

Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: July 15, 2025
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. Sam Arnold
 3. Richard Becker
 4. Kent Erickson (Vice Chair)
 5. Jonathan Lemke (Secretary)
 6. Justin Parizek
 7. Scott Stewart
 8. Rick Wahlen
 9. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO's Designee)
 10. Philip Wood
- John Galt (MDH CO's Designee alternate) (Non-V)

Members Absent

Bruce Pylkas
Adam Johnson
Shane Willis

DLI Staff & Visitors

Daniel Becker (DLI) – WebEx
Ken McGurran (Board Counsel, DLI)
Thomas Eisert (DLI) – WebEx
Brad Jensen (DLI)
Lyndy Logan (DLI)
Josiah Moore (DLI)
Steve Nuebel (DLI)
Sean O'Neil (DLI)
Jason Bethke – City of Blaine (WebEx)
Luke Hoffman (MDH) – WebEx
Rick Jacobs (Local 34)
Mike Johnson (J-Berd Mechanical)
Dave Lillback – (Local 15) – WebEx
Stephanie Menning (MUCA) – WebEx
David Nickelson (Uponor) – WebEx
Jim Peterson (MN PHCC) – WebEx
Scott Thompson (My Plumbing Training)

1. **Call to Order, Chair**

- A. **Chair Richard Becker ("Becker")** called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. The secretary 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 Becker
 - 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>

2. **Approval of meeting agenda**

A motion was made by **Kent Erickson ("Erickson")**, seconded by **Sam Arnold ("Arnold")**, 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. A motion was made by **Rick Wahlen ("Wahlen")**, seconded by **Erickson**, to approve the April 15, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented. The vote passed unanimously with 10 votes in favor; the motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by **Mike Westemeier ("Westemeier")**, seconded by **Jonathan Lemke ("Lemke")**, to approve the May 12, 2025, 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.

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 1,764
 - Registered employers 63
 - Master plumbers 3,514
 - Journeyworker plumbers 3,797
 - Registered unlicensed plumbers 5,215
 - Water conditioning contractors 69
 - WC masters 133
 - WC journey workers 180
 - Registered unlicensed WC 129
 - Backflow prevention testers 763
 - Backflow prevention rebuilders 906
 - Pipelaying Bond 291
 - Mechanical Bond 2,617
 - Med Gas Certification 215
 - Exams administered YTD (by DLI to date/all trades) 4,797
 - Exams administered PLB-specific YTD 265
 - Master (80), Journeyworker (185)
- **Enforcement Unit**
 - Active plumbing investigations 100
 - Orders issued YTD 39
 - Suspension for child support deficiencies not published
 - Investigations closed 56
- **License exam pass/fail rates for 2024 – journey workers and masters**

Exam name		Year Last Try		
Journeyworker Plumber		2024		
Total Exams Takers	Passed	Passed %	Failed	Failed %
331	316	95%	15	5%
Passed #	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Three or Four Attempts	Five or more Attempts
	289	19	7	1
Cumulative %	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Three or Four Attempts	Five or more Attempts
	87%	93%	95%	95%

Exam name		Year Last Try		
Master Plumber		2024		
Total Exams Takers	Passed	Passed %	Failed	Failed %
138	133	96%	5	4%
Passed #	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Three or Four Attempts	Five or more Attempts
	123	9	1	(Blank)
Cumulative %	First Attempt	Second Attempt	Three or Four Attempts	Five or more Attempts
	89%	96%	96%	96%

C. **Department update – Mike Westemeier**

Plumbing plan reviews continue to have an eight-week turnaround, with no change from the last report in April. The Plumbing Plan Review unit has hired another reviewer. Reviews are now based on the value of work since the legislature accepted proposal changes, which became effective on July 1, 2025.

5. **Special Business**

Officer nominations and elections

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

- **Chair**
Richard Becker nominated Karl Abrahamson. The vote was unanimous, with 9 in favor; the nomination passed. Abrahamson was elected as Chair.
- **Vice-Chair**
Karl Abrahamson nominated Kent Erickson for Vice-Chair. The vote was unanimous, with 9 in favor; the nomination passed. Erickson was re-elected as Vice-Chair.
- **Secretary**
Richard Becker nominated Jonathan Lemke for Secretary. The vote was 9 in favor; the nomination passed. Lemke was elected as Secretary.

The meeting was turned over to the newly elected Chair, Abrahamson.

6. **Committee Reports**

A. **2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee update – Chair Abrahamson**

- Visit the [UPC Committee's webpage](#) for all RFAs received to date, meeting minutes, and future meeting dates.
- **Abrahamson** said the Committee will hold the final meeting on August 6, 2025, to review tabled items and any new RFAs. He will provide a spreadsheet showing all revisions and amendments. The Committee decided not to accept Chapter 15 and will ask the Board to convene a special committee to review this chapter thoroughly.
- **Rick Wahlen** asked about the timeline for the special committee's study of Chapter 15 and when it might be fully vetted and brought into regulation, possibly by 2027 or 2028?
- **Abrahamson** stated that the first step was to decide whether to form a special committee. He explained that if a special committee were formed and the process was completed within the current code cycle, they would ask the board about special rulemaking to include it in the code.

B. **[Construction Codes Advisory Council \(CCAC\)](#) – Abrahamson (representative) / Lemke (alternate)**

- **Abrahamson** provided a report at the January BOP meeting; the CCAC hasn't met since Nov. 21, 2024 (Abrahamson – representative | Lemke – alternate). The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025.

7. **Complaints and Correspondence**

Comments from the Plumbing Board submitted to Representative Baker on May 13, 2025, concerning HF 2882.

8. **Open Forum**

No requests received.

9. Board Discussion

Chair Abrahamson asked for a motion to convene a special committee to review Chapter 15.

A motion was made by Wahlen, seconded by Becker, to form a special Chapter 15 Rulemaking Committee for a thorough review of the chapter. The vote passed unanimously with 10 votes in favor; the motion carried.

The following members were assigned to the Chapter 15 Rulemaking Committee:

- 1. Karl Abrahamson (Secretary)**
- 2. Jonathan Lemke**
- 3. Rick Wahlen (Chair)**
- 4. Mike Westemeier**

10. Announcements

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

- Oct. 21, 2025

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Erickson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. The vote was unanimous, with 10 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.