

Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: Jan. 13, 2026 (regular meeting, rescheduled from Jan. 20, 2026)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Minutes by: Lyndy Logan

Location: DLI, 443 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155

Members

1. Karl Abrahamson (Chair)
2. Richard Becker
3. Kent Erickson (Vice Chair)
4. Bruce Pylkas
5. Scott Stewart (WebEx)
6. Rick Wahlen
7. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO's Designee)
8. Shane Willis (WebEx)
9. Philip Wood (WebEx)

Non-Voting Members Present

David Weum (MDH CO's Designee)

Members Absent

Sam Arnold

Adam Johnson

Jonathan Lemke

Justin Parizek

DLI Staff & Visitors

Paul Enger (Board Counsel, DLI) – WebEx
Ken McGurran (Board Counsel, DLI)
Sean Callanan (DLI)
Lyndy Logan (DLI)
Brad Jensen (DLI)
Todd Green (DLI) – WebEx
Josiah Moore (DLI) – WebEx
Sean O'Neil (DLI)
Ross Bundy (J-Berd Mechanical)
Dan Engsborg (DSI Reps) – WebEx
John Galt (MDH) – WebEx
Eric Gander (Superior Mechanical) – WebEx
Grace Greene (Housing First MN)
Julie Hagstrom (HGA) – WebEx
Tom Pahkala (Plumbers Local 15) – WebEx
Angie Peterson (METC) – WebEx
Jim Peterson (MN PHCC)
Scott Yarwood (City of MPLS) – WebEx

1. Call to Order, Chair

- A. Chair Karl Abrahamson ("Abrahamson") called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. Secretary Lemke took roll call, and a quorum was declared with 9 of 13 voting members present in person or via WebEx.
- B. Announcements – Introductions (members and attendees) – Chair Abrahamson
 - Everyone present in person and remotely can hear all discussions.
 - All votes will be taken by roll call if any member attends 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:
<https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board>

2. Approval of meeting agenda

A motion was made by Richard Becker (“Becker”), seconded by Rick Wahlen (“Wahlen”), to approve the agenda as presented. The roll call vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion was made by Wahlen (“Wahlen”), seconded by Becker, to approve the Dec. 1, 2025, special meeting minutes as presented. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.

4. Regular Business

A. Lyndy Logan will submit expense reports to DLI’s Financial Services Unit.

B. Enforcement & Licensing update – Sean O’Neil

- Plumbing enforcement actions are updated monthly and can be found here: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/plumbing-enforcement-actions>
- Contractors who have been fined due to unlicensed activity can be viewed in the [CCLD Review Newsletter](#).
- **Licensing Unit/License & Registrations as follows:**
 - Plumbing contractors: 564
 - Registered employers: 58
 - Master plumbers: 3,321
 - Journeyworker plumbers: 3,673
 - Registered unlicensed plumbers: 2,790
 - Water conditioning contractors: 73
 - WC masters: 139
 - WC journey workers: 191
 - Registered unlicensed WC: 133
 - Backflow prevention testers: 827
 - Backflow prevention rebuilders: 960
 - Pipelaying Bond: 306
 - Mechanical Bond: 2,620
 - Med Gas Certification: 215
- **Exam pass rates for 2025 YTD**
 - Master: 94% WC Master: 93%
 - Journeyworker: 88%
 - WC Journeyworker: 95%
 - Master (first attempt): 89%
 - Journeyworker (first attempt): 81%
- **Enforcement Unit**
 - Active plumbing investigations: 113
 - Orders issued in 2025: 91 (Note: Suspension for child support deficiencies not published)
 - Plumbing investigations closed in 2025: 118

- Top 3 Violations/Allegations: (1) Unlicensed activity (2) Supervision (3) Permits/Inspection
- C. Department Update – Mike Westemeier**
- The plan review unit maintained an approximate eight-week turnaround, consistent with what was reported at our previous meeting. Over 250–275 plans were submitted in September, marking a high-volume month.
 - The new plan reviewer position will be filled tomorrow, leaving just one vacancy in the Plumbing Plan Review unit.

5. Special Business

- A. 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee recommendations: Chapters 12 – 14 (deleted in their entirety), Chapters 16 – 17, Appendices, the Useful Table section of the code, and outstanding RFAs; discuss rulemaking proceedings for the next version of the Minnesota Plumbing Code
- **Chapter 12** – Deleted in its entirety
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Westemeier, not to adopt Chapter 12 and to remove it from the Minnesota Plumbing Code in its entirety. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - **Chapter 13** – Deleted in its entirety
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Kent Erickson, not to adopt Chapter 13 and to remove it from the Minnesota Plumbing Code in its entirety. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - **Chapter 14** – Deleted in its entirety
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Pylkas, not to adopt Chapter 14 and to remove it from the Minnesota Plumbing Code in its entirety. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - **Chapter 16** – see **Attachment A (Send email to lyndy.logan@state.mn.us to request)**
 - Row 24, Section 1603.2 Construction was revised to read: Delete the 2020 MPC (not shown in the minutes)
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Pylkas, to adopt Chapter 16 of the 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), incorporating the UPC Committee’s recommendations as presented, including the revision to row 24 and any necessary renumbering and grammatical corrections. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - **Chapter 17** – see **Attachment A and B (Send email to lyndy.logan@state.mn.us to request)**
 - Jim Peterson addressed the board regarding the inclusion of ASSE 5100 series standards for backflow prevention testers and rebuilders in Section 1701.2 of the Minnesota Plumbing Code. See summary of discussion below.
 - These standards are already covered under the commissioner’s licensing rules and statutes, not the plumbing code.
 - Concern: Including them in the code could create conflicts if licensing requirements change.
 - Committee Recommendation: Remove these standards from the reference table (1701.2) to avoid confusion.
 - Rainwater catchment qualifications are addressed elsewhere in the code (e.g., Section 603.2).
 - Standards in 1701.2 are not directly referenced in the body of the code; they serve only as informational.

- EPA Water Sense standards were also discussed; proposed removal for streamlining, though some members noted they could remain as optional guidance.
 - **Goal: Clean up and streamline reference standards without affecting statutory requirements.**
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Pylkas, to adopt Chapter 17, Referenced Standards of the 2024 UPC, incorporating the UPC Committee’s recommendations as presented, including any necessary renumbering and grammatical corrections. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**

The Board recessed from 10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

- **Appendices – see Attachment C (Send email to lyndy.logan@state.mn.us to request)**
 - Add the following: Appendix I – TRENCHLESS INSERTION OF POLYETHYLENE (PE) PIPE FOR SEWER LATERALS IAPMO IS 26-2019^{e4} – Keep as shown in the 2024 UPC
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Westemeier, to approve the UPC Committee’s recommendations for Appendices A, B, I, and M (2024 UPC) as presented (and the addition of Appendix I, Trenchless Insertion of Polyethylene to keep as shown in the 2024 UPC), including any necessary renumbering and grammatical corrections. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Pylkas, not to adopt C, D, E, F, G, H, J, L, N, O, P, and R of the 2024 UPC. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Wahlen, to table the adoption of Appendices K and S of the 2024 UPC until there is further discussion or investigation. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - **David Weum shared input from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regarding Appendix K. MDH clarified that Appendix K addresses rainwater catchment for potable use, whereas Chapter 16 addresses non-potable water use. Based on this distinction, MDH recommended that Appendix K not be adopted.**
- **Useful Tables (2020 and 2024 UPC)**
 - **A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Sam Arnold (“Arnold”), to approve the UPC Committee’s recommendations to include the Useful Tables section from the 2020 and the 2024 UPC in the 2026 UPC, noting that this section is for reference only and is not part of the Plumbing Code. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**

B. [RFA PB0221](#) – Scott Anderson, Section 311.1

- **A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Wahlen, not to accept RFA PB0221. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
- Chair Abrahamson noted that the 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee previously reviewed the 2026 UPC, discussed and made recommendations, which were accepted by the Plumbing Board as follows: **Leave as amended in the 2020 MPC with the following additional language:** Water and sewer piping shall not be routed below or through one townhouse to serve another townhouse, as defined in the Minnesota Residential Code as a single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of two or more attached units in which each unit extends from the foundation to the roof and having open space on at least two sides of each unit. Each single-family dwelling unit shall be considered to be a separate building. Separate building service utilities shall be provided to each single-family dwelling unit when required by other chapters of the State Building Code.

6. Committee Reports

A. 2024 UPC ad hoc Chapter 15 Rulemaking Committee update – Committee Chair Wahlen

- Visit the UPC Committee’s webpage for all RFAs received to date, meeting minutes, and future meeting dates.
- **Purpose:** Review Chapter 15 of the UPC to ensure consistency with:
 - Other chapters of the Minnesota Plumbing Code.
 - Minnesota Rules Chapters 7080–7083 (subsurface sewage treatment systems).
 - National certification standards (NSF, FANSEA, IAPMO).
- **Process:** Compare 2020 UPC language to avoid contradictions across state codes and industry standards.
- **Recent Activity:**
 - Last meeting: January 6; reviewed RFAs PB0211–PB0219.
 - Recommendations recorded for full board review.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Next meeting (final): February 18.
 - Expect to complete Chapter 15 review at that meeting.
 - Remaining focus: Section 1506.

B. Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC)

- The CCAC last met on Nov. 14, 2025. (Abrahamson – representative | Lemke – alternate)

7. Complaints and Correspondence

None

8. Open Forum

At the Board’s discretion, Open Forum comments related to past RFAs and recommendations of the 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee may be addressed during the Special Business portion of the meeting. Chair Abrahamson stated that Requests for Action (RFAs) must be submitted to the Plumbing Board by the end of the day on Thursday, February 12, 2026, to be considered during the current rulemaking cycle. He then called for a motion to formalize this deadline.

A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Becker, to close the RFA submission process at the end of the day on Feb. 12, 2026. Any RFAs submitted after this deadline must be resubmitted during the Board’s next rulemaking cycle. The vote passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor; the motion carried.

Chair Abrahamson also noted that the Board has NOT adopted the 2026 Plumbing Code.

9. Board Discussion

Westermeyer noted that the Board is receiving calls from individuals who mistakenly believe the 2026 Plumbing Code has already been adopted. He emphasized that the code has not yet been adopted and the rulemaking process is still ongoing. The Board clarified:

- Adoption is expected late 2026 or early 2027, with implementation likely in the first quarter of 2027, assuming the process concludes within the next two months.
- The code will retain the “2026” designation for consistency with building code naming conventions, even though adoption will occur later.
- Significant steps remain in the process, many of which occur after the Board completes its part.

10. Announcements

Regular and special meetings will be held at DLI with a WebEx and phone option. Regular meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each quarter at 9:30 a.m. The following regular and special meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- **Special:** Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to noon – The agenda includes a Request for Variance, discussion on Appendix K, outstanding RFAs submitted by Feb. 12, 2026 (deadline), RFI PB0172 (Island Venting), and any other recommendations from the 2024 UPC Ad Hoc Rulemaking Committee that were previously tabled or missed. The Board will also revisit PB0154 and PB0158 to evaluate past Final Interpretations and determine whether they warrant modifications to the code.
- **Special:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to noon
- Regular: April 21, 2026
- Regular: July 21, 2026
- Regular: Oct. 26, 2026

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Erickson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. The vote was unanimous, with 9 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Lemke

Jonathan Lemke
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.