by Abrahamson, to adjourn the meeting at 1:13 p.m. The vote was unanimous, with 4 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Abrahamson

Karl Abrahamson, Committee 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.