

Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board (DRAFT)

Date: July 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. Sam Arnold
3. Richard Becker
4. Kent Erickson
5. Erick Fors
6. Adam Johnson
7. Jonathan Lemke (Secretary)
8. Peter Norgren – WebEx
9. Bruce Pylkas (Vice Chair)
10. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO's Designee)
11. Scott Yarwood

Non-voting member NOT present

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

Members Absent

Justin Parizek
Philip Wood

DLI Staff & Visitors

Ken McGurran (Board Counsel, DLI)
Paul Enger (Board Counsel, DLI)
Sean Callanan (DLI)
Lyndy Logan (DLI)
Daniel Becker (DLI)
Thomas Eisert (DLI) – WebEx
Todd Green (DLI)
Brad Jensen (DLI)
Josiah Moore (DLI) – WebEx
Steve Nuebel (DLI)

DLI Staff & Visitors continued...

Chuck Olson (DLI)
Sean O'Neil (DLI)
Ryan Rehn (DLI)
Kyle Axtell (South Washington WD)
John Berns (MNLA)
Jason Bethke (City of Blaine) – WebEx
Joe Birkholz (Park Street Public) – WebEx
Brian Brown (Plumbers Local 34)
Andy Campeau (MNPTA)
Joe Collins (CRWD)
Anna Eleria (CRWD)
Kyle Engel (McGough) – WebEx
Bob Fossum (CRWD)
Eric Gander (Superior Mechanical) – WebEx
John Galt (MDH) – WebEx
John Glatzmaier – WebEx
Lucas Hoffman (MDH) – WebEx
Andrew Hogg (City of STP) – WebEx
Felipe Illercas (MNLA)
Craig Johnson (LMC)
Jen Kader (Clean Water Council)
Grace Keliher (BAM)
Forrest Kelly (CRWD)
Jeff Latterell (MN Nursery & Landscape)
Ann Lindstrom (MMCA)
Tim Malooly (MN Nursery & Landscape)
Shawn Mazanec (MN Watershed)
George Ogilvie (MPLS Plumber)
George Onufer (McGough) – WebEx
Tom Pahkala (Plumbers Local 15)
John Paulsen (MCSC)
Neile Reider (DOT) – WebEx
Rick Wahlen (City of Eden Prairie) – 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 are emailed to members and interested parties, shown on the screen during the meeting, and at least one printed copy is available in the room.
- Visit the Board's website for the agenda and minutes at: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board>
- Peter Norgren and Erick Fors introduced themselves to the Board as the newest members.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

A motion was made by Richard Becker, seconded by Sam Arnold, to approve the agenda with the following revision: Approval of previous meeting minutes: **Special Plumbing Board – June 23, 2026**. 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 Becker, seconded by Yarwood, to approve the June 23, 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	1,738
○ Registered employers	57
○ Master plumbers	3,705
○ Journeyworker plumbers	3,335
○ Registered unlicensed plumbers	5,334
○ Water conditioning contractors	71
○ WC masters	134
○ WC journey workers	169
○ Registered unlicensed WC	152
○ Backflow prevention testers	820
○ Backflow prevention rebuilders	944
○ Pipelaying Bond	296
○ Mechanical Bond	2,507
○ Med Gas Certification	222
○ Exam pass rates for 2026 YTD	
▪ Master – 94% (67 testers)	
▪ Journeyworker – 88% (195 testers)	

- **Enforcement Unit**

○ Active plumbing investigations	102
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- Orders issued in 2026 48
 - Suspension for child support deficiencies not published
- Plumbing investigations closed in 2026 75

C. Department update – Mike Westemeier

- Sixteen plan reviewers, the unit is now broken down into two sub-units and a new supervisor, Brad Williams, has been hired. Judy Tacheny retired, and Lisa Tysk and Candie Parker are the administrative intake staff. Currently 9 weeks out.
- The department reviewed just over 2,500 plans in FY2026, and approved 2,584 and received just over 2,500. The department approved more plans than received. This is the average number of annual plans received. 53% of those plans are what they consider small plans that includes 1 catch base or 1 Special travel design are considered small. Still are seeing around 25-30% that need a correction the first time. Plans are getting better but they are still getting in many plans that need additional review by staff.
- Brad Jensen – 5,132 inspections. School season is just about to wrap up and they try to get all of the schools completed by Labor Day weekend. They are about 1 week out on inspections.

5. Special Business

A. Variance Request, MCES Metro Plant Fourth Incinerator project

- Chair Abrahamson: Turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Erickson, as Chair Abrahamson recused himself from all discussion related to the variance request.
- Bryan Remer, Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) is the senior engineer for the project's stormwater and civil design. The variance request is due to surcharge in the existing storm sewer system. We deepened and expanded the stormwater pond and extended farther upstream to gain additional depth, but site constraints and watershed district requirements prevent fully eliminating the surcharge. As a result, a variance is necessary.
- Westemeier: The main concern is whether the redesigned stormwater system worsens surcharging, particularly with added impervious area from the building expansion. Because the original water-quality elevation isn't clearly known, it's unclear if the new elevation is higher and therefore causing more surcharge, especially since the new 100-year level rises from about 698.16 to 699.37 and appears to push surcharge deeper toward the building.
- The design team examined options such as deepening or enlarging the pond, but groundwater limits, the need for a liner, adjacent utilities, future site plans, and a highly constrained footprint prevent significant changes.
- Westemeier: Although semiannual inspections are required, remain concerned that the new configuration may not improve conditions and may, in fact, increase surcharging into the building.
- Mike Stellmach: The existing storm sewer was already experiencing some surcharge, but with the new water-quality elevation of about 698, the pipes will surcharge back to the building, whose exterior grade is around 697, and without an interior invert it's unclear how far that surcharge reaches. We've explored raising portions of the pipe to get them above 698, but elevation constraints and required slopes make that difficult, as it would leave very shallow cover at the new connections. Groundwater limitations also required a lined pond instead of infiltration, though tying into the existing system and adding an underdrain allowed us to lower

the pond bottom to 694. Even with these adjustments, full elimination of surcharge isn't feasible within the site's elevation limits.

- **A motion was made by Lemke, seconded by Pylkas, to deny SEH's Petition for Variance as presented regarding the water quality level at the MCES Metro Plant Incinerator. The Board suggested going back and looking at the interior piping to find an alternate route for the piping. The vote was: 10 votes in favor of the Motion and 1 abstention (Abrahamson); the motion passed.**

B. Officer nominations and elections

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

a. Chair

- Richard Becker nominated Karl Abrahamson. The vote was unanimous, with 10 in favor and one abstention (Abrahamson); the nomination passed. Abrahamson was re-elected as Chair.

b. Vice-Chair

- Karl Abrahamson nominated Bruce Pylkas for Vice-Chair. The vote was unanimous, with 10 in favor and one abstention (Pylkas); the nomination passed. Bruce Pylkas was elected as Vice-Chair.

c. Secretary

- Richard Becker nominated Jonathan Lemke for Secretary. The vote was 10 in favor and one abstention (Lemke); the nomination passed. Lemke was re-elected as Secretary.

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

6. Committee Reports

[Construction Codes Advisory Council \(CCAC\)](#) – The CCAC last met on Nov. 14, 2025. (Abrahamson – representative | Lemke – alternate). The next meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2026. Contact lyndy.logan@state.mn.us for a copy of meeting materials.

7. Complaints and Correspondence

None

8. Open Forum

None

9. Board Discussion

None

10. Announcements

- A. Next regular quarterly meeting, 9:30 a.m., on the 3rd Tuesday of each quarter, at DLI / WebEx
 - Regular: Oct. 26, 2026
- B. The UPC ad hoc Chapter 15 Rulemaking Committee meeting will be held from 1 to 3 PM, today, in the Minnesota Room.

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Becker, seconded by Erickson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 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.