

Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: June 23, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Minutes by: Sean Callanan

Location: Minnesota Room, DLI, 443 Lafayette Rd. No., St. Paul, MN 55155

Members

1. Karl Abrahamson (Chair)
2. Sam Arnold
3. Richard Becker
4. Kent Erickson (Vice Chair) – Webex
5. Jonathan Lemke (Secretary)
6. Justin Parizek
7. Bruce Pylkas
8. Peter Norgren - Webex
9. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO's Designee)
10. Scott Yarwood

Non-voting member present

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

Members Absent

- Shane Willis
- Adam Johnson
- Philip Wood

DLI Staff

- Ken McGurran (Board Counsel, DLI)
- Paul Enger (Board Counsel, DLI)
- Sean Callanan (DLI)
- Krystle Conley (DLI) – Webex
- Thomas Eisert (DLI)
- Matt Flier (DLI)
- Tim Friedt (DLI) - Webex
- Brad Jensen (DLI)
- Makenzie Johnson (DLI)
- Josiah Moore (DLI)
- Patricia Munkel Olson (DLI) – Webex
- Steve Nuebel (DLI) – Webex
- Ryan Rehn (DLI)
- Austin Ziemer (DLI)

Visitors (In Person)

- Kyle Axtell (South Washington WD)
- John Berns (Carnival Berns Law Firm)
- Mike Brands
- Joe Collins (CRWD)
- Michelle Drier (MN PHCC)
- Anna Eleria (CRWD)
- Tannie Eshenaur (MDH)
- Bob Fossum (Capital Region Watershed)
- Joe Fowler (LIUNA 563)
- Daniel Gillis
- Jim Heith (City of Vadnais Heights)
- Maureen Hoffman (Met Council)
- Craig Johnson (LMC)
- Zach Johnson (CEAM)
- Jen Kader (Clean Water Council)
- Jeff Latterell (MNLA)
- Grace Keliher (BAM)
- Josh Lease (MN LECET)
- Ann Lindstrom (MN MCA)
- Isaac Loynachan (MNLA)
- Trevor Ogilwie (MPLS Plumbers JJATC)
- John Paulson (MN Cities Stormwater Coalition)
- David Radziej (MN PHCC)
- Ashlee Ricci (RWMWD)
- Clark Schroeder (City of Lake Elmo)
- Travis Thiel (Vermillion River Watershed)
- Jan Voit (Minnesota Watershed)

Visitors (via Webex)

- Joe Adams (Shakopee Utilities)
- Paige Ahlborg (RWMWD)
- Brent Alcott (Chaska)
- Bill Alms (WSB)
- William Alms (WSB)
- Anita Anderson (MDH)
- Lewis Anderson (City of MPLS)

- Brian Arola (Minnpost)
- Robert Bean (Bolton Menk)
- Jason Bethke (City of Blaine)
- Joe Birkholz (Park Street Public)
- Nicole Blasing (MPCA)
- David Campana (MCLA)
- Andy Campeau (MNPTA)
- Jesse Carlson (City of Savage)
- Tina Carstens (RWMWD)
- Amy Court (Shumaker)
- Tom Dicklich (MN Trades)
- Bill Diede
- Dan Engsberg (Distributor Sales Inc)
- Alyson Fauske (WSB)
- Mike Findorff (MPCA)
- Erick Fors
- Mark Foster (Housing First MN)
- Eric Fowler (Fresh Energy)
- Kris Fredson (Liuna Minnesota)
- Emma Fruetel (Water Motion)
- John Galt (MDH)
- Nathan Gillett (City of Ramsey)
- Maddey Gintner (City of Lino Lakes)
- John Hanson (BARR)
- Brad Harrison (Ferguson)
- Claudia Hochstein (DNR)
- Andrew Hogg (City of STP)
- Elizabeth Hosch (CR Watershed)
- Jon Janke (Coon Creek WD)
- Laura Jester (Bassett Creek WMC)
- Tom Johnson (MPCA)
- Paula Kalinosky (MPCA)
- Steve Kartak (City of Eden Prairie)
- Forrest Kelley (CR Watershed)
- Karen Kill (Brown's Creek WD)
- Cooper Klotzbach (RWMWD)
- Jen Koehler (BARR)
- Myra Kunas (MDH)
- Daniel Lightfoot (LMC)
- Shawn Mazanec (MMCD)
- Dan Miller (DNR)
- Paul Moline (Carver County)
- Anneka Munsell (MDH)
- Nick Olson (MnDOT)
- Eric Osterdyk (Stantec)
- Tom Pahkala (Plumbers Local 15)
- Kelly Perrine (Dakota County)
- Hannah Peterson (MNWCD)
- Kevin Reich (MWMO)
- Andy Rodriguez (City of STP)
- Thea Rozenbergs (AIA)
- Ben Scharenbroich (Plymouth)
- Alex Schmidt (Austin energy)
- Todd Shoemaker
- Jill Sims (Park Street Public)
- Therese Skarda (City of STP)
- Joel Smith (Liuna Minnesota)
- Todd Smith (MPCA)
- Dave Stak (RWM)
- David Stark (RWM)
- Brett Stolpestad (WCD)
- Tim Sundby (Carver County)
- Adam Swan (U of M)
- Lisa Thimjon (MDH)
- Leroy Thompson (Loretel)
- Scott Thompson
- Alex Trunnell
- Rick Wahlen (City of Eden Prairie)
- Rita Weaver (BWSR)
- Steve Weinhold (City of Andover)
- Chad Whiting (University of MN)
- Charlie Wilson (MNUE)
- Brad Wozney (BWSR)
- Nate Zwonitzer (CRWD)

1. Call to Order, Chair

- A. Chair Karl Abrahamson (“Abrahamson”) called the meeting to order at 9:41 AM. Secretary Lemke took roll call, and a quorum was declared with 10 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>
 - **New member:** Peter Norgren

2. Approval of meeting agenda

A motion was made by Richard Becker, seconded by Jonathan Lemke, to approve the agenda as presented. The roll call vote passed unanimously with 10 votes in favor; the motion carried.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Becker, to approve the April 21, 2026, special meeting minutes as presented. The vote passed unanimously with 10 votes in favor; the motion carried.

4. Regular Business

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

5. Special Business

- A. Petition for Variance – Excel Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Carstensen and Sons Trucking
 - Petition to request a permanent variance from section 905.3 of the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code, as amended and made part of the Minnesota Plumbing Code by Minnesota Rule 4714.0905, in connection with the installation of a pre-treatment drainage system for an interior truck wash system
 - The discussion centers on a request for a plumbing code variance to allow **below-grade horizontal vent piping** for large interceptor tanks located outside a facility between vehicle drive aisles. The petitioner explains that running vents vertically above grade—normally required because the Minnesota Plumbing Code removed language which once allowed limited horizontal venting—would expose the piping to vehicle damage and create major logistical challenges. Site constraints prevent relocating the tanks: the south side is too close to property lines and building footings, and placing them inside the building would create food-safety hazards. The system includes multiple chambers for sediment control, waste

separation, pumping, and pH treatment, with estimated depths of about three feet and tank tops roughly two feet below grade.

- Board members raise concerns about flat vent lines plugging without detection and emphasize the need for redundancy. They recommend adding full-size vents at the building exit and tank entry, maximizing slope, installing cleanouts and drainage fittings, and minimizing horizontal vent length. They also discuss freeze protection measures such as insulation or a horseshoe-style enclosure. Operational safeguards—including alarms in the pumping chambers and a regular inspection or flushing program—are encouraged to ensure early detection of blockages. As one participant notes, *“Anytime you have a flat vent you don’t know when it’s plugged... until you probably have a bigger problem.”* Overall, the Board acknowledges the unique constraints of the project and appears open to granting the variance if these additional protections are incorporated.

A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Pylkas, to grant the Petition for Variance with the following conditions: (1) full size vents shall be provided where the drainage pipes enter and leave the building; (2) vent piping connections are a minimum of twelve inches (12”) above the high-water alarm; and (3) procedures for cleaning the vent piping in the event of a high level alarm are adopted and maintained. The vote passed with 8 votes in favor 2 against; the motion carried.

B. Discuss public feedback regarding proposed chapter 15 rulemaking

- *Addressed after Open Forum portion of the meeting; see #7 below*

C. Discuss potential next steps regarding chapter 15 rulemaking

- *Addressed after Open Forum portion of the meeting; see #7 below*

6. Open Forum

Attorney McGurran addressed the Board and meeting attendees about rules and logistics for the open forum.

- **Tannie Eshenaur (Minnesota Department of Health)**
MDH has led two statewide engagement processes on **water reuse**, producing recommendations, a multi-agency Letter of Acknowledgement, and a 2022 white paper on stormwater health risks. Despite progress, Minnesota still lacks comprehensive guidance to ensure safe, sustainable water reuse. Key needs include clear agency roles, best-practice design guidance, funding and O&M considerations, and risk-management processes. Continued collaboration with local governments and practitioners is essential, and the Minnesota Stormwater Manual should evolve into a shared guidance hub. MDH requested rescission of PB0215 to ensure missing partner perspectives are included before draft rules move to public comment. MDH strongly supports water reuse as a strategy to protect public health and reduce pressure on limited groundwater resources and looks forward to continued collaboration across agencies and partners.
- **Ryan Anderson (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)**

Minnesota's stormwater program, grounded in the Clean Water Act and state statutory authority, regulates 228 MS4 municipalities and thousands of construction sites to protect water quality and public health. The program's core goal is to reduce pollution and manage stormwater in ways that mimic natural hydrology, keeping rainfall close to where it lands to prevent runoff, erosion, ecological damage, and infrastructure strain. Stormwater capture and reuse—primarily for irrigation—is one of the most effective tools for reducing pollutant loads, lowering stormwater volumes, decreasing demand on aquifers, and reducing the energy and chemicals needed to produce potable water. This practice is widely promoted by the U.S. EPA and has been successfully implemented for decades across Minnesota by cities, counties, watershed districts, and institutions. The MPCA maintains a nationally recognized stormwater manual and is updating its guidance to ensure reuse systems are functional, reliable, efficient, and protective of human health. Because landscapes and end uses vary statewide, the MPCA supports offering a flexible menu of design options rather than rigid standards. The agency urges the Board not to adopt prohibitions or strict regulations that would limit stormwater reuse, emphasizing that it is a vital, proven practice that protects water resources, reduces pressure on aquifers, and supports long-term water quality goals.

- **Anna Eleria (Capitol Region Watershed District)**

Stormwater reuse practices help to improve water quality, minimize neighborhood flooding, and limit demands on potable water. With the support of approximately \$4 million in state clean water funds, CRWD and its partners have implemented successfully over a dozen small and large-scale reuse projects, including Upper Ballpark Bald Fields, Como Golf Course, CHS Field, and Allianz Field. Eliminating stormwater reuse would be a major setback in building the community resiliency needed in our cities to withstand the impacts of climate change, achieve our volume and pollutant reduction goals, conserve Minnesota's finite surface and groundwater resources, and jeopardize past, current, and possibly future funding. CRWD treats stormwater as an asset, not as a liability, and opposes the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC. Eliminating stormwater reuse would serve as a significant setback in combating climate change. CRWD believes that water quality standards should match water use.

- **Jan Voit (Minnesota Watersheds)**

Minnesota Watersheds opposes the language in chapter 15 of the UPC, specifically the proposed blanket prohibition of stormwater reuse.

- **Clark Schroeder (City of Lake Elmo)**

Opposes the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC. The state and municipalities should Prioritize groundwater for drinking water and stormwater for irrigation. Encouraged the Board not to strictly regulate stormwater.

- **Jay Riggs (Washington Conservation District)**

[Mr. Riggs did not speak during the Open Forum portion of the meeting; however, he did email a statement of support for the positions and concerns shared by the watershed districts.]

- **Han Zhang (American Society of Landscape Architects MN)**
Opposes the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC. Stormwater has been reused for decades in irrigation and in other non-potable uses.
- **Nicholas Tomczik (Rice Creek Watershed District)**
RCWD supports stormwater reuse. They ask that the Board drops the proposed changes to chapter 15.
- **John Paulson (Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition)**
Requests that the Board removes the chapter 15 changes that affect stormwater and let the other agencies that currently regulate stormwater remain the authority on stormwater. Municipalities will become non-compliant overnight if chapter 15 as drafted is adopted.
- **John Hanson (Valley Branch Watershed District)**
Asks that the Board reconsider chapter 15 and the proposed ban on stormwater reuse. This would hinder the development of communities in the VBWD.
- **Jeff Latterell (Heritage Landscape Supply & Minnesota Nursery & Landscaping Association)**
MNLA opposes the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC with or without amendments.
- **Jen Kader (Clean Water Council)**
The Clean Water Council is a 28-member board appointed by the governor. The council promotes stormwater reuse. The Council has spent millions of dollars to facilitate the reuse of stormwater. Requests that the rulemaking for chapter 15 of the UPC be paused.
- **Ashlee Ricci (Ramsey-Washington County Metro Watershed District)**
Stormwater reuse is a priority for the RWCMWD. Stormwater reuse is important to prevent flood risks. They oppose the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Bryan Bear (City of Hugo)**
The City of Hugo has grown roughly 36% since 2012, yet it now uses less water than it did in 2012. A surprising trend made possible by the city's extensive stormwater reuse program. Hugo reuses about 100 million gallons of stormwater each year, a major share of its overall supply compared to the 400 million gallons pumped from groundwater. Stormwater is used throughout the community, including for golf courses, parks, neighborhoods, multifamily housing, commercial areas, and roadway medians, making reuse a core part of the city's water-management strategy. This approach has strengthened resilience, improved water quality, reduced flood risks, and allowed Hugo to remove four high-capacity municipal wells from its future water-supply plan—critical given its proximity to White Bear Lake, where new well permits are unlikely. However, stormwater reuse does not fit neatly into existing regulatory frameworks, which were created before such systems existed, leading to challenges and occasional attempts to restrict it. Hugo urges regulators to focus on enabling safe, effective reuse rather than prohibiting it, noting that legislative direction supports its continued expansion. The city welcomes collaboration, tours, and input to ensure stormwater reuse remains a successful and sustainable water-supply solution.

- **Tim Sundby (Carver County Water Management Organization)**
Stormwater reuse systems are helping Carver County reach groundwater use goals. Stormwater reuse provides a benefit for all who use it. The proposed change by the Board will negatively affect many. Requests that the Board reconsider the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Josh Lease (Minnesota Laborers and Employers Cooperation Education and Trust)**
Expressed serious concerns about the proposed changes to the plumbing code. If implemented these changes would cause substantial financial hardships in communities all over the state. Asks that the Board considers the hardships that these changes would have on people before they adopt chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **David Campana (Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs)**
The Council is opposed to the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Dominic Pierre (Minnesota Association of Cemeteries)**
Have serious concerns about the proposed changes to chapter 15 of the UPC. The proposed changes would cause large costs to members. Request that the Board reconsider the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Isaac Loynachan (Minnesota Nursery & Landscaping Association)**
MNLA is a vital stakeholder in all matters related to outdoor water use, including potable water, rainwater, stormwater, and tertiary-treated water, and therefore opposes adopting UPC Chapter 15. Since the Legislature codified low-impact development principles in 2012, Minnesota has invested heavily in science-based, practical, and collaboratively developed water-management standards. The MPCA's nationally recognized *Stormwater Manual* and the long-standing involvement of the Department of Labor and Industry reflect Minnesota's leadership in safe, effective stormwater practices, including hundreds of successful rainwater- and stormwater-irrigation installations statewide. Minnesota already has a thoughtful, proven framework that balances water quality, conservation, and practical implementation, and should continue building on this foundation rather than adopting UPC Chapter 15.
- **Joe Fowler (LIUNA Local 563)**
Reuse water projects make our environment and residents healthier. It also allows us to use less groundwater for irrigation projects. Laborers Local 563 asks that the Board not adopt chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Craig Johnson (League of Minnesota Cities)**
We have very serious groundwater supply issues around the state. Stormwater reuse is a primary water conservation practice. Advise that the Board does not move into governing stormwater reuse. Hopes the Board does not move forward with adopting chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Zachary Johnson (American Public Works Association, Minnesota Chapter / City Engineers Association of Minnesota)**
Both APWA-MN and CEAM oppose the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC. Using less groundwater is the goal and reusing stormwater helps us meet this goal.

- **Louis Smith (Red River Watershed Management Board)**
Stormwater reuse is a well-established and carefully managed system in the state of MN. Groundwater is a precious and limited resource. Prohibiting stormwater reuse would move us backwards.
- **Travis Thiel (Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization)**
Chapter 15 of the UPC would make stormwater reuse systems infeasible. They ask that the Board not move forward with the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Joe Collins (Capitol Region Watershed Board)**
Opposes the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Tim Malooly (Minnesota Nursery & Landscaping Association)**
MNLA opposes the adoption of chapter 15 of the MN UPC.
- **Adriana Atcheson (Washington County)**
Washington County has successfully partnered with watershed districts for stormwater reuse. They urge the Board to not move forward with the adoption of chapter 15 of the UPC.
- **Andrew Campeau (Minnesota Pipe Trades Association)**
Supports the implementation of chapter 15 of the UPC to maintain public health.
- **Brian Brown (St. Paul Plumbers Local #34)**
We've seen the consequences of contamination. In 1993, Milwaukee's cryptosporidium outbreak sickened over 400,000 people, likely linked to runoff entering the water supply. Minnesota's Plumbing Code has protected public health for more than 90 years. Clean, safe water is one of our greatest public health achievements. We're asking for **clear regulations**, proper licensing, and strong enforcement to ensure these systems are installed and operated safely. Protecting our water must remain a priority.
- **Kyle Axtell (South Washington Watershed District)**
Management and regulation of stormwater should be left to the agencies that currently regulate stormwater.

The Board took a 5-minute break starting at 11:02 am and reconvened at 11:14 pm.

The Board Broke for lunch at 11:55 am and reconvened at 1:02 pm.

Board Member Peter Norgren left the meeting at 12:40 pm; a quorum was maintained with 9 of 13 members present

7. Board Discussion

A motion was made by Board Member Richard Becker "Becker" seconded Sam Arnold "Arnold" for the Board

- to rescind the two authorizations it executed at its April meeting which authorized counsel for the Board to begin rulemaking proceedings to adopt Chapter 15 of the 2024 UPC, as amended, as part of the 2026 Minnesota Plumbing Code;

- (2) to reconstitute the 2024 UPC ad hoc Chapter 15 Rulemaking Committee to consider additional stakeholder feedback on an amended adoption of Chapter 15; and
- (3) to reopen the request for action (RFA) consideration period for RFAs with respect to Chapter 15 and related sections.
 - This period was previously closed on February 12, 2026. RFAs are specific proposals to amend the draft rules, and the Committee will discuss and rule on these RFAs as its primary mechanism to revise the draft rules.

The vote was unanimous with 9 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Board Chair Abrahamson noted that any interested party can submit an RFA and participate in Committee discussion regarding the same, so stakeholders are encouraged to draft and submit RFAs for Committee consideration, in addition to sharing their feedback on the RFAs of other stakeholders and Board members.

8. Correspondence

- A. Public Comment Positions Statement – Water Leak Mitigation through ANSI/CAN/IAPMO Z1349 Technologies – Jay Peters, President, Codes and Standards International
- Board Attorney McGurran explained that the Public Comment Positions Statement will be considered as a comment for the Board to address in rulemaking.

9. 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

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Lemke, to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 pm. 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

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