

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

June 16, 2004
Maricopa Association of Governments Office
Cholla Room
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Lee, Cave Creek	*Unappointed, Mesa
Ken Sowers, Avondale	V - Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley
Phil Marcotte, Buckeye	David Nakagawara, Peoria
Mike Tibbett, Carefree	*Derek Horn, Proxy, Phoenix
A - Alex Banachowski, Chandler	Tim Wegner, Queen Creek
*Jeff Sterling, El Mirage	Larry Francis for Rusty Thompson, Salt
*Unappointed, Fountain Hills	River Pima Indian Community
*Unappointed, Gila Bend	*David Potter, Scottsdale
A - Jo Rene DeVeau, Gila River Indian	Forrest Fielder, Surprise
Community	A - Roger Vermillion Proxy, Tempe
A – Ray Patten, Gilbert	Mario Rochin, Tolleson
Joe Rivera for Deborah Mazoyer Glendale	*Skip Blunt, Wickenburg
Steve Burger, Goodyear	Bob Cooperider, Youngtown
*Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park	Tom Ewers, Maricopa County
	Rus Brock, Home Builders Association

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
A-Those members participating via audioconference
V-Those members participating via videoconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cheryl Levandowski, City of Peoria	Robert Palmer, Southwest Gas
Mark Luther, local chapter of the Wood	John Armstrong, Vanguard Pipe
Truss Council of America	Del Johnson,
Terry Lillard, local chapter of the Wood	Michelle Green, MAG
Truss Council of America	Constance Kish, MAG

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2004

Mario moved to accept the minutes; Ken seconded the motion. Mr. Lee asked if there were any comments prior to taking a vote. There were no comments, a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

4. Call to the Audience

Hearing no comments from the audience, the chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

5. Comments From the Committee

There were no comments from the committee so Mr. Lee moved on to the next agenda item.

6. Wood Truss Council of America

Mark Luther of the local chapter of the Wood Truss Council of America gave a presentation on the relationship between the Manufactured Truss Industry and the International Building Codes. Mr. Luther listed the IBC2003, SEI/ASCE 7 –02, ANSI/TPI 1-2002 as the standards that would be referred to in his presentation. Mr. Luther spoke about specific changes to the codes, for example, the 1.33 increase for wind and seismic design for tooth holding is not allowed anymore. He explained that engineers, who design trusses, missed this change in the code. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Luther discussed five ways in which local Building Officials could assist the truss industry. He listed these as follows:

1. Pressure the ICC to change the code cycle from three years to five or six years.
2. Help interpret the wording in the various codes and standards.
3. Help identify and work to eliminate discrepancies between the codes and standards.
4. Work with the local Wood Truss Council of America (WTCA) chapter in its interaction with local jurisdictions to adopt the same or very similar amendments to the codes.
5. Invite WTCA and other similar organizations to attend open structural committee meetings.

Copies of Mr. Luther's presentation will be available on the MAG website or in hardcopy upon request.

Tim Wegner then asked if it would help if there were a lag time before Councils adopted a Code or Amendment. He indicated that this might allow time for the industry to adjust to any changes.

Mark said that it would be helpful.

Cheryl then asked if it would be safe to say that all trusses would have to be redesigned.

Bob then asked if all wood truss manufacturers are members of the WTCA.

Mark responded by stating that there are 17 members of the local chapter and 20 that are members of the National Chapter, and added that many are not members of either.

Bob then asked if those who were not members would be aware of the changes.

Mark replied that no, they would not.

Bob stated, that engineers should be aware of these changes and help educate others. Bob explained that he believes that there should be continuity from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. He also explained that many jurisdictions did not adopt amendments. The with respect to the fourth item, information should be forwarded to Mike Baker. Bob then indicated that he would forward on the concept of modifying the code cycle to the ICC.

Bob then added that if the WTCA had a proposal that meets the intent of structurally sound and safe buildings that he would be happy to review it and share it for comment and possible action.

He then thanked Mr. Luther for his presentation.

7. PEX Piping Systems & the Arizona Plumbing Code

John Armstrong presented information regarding PEX piping systems. He stated that that he faxed historical information regarding the piping to members of the committee prior to the meeting. He introduced himself as a former plumbing contractor. He then handed out additional information and provided contact information for himself. Mr. Armstrong's contact information is as follows: e-mail john@bobiersales.com; cell phone # 602-339-1111.

Mr. Armstrong stated that he would continue to contact the committee with additional information as necessary and then asked if there were any questions.

Cheryl then asked for information regarding the meter from the supply to the house.

Mr. Armstrong replied that they use something called a Brusor and is ½ the cost of copper.

Forrest then asked about efforts to train contractors in the field.

John responded, stating that the company will go to the jobsite to first formulate a materials list. Then, he added that they go to the site again and show contractors how to properly install the product for the first home they build. Mr. Armstrong said that the training the company provides is very comprehensive, he added that the company also shows contractors shortcuts that they can use in the installation, without compromising the functionality of the piping.

Steve Burger then asked if this is the same product as before that contained polybutalene.

John responded by stating that they now use a different chemical and that the crimp connection makes people think that it is the old product but it is not. John added that there are different ways of making it but the company has third party testing to assist in assuring the product is good, and he said, it meets the standards.

Bob Lee then asked if any jurisdiction does not allow the use of this piping.

The City of Chandler is the only city that does not allow it. Mr. Banachowski clarified that by stating that they do allow it; however, the Planning and Zoning Commission adds stipulations that copper pipe must be used.

Roger Vermillion asked about the risk of failure with the fittings and asked what the difference is between the old product and the new.

Mr. Armstrong replied that there were issues when piping would burst above a certain size, and some of the steel and aluminum rings failed (perhaps due to high chlorine levels) Now, he explained, the product does not contain polybutalene and they have new tools with a gauge to test the first and last joint of the day.

8. Natural Gas Safety Products

Mr. Johnson explained that he is here for information purposes only. He further explained that this is not a code issue that it is in fact a safety issue. The purpose of the presentation is to present a Brass Fitting for review. The purpose of the brass fitting is to keep gas from leaking from an appliance. Moving appliances in a variety of ways is responsible for at least 80% of incidents. The brass fitting, he explained, acts as a circuit breaker for gas, cutting off the supply if it senses a change in pressure. Mr. Johnson continued by explaining that it is not a ball and spring system and that Pressure equalization will make it work again if it shuts down.

Bob then added that a contractor faxed him an article about fires caused by lightning. He noted that an Arc in gas piping will follow the piping and potentially cause a fire to be more damaging.

Mr. Johnson added that 20 million of these have been installed to date, noting that it is a small price to pay for the benefit received. For more information, Mr. Johnson provided a website address as follows: brasscraft.com.

9. Valuation For The Purposes Of Setting Fees

Michelle said that she would work with Forrest and Steve on this. As a first step, she would prepare a memo to present to the Intergovernmental Representatives to get feedback on the value of continuing this project. Ken Sowers asked if it would be possible to get a copy of what will be submitted to the Intergovs.

Michelle said yes she can run it by the committee first.

9B. Adobe Code Amendments

Mr. Lee wondered if this updated and included in our standards. It was determined that this issue may be in the code already, in any event, it will be addressed when we do our Building Codes Compilation and Web Addition project.

10. Report From BI/PE Forum

Cheryl Levandowski of the City of Peoria and Chairperson of the Forum provided an update on the activities of the committee. She explained that the minutes from the last meeting were circulated to the Committee and were available to anyone who would like to make such a request. Cheryl reported that there was a seminar on ADA. Cheryl explained that this seminar confirmed the fact that truncated domes are required.

Tim then asked for confirmation that this requirement applies to public right-of-ways but not to private parking lots.

Steve Burger explained that 2 feet is public right-of-way and that he sent a memo to enforce truncated domes allowing 2' wide strip at the bottom.

Tim asked for further clarification as to what Mr. Burger considers public right-of-way.

Ray added that the ADA is more concerned with hazardous vehicular ways, so, in his interpretation it does apply on-site.

Cheryl added that the Forum agreed with this interpretation.

Bob then referred to the forums finding on toilet paper dispensers. He explained that the code defines encroachment as obstruction and that he disagrees with the Forums finding on that issue. This seemed to be the consensus of the committee.

11. Water Heater Permits

David reported that a draft brochure for education of the permit process is being prepared. He then indicated that he would bring it back at the next committee meeting for review and comment.

12. Update On The State Plumbing Code Commission

Mr. Burger stated that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for June 17, 2004. He urged anyone with the time to come and participate in or observe the meeting, as it is very interesting.

13. MAG Work Program FY 2004/2005

Michelle explained that the project is working its way through the approval process and should be approved in July.

Tim Wegner thanked Michelle for her work on this project.

14. Update Survey Code Adoption

It was reported that the Phoenix City Council would consider pursuing the NFPA 5000 code or the international Code at their meeting today.

A rumor that the International set of codes would pass was discussed. This appears to be the most likely option.

15. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

Bob Lee noted a change for Ken Sowers. An updated roster will be circulated next month.

16. Topics For Future Agendas

No topics were discussed at this meeting.

17. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on August 18, 2004 at 2 pm in the Cholla Room. The July meeting was cancelled because of a conflict with the AZBO Annual General Meeting. Bob Lee made the motion to adjourn, Ken seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.