

Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: April 21, 2026

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 (Chair)
2. Richard Becker
3. Kent Erickson (Vice Chair)
4. Adam Johnson
5. Jonathan Lemke (Secretary)
6. Bruce Pylkas
7. Scott Stewart – WebEx
8. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO's Designee)
9. Shane Willis – WebEx
10. Philip Wood
11. Scott Yarwood

Non-voting member present

- David Weum (MDH CO's Designee, Non-V)

Members Absent

- Sam Arnold
- Justin Parizek

DLI Staff & Visitors

- Ken McGurran (Board Counsel, DLI)
- Paul Enger (Board Counsel, DLI) – WebEx
- Sean Callanan (DLI)
- Lyndy Logan (DLI)
- Matt Flier (DLI)
- Brad Jensen (DLI)
- Todd Green (DLI) – WebEx

DLI Staff & Visitors continued...

- Josiah Moore (DLI) – WebEx
- Steve Nuebel (DLI)
- Chuck Olson (DLI)
- Sean O'Neil (DLI)
- John Roehl (DLI)
- Kara Topper (DLI)
- Anita Anderson (MDH) – WebEx
- Lewis Anderson (City of Mpls) – WebEx
- Jason Bethke (City of Blaine) – WebEx
- Brian Black (CISPI)
- Michelle Drier (MN PHCC)
- Dan Engsborg (DSI Reps) – WebEx
- Nick Erickson (Housing First)
- John Galt (MDH) – WebEx
- Wade Knipp (Bongard)
- Cassie Larson (MNLA) – WebEx
- Mark Mayer (Bongard)
- Angie Peterson (METC) – WebEx
- David Radziej (MN PHCC)
- Nancy Rice (MDH) – WebEx
- Cody Robinson (MPCA) – WebEx
- Brian Soderholm (Water Control) – WebEx
- Adam Swan (U of M) – WebEx
- Anastasis Thompson (Loretel) – WebEx
- Leroy Thompson (Loretel) – WebEx
- Micheal Thompson (Loretel) – WebEx
- Chad Whiting (U of M) – WebEx

1. Call to Order, Chair

- A. Chair Karl Abrahamson ("Abrahamson") called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. Secretary Lemke took roll call, and a quorum was declared with 11 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 at:
<https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board>
- **Re-appointed members:** Karl Abrahamson, Sam Arnold, Bruce Pylkas
- **New member:** Scott Yarwood – Municipal Public Water Supply System Operator/Supt (replaced Rick Wahlen)

2. Approval of meeting agenda

A motion was made by Richard Becker, seconded by Philip Wood, to approve the agenda as presented. The roll call vote passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Becker, to approve the March 17, 2026, special meeting minutes as presented. The vote passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.

4. Regular Business

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

○ Plumbing contractors	1,686
○ Registered employers	58
○ Master plumbers	3,662
○ Journeyworker plumbers	3,197
○ Registered unlicensed plumbers	6,437
○ Water conditioning contractors	70
○ WC masters	131
○ WC journey workers	163
○ Registered unlicensed WC	241
○ Backflow prevention testers	753
○ Backflow prevention rebuilders	923
○ Pipelaying Bond	266
○ Mechanical Bond	2,545
○ Med Gas Certification	224
○ Exam pass rates for 2025 YTD	
▪ Master – 89.7%	
▪ Journeyworker – 96.1%	
 - **Enforcement Unit**

○ Active plumbing investigations	110
○ Orders issued in 2026	28

- Suspension for child support deficiencies not published
 - Plumbing investigations closed in 2026 32
 - **Top 3 Violations/Allegations:**
 - (1) Unlicensed activity (2) Supervision (3) Permits/Inspection
- C. **Department update – Mike Westemeier**
 - A new engineering graduate will begin working in the plan review department tomorrow, and two additional engineering positions are expected to be filled soon. Plan review turnaround time has increased from 6 weeks to 8 weeks, but once the remaining positions are filled and staff are fully trained, we expect that timeframe to decrease again.

5. Special Business

A. RFI PB0228, ASME A112.14.3, Gonzalo Lagos, Schier Products

- **Gonzalo Lagos**
 - Requests reconfirmation/approval of units GB1-C, GB2-C, GB3-C, GB-75 (75 GPM), and GB-250 (200 GPM).
 - States all units meet Type C (flow-control) requirements in the Minnesota Plumbing Code.
 - Noted that IAPMO test reports exist for all units; older units appear under IAPMO's legacy listings.
 - GB-75 (75 GPM) is not currently shown online because the renewal fee was not paid.
 - GB1, 2, 3, and GB-250 have valid IAPMO test reports; newer confirmations were issued in Feb. 2026, but reaffirm older test data.
 - Test standard used for GB1, 2, 3 remains ASME A112.14.3 (2004).
- **Karl Abrahamson**
 - Seeks clarification on which units are being evaluated.
 - Confirms: GB1-C, GB2-C, GB3-C meet the 2015 code; GB-75 meets the current MN code; GB-250 meets the upcoming 2024 code (2018 standard).
 - States GB-250 could be approved through an alternate process until the next code adoption.
 - Notes board policy: products must meet standards listed in Chapter 17, avoiding approval of standards outside the code.
 - Explains that older-standard units would require an alternate for installation.
 - Asks about plans for Schier to retest to 2018 standards.
- **Mike Westemeier**
 - **Reviews standards:**
 - GB1-C, GB2-C, GB3-C are tested to ASME A112.14.3-2000 (reaffirmed 2004).
 - 2015 MN code accepted this version; 2020 code requires the 2014 version.
 - Thus, these three units do not comply with the current code.
 - GB-75 is tested to 2014 → complies with the current MN plumbing code.
 - GB-250 is tested to 2018 → does not comply with the current code, but will comply with the next code adoption.
 - States alternates could be used when proposing standards newer/older than those listed.
 - Confirms Lagos' updated reports still reference the older 2004 standard.
- **Bruce Pylkas**
 - Confirms updated IAPMO reports were issued only for renaming purposes.
 - Asks if GB-250 can be accepted now → response: no, not under the current code.

- Notes contractors could pursue alternates.
 - Clarifies that only one product (GB-75) meets current code requirements.
 - **Becker**
 - States the core issue is whether products certified to newer standards can be accepted when the code specifies an earlier year.
 - Affirms board practice: products must be certified to the exact standard/year listed in the code.
 - Proposes motion: Products must be certified to the standard/year listed in the code; for this RFI, ASME 112.14.3 (2000 edition, reaffirmed 2014).
 - **David Weum**
 - Asks if older-standard units could also pursue alternates by comparing old vs. current standards; Westemeier says yes, but difficult and uncommon.
 - **Ken McGurran**
 - Confirms the applicant is asking whether the five products meet current code requirements.
 - **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Pylkas, that products need to be certified to the specific standard and year that is listed in the Plumbing Code. In this particular RFI, PB0228, this standard would be ASME 112.14.3, 2000 edition, reaffirmed in 2014. The vote passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
- B. RFI PB0229, Storage Overflows, David Weum**
- **David Weum**
 - Argues overflow piping from municipal drinking-water storage (clear wells, water towers, standpipes, reclaim tanks) is part of the public water system, not the plumbing system.
 - Notes that the plumbing code defines “liquid waste” as waste discharged from a plumbing fixture, appliance, or appurtenance—none of which apply to water-treatment storage structures.
 - States overflow piping only becomes part of the plumbing system once it discharges through an air gap into a plumbing fixture or drain.
 - Emphasizes overflow piping functions as process/safety piping, not plumbing drainage.
 - Identifies conflict between plumbing code requirements (e.g., air-flow obstruction, screens) and water-system safety standards.
 - Explains that the dispute originated because DLI identified a check valve on an overflow as improper under plumbing rules, while MDH standards require it.
 - Concludes overflow piping in these systems should be recognized as infrastructure of the public water system unless it air-gaps into plumbing.
 - **Karl Abrahamson**
 - Acknowledges the need to form a clear question and motion.
 - Requests focus on whether overflow pipes are considered drainage or plumbing systems under the cited Minnesota Rules.
 - **Mike Westemeier**
 - Agrees this is a complex code-interpretation issue.
 - States DLI typically avoids regulating inside water-treatment facilities (MDH jurisdiction) but becomes involved when piping exits the building.
 - Considers overflow piping leaving the building as “clear water drain” subject to plumbing code, inspected by local plumbing inspectors.

- Notes DLI previously accepted solutions, such as backwater valves, to address backflow/freeze concerns.
- Holds that overflow piping is plumbing drainage once outside the water-treatment process.
- **Ken McGurran**
 - Clarifies the formal question: Are overflow pipes in municipal drinking-water systems considered drainage systems under 4714.026 or plumbing systems under 4714.0218?
 - Notes that both definitions must be applied to answer.
- **Bruce Pylkas**
 - Distinguishes between:
 - Clear-well overflow (treated water headed to distribution).
 - Backwash/sludge overflows (contaminated water sent to sewer through an air gap).
 - States backwash discharge becomes plumbing at the air gap.
 - Noted that clear-well overflow does not enter the sanitary sewer and is not used during normal operation.
- **Lemke**
 - States that although plumbers install many process pipes at treatment plants, overflow piping functions as emergency/safety piping rather than plumbing.
 - Believes overflow piping should not fall under plumbing board jurisdiction.
- **Becker**
 - Reads statutory definitions of “public water supply” and highlights that collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities fall under MDH authority.
 - Notes 144.383 grants MDH authority over design and construction of public water supplies.
 - Indicates MDH clearly regulates internal portions of the treatment system; the question is where that authority ends.
- **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Lemke, that overflow piping on municipal drinking water systems and water storage tanks is not part of the plumbing system as defined in Minnesota Rules 4714.0218. The plumbing system begins at the required air gap. The overflow piping ends at the air gap, regardless of whether it discharges to a drain or another location. The majority vote ruled with 10 in favor and one against (Westemeier); the motion carried.**
 - **The motion above relates to the following question and the board’s interpretation:**
 - ✓ **Question:** Are the overflow pipes of a municipal drinking water system's water storage tanks considered plumbing systems within the meaning of Minn R. 4714.0218?
 - ✓ **Answer:** No. The overflow pipes are not considered part of the plumbing system.
- **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Lemke, that, based upon the interpretation and the answer to question #1, since it is not part of the plumbing system, it is not part of the drainage system. The majority vote ruled with 10 in favor and one against (Westemeier); the motion carried.**
 - **The motion above relates to the following question and the board’s interpretation:**
 - ✓ **Question:** Are the overflow pipes of a municipal drinking water system's water storage tanks considered drainage systems within the meaning of Minn R. 4714.0206?

- ✓ **Answer:** No, based upon the interpretation and answer to the previous question, since it is not part of the plumbing system, it is not part of the drainage system.

C. [RFA PB0227](#), Section 812.1, Cody Robinson (tabled from 3/17/2026)

- **Cody Robinson**
 - Recaps that on April 1, appointed members met to refine the tabled RFA language.
 - Purpose: allow residential dwellings on SSTS to separately manage non-sewage liquid waste through a separate receptacle.
 - Group reached an agreement on:
 - Location of the 611.2 air-gap discharge.
 - Adding language requires an air gap in the discharge conveyance.
 - Plain-language improvements and clarifying acronyms.
 - Language is written as an exception for homeowners with non-sewage appliances that could harm SSTS systems.
 - Clarified detrimental waste under 306.1 to include waste detrimental to SSTS, consistent with MPCA industrial permitting guidance.
 - Simplified 813.1 to clearly state that pool wastewater cannot be discharged to an SSTS.
 - Noted that the goal was alignment with plumbing program scope and MPCA guidance.
- **Bruce Pylkas**
 - Stated that the process involved many discussions and participants.
 - Noted that the language evolved significantly, but resulted in a good final product.
- **Adam Johnson**
 - Asks whether “detrimental wastes” are defined anywhere or if a list exists.
- **Cody Robinson**
 - Responds that no formal list exists; detrimental waste is intentionally broad.
 - Industrial wastewater varies widely; waste streams harmful to sewers or SSTS include high organics, hazardous wastes, or anything toxic to septic bacteria.
 - Industrial waste handling is typically determined through NPDES or SDS permits, where each waste stream is evaluated.
 - Clarifies 611.2 applies to residential/SSTS, 306.1 to industrial waste, and 813 to pool wastewater.
- **Mike Westemeier**
 - Reminds the group that Chapter 3 contains general requirements.
 - Noted that some detrimental waste types (e.g., grease, sand) are addressed specifically in other chapters, so 306.1 applies to all remaining types not covered elsewhere.
- **A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Westemeier, to accept the language as presented in RFA PB0227 (shown below). The motion passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - 611.2 Air Gap Discharge. Exception: In residential dwellings served by a subsurface sewage treatment system regulated under Minnesota Rules, chapter 7080, the discharge from backwash and condensate producing equipment, including but not limited to water softeners, reverse osmosis systems, iron or manganese treatment units, and furnace or appliance condensate, shall be allowable to discharge through an indirect waste receptor that is independent of the building drain and building sewer. If this exception is exercised,

such discharge shall be conveyed via an air gap to an exterior place of disposal or separate subsurface discharge method that is not connected to the subsurface sewage treatment system, provided the method and location of disposal are acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

- **306.1 Detrimental wastes.** Wastes detrimental to the public sewer system, subsurface sewage treatment system, or detrimental to the functioning of the sewage treatment plant shall be treated and disposed of as found necessary and directed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. This may include separate drainage systems for each regulated waste stream.
- **813.1 General.** Pipes carrying wastewater from swimming or wading pools, including pool drainage and backwash from filters, shall be installed as an indirect waste. Where a pump is used to discharge pool waste water to the drainage system, the pump discharge shall be installed as an indirect waste. Pool waste water is prohibited from being discharged into a subsurface sewage treatment system.

D. RFI and RFA forms: Motion to approve formatting revisions for accessibility and readability

- **A motion was made by Wood, seconded by Becker, to approve the revised RFA and RFI forms as presented. The motion passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**

E. 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee recommendations:

- Any previously tabled or missed recommendations
 - **Chapter 15 revisions** - see [Attachment A](#)
 - **A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Wood, to accept the revisions to Chapter 15 as presented. The motion passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
- Revised language for 908.2.2, related to RFIs [PB0223](#) and [PB0225](#)
 - **A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Erickson, to accept the language as presented (shown below). The motion passed unanimously with 10 votes in favor and one abstention (Abrahamson); the motion carried.**
 - **908.2.2 Size.** The wet vent shall be sized based on the fixture unit discharge into the wet vent. The wet vent shall be not less than 2 inches (50mm) in diameter for 4 drainage fixture units (dfu) or less, and not less than 3 inches (80mm) in diameter for 5 dfu or more. The wet vent shall be undiminished in size from the dry vent connection to the most downstream fixture served by the wet vent. The dry vent shall be sized in accordance with Table 702.1 and Table 703.2 based upon the total fixture units discharging into the wet vent.
- Discuss rulemaking proceedings for the next version of the Minnesota Plumbing Code
 - **Ken McGurran**
 - Before finishing rulemaking, the board must consider whether today's interpretations require any code amendments.
 - Requests review of PB0228 to determine if code changes are needed based on the board's interpretation.
 - **Karl Abrahamson**
 - States no code changes are needed for PB0228.
 - Interpretation aligns with long-standing board practice: do not approve products or standards outside those listed in Chapter 17.
 - **Becker**
 - Agrees no amendments are necessary.

- Noted that a similar situation occurred with atmospheric vacuum breakers in the 2020 code, and no changes were made then either.
- **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Westemeier, that revisions to the 2026 Minnesota Plumbing Code are not required for the interpretation provided for RFI PB0228. The motion passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
- **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Wood, that revisions to the 2026 Minnesota Plumbing Code are not required for the interpretation provided for RFI PB0229. The motion passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
- **Ken McGurran**
 - Notes the board has completed review of all code sections and recommendations for the 2026 Plumbing Code.
 - States the board is now ready to formally begin rulemaking.
 - Introduces co-counsel Paul Enger to outline the early rulemaking steps.
 - Later explains two rulemaking options:
 - One complete rulemaking, including Chapter 15, or separating Chapter 15 due to anticipated high public comment volume that could trigger a hearing and delay adoption.
 - Presents draft authorizations for: Commencing rulemaking and allowing the chair to sign the required documents.
- **Paul Enger**
 - Outlines the first 60–90 days of rulemaking:
 - Obtain a Reviser’s ID number.
 - Submit preliminary notice to the Governor’s Office (chair’s signature required).
 - Publish a Request for Comment in the State Register (start of public involvement).
 - 30-day minimum comment period; rulemaking cannot advance for at least 60 days.
 - During this time:
 - Staff will draft rule language in statute format.
 - Submit draft rules to Reviser for form approval.
 - Begin preparing the Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR).
 - Explains SONAR: procedural history, rule-by-rule justification, necessity, and reasonableness.
 - Describes later steps, including Governor review and a Notice of Intent to Adopt.
 - Explains hearing requirements: 25 hearing requests automatically trigger a formal public hearing.
 - Noted that splitting Chapter 15 could limit a hearing to that chapter only.
 - Confirms two parallel rulemakings are legally permissible and manageable.
 - Stated that the board may revise rules at multiple points based on public comment or administrative review.
- **Bruce Pylkas**
 - Asks whether public comments could require changes and return rules to the board.
 - Enger confirms yes, board may need to revisit rules at various points.
- **Becker**
 - Asks how comments are handled.

- Enger explains: board reviews comments, may respond publicly, submitted through the COAH portal or email.
- Becker asks when hearing requests occur.
- Enger explains they come during the second comment period after publishing the Notice of Intent to Adopt.
- Stated his preference to separate Chapter 15 for efficiency and timely adoption.
 - ✓ **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Yarwood, to authorize counsel to begin and complete rulemaking for the 2026 Minnesota Plumbing Code in two parts: one for Chapter 15 and one for all other sections approved by the board. This authorization includes allowing counsel, Ken McGurran and Paul Enger, to take all actions required under the Minnesota Administrative Procedure Act, and for the chair to sign all necessary documents. The motion passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
 - ✓ **A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Lemke, to designate Karl Abrahamson as the board chair authorized to sign all rulemaking documents for every chapter. The motion passed unanimously with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
- **Publishing of the next code book** – see comments below from Greg Metz, Assistant Director of Plumbing Plan Review: Let's maintain the current base color but update the graphics to give it a fresh and distinctive look, modeling the blue and black graphic elements after the 2024 Minnesota Commercial Energy Code design. The new code book design should feature blue and black graphics set against a gray background, incorporating a subtle light grid pattern for added texture.

6. Committee Reports

[Construction Codes Advisory Council \(CCAC\)](#) – The CCAC last met on Nov. 14, 2025. (Abrahamson – representative | Lemke – alternate). Contact lyndy.logan@state.mn.us for a copy of the presentation and/or handouts.

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.

9. Board Discussion

None

10. Announcements

Next regular quarterly meeting, 9:30 a.m., on the 3rd Tuesday of each quarter, at DLI / WebEx

- Regular: July 21, 2026 (annual meeting – election of officers)
- Regular: Oct. 20, 2026

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Pylkas, to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 a.m. The vote was unanimous, with 11 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.