

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

January 19, 2011

Maricopa Association of Governments Office  
Cholla Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steven Hether, Mesa, Chair

Ken Sowers, Avondale

Phil Marcotte, Buckeye

\*Mike Tibbett, Carefree

Mike Baxley, Cave Creek

A-Mike DeWys for Martin Perez, Chandler

Mary Dickson, El Mirage

\*Peter Johnson, Fountain Hills

\*John Smith, Gila Bend

\*Jo Rene DeVeau, Gila River Indian  
Community

A-Ray Patten, Gilbert

Tom Paradise, Glendale

\*Ed Kulik, Goodyear

\*Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park

Tom Ewers, Maricopa County

Bob Lee, Paradise Valley

A-Dennis Marks, Peoria

Tom Wandrie, Phoenix

A-Dean Wise, Queen Creek

Michael Clack, Scottsdale

A-Michael Williams, Tempe

Mario Rochin, Tolleson

\*Rick DeStefano, Wickenburg

Bridget Jones, Home Builders Association

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Heidi Bickart, MAG

Steve Gross, MAG

Marc Sobelman, Ecotality

Denise McClafferty, MAG

Ken Kirschmann, Southwest Gas

Julie Belyeu, Phoenix

Dustin Schroff, Scottsdale

\*Those members neither present nor  
represented by proxy.

A-Those members participating via  
audioconference

V-Those members participating via  
videoconference

1. Call to Order

Steve Hether, Chairman, called to order the January 19, 2011 meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee (BCC) at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Voting members Michael Williams, Ray Patten, Dennis Marks, Dean Williams and proxy Mike DeWys attended via telephone conference call. All members introduced themselves.

3. September 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Mario Rochin, seconded by Tom Ewers and unanimously recommended to approve the September 15, 2010 meeting minutes.

4. Call to the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

5. Comments From the Committee

Tom Wandrie announced that there will be some technical code training sponsored by Arizona Building Officials (AZBO), and held at the City of Phoenix. He said the topic is 2009 International Building Code (IBC) changes. He said this training is being conducted by AON. Tom Wandrie distributed a flier. He said training is free if you are an AZBO member. He said more information is available on the AZBO web site.

Steve Hether asked how many communities put their quarter section maps (showing water line and sewer lines) online. Mr. Hether said that he knows that Scottsdale does. Tom Ewers said Maricopa County assessor's web site has data.

6. AZBO Amendments

Bob Lee said MAG has traditionally asked AZBO to review the new ICC codes and propose any changes to them that may be applicable to the Arizona desert environment. He announced that over the years the AZBO amendment package has decreased in size. He announced that the AZBO amendment package was included as Attachment One in the agenda packet.

Ken Sowers stated that the AZBO amendments used to be referred to as the MAG amendments and this is no longer permissible. Mr. Sowers said that he brings the AZBO amendments forward to the Avondale city council as Avondale amendments, recognizing the support of the amendments from the MAG BCC.

The committee discussed how to phrase the motion.

Tom Paradise asked if the MAG BCC could discuss the details of the AZBO amendments and suggest certain changes to the amendments. Bob Lee responded that anytime a motion is before the MAG BCC it can be discussed. He said it is best to attend the monthly AZBO Code Review

and Development Committee meetings to voice concerns on the AZBO amendments. He invited City of Glendale to attend the AZBO meetings in the future.

Tom Paradise said City of Glendale uses the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) for residential and commercial applications and could not support the AZBO amendments as written because they pertain to the International Plumbing Code (IPC).

Tom Ewers said that the purpose of MAG BCC recommending the use of the AZBO amendments is to encourage uniformity among all jurisdictions understanding that each jurisdiction will make changes to the AZBO amendments to best meet their jurisdictional needs. Ken Sowers provided an Avondale specific example on assisted living, where the AZBO amendments for Avondale needed to be changed. Bob Lee said Avondale received an interpretation from the State Attorney General on the assisted living issue. Ken Sowers said that as a result of a lawsuit there is an interpretation from the State Attorney General. Tom Wandrie asked for a copy of the Attorney General decision. Ken Sowers said he would provide that to Heidi Bickart to send to the full committee. Steve Hether reported that this would be helpful for each jurisdiction to have their municipal attorney review.

Tom Ewers said Maricopa County adopted the AZBO amendments and the 2009 ICC codes and Phoenix electrical documents as written.

Bob Lee said he sits on the AZBO Code Review and Development Committee. Mr. Lee said in the past AZBO included the Phoenix electrical documents but since there was not representation from staff on the Phoenix electrical documents, they have not been included in this set of AZBO amendments. Tom Wandrie asked why the MAG BCC does not discuss the AZBO amendments, and asked why AZBO is the forum for discussing the AZBO amendments. Bob Lee replied that about 11 years ago, the process was in place for AZBO to review the documents, rather than the MAG BCC, mostly because the AZBO Code Review and Development Committee meets monthly for 4-5 hours and can devote more time and effort to the topic. Tom Wandrie said it is hard for Phoenix to participate in the AZBO meetings as they are not pursuing the new code. Tom Wandrie said it is very difficult to have staff attend AZBO meetings due to staff restraints in the economic downturn. Steve Hether mentioned that the BI/PE Forum could be an avenue for discussing the AZBO amendments. Ken Sowers said he thinks the fact that AZBO is statewide and has been doing this process for years, that they are the best suited to review and create the AZBO amendments package. Ken Sowers said he uses the Phoenix electrical amendments. Bob Lee noted that AZBO officials attend the ICC code hearings with the intent of trying to get the AZBO amendments included in the next addition of the ICC family of codes. Mr. Lee said that he is open to the idea of having MAG BCC or the BI/PE Forum become more involved in the review of these amendments but thinks it will be a cumbersome and lengthy process.

Ken Sowers said the AZBO amendments are a guideline for jurisdictions to use. Tom Ewers said most of these amendments are from the last couple code cycles. Steve Hether said promoting uniformity throughout the MAG jurisdictions is the goal.

Bob Lee made a motion to recommend that MAG member agencies consider adopting the Arizona Building Officials (AZBO) Code Review & Development Committee amendments to the 2009 International Code Council (ICC) codes as included in Attachment One of the agenda packet. Tom Ewers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Electric Vehicle (EV) Project

Marc Sobelman provided an update on the EV Micro-Climate for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Location Planning. He said they are finishing the microclimate planning process. He noted they are working on closing agreements for locations of EV chargers. He mentioned that cities are working with Ecotality to craft agreements. He said that some jurisdictions (Phoenix, Scottsdale, Maricopa County) have formed internal work groups to help Ecotality staff with the EV project tasks.

Marc Sobelman said that DOE mandated that each install cost a certain dollar amount and has presented some constraints working with cities and towns. He mentioned public locations include city halls, libraries, etc.

Marc Sobelman said there is a delay in Nissan production. He said Nissan Leafs are rolling out and there are 5 in the valley. He noted that this delay has allowed them to get UL certified with wall mounts. He mentioned that pedestals will begin to roll-out at the end of this quarter.

He thanked jurisdictions for their help.

He said the next step is to get the permit process going.

Bob Lee said Paradise Valley has some custom home builders that have decided to include a charging station in each home so it is not an after-market install. Marc Sobelman replied that that is really good news.

Tom Paradise asked when the Nissan Leaf's would roll out. Marc Sobelman replied that Nissan Leafs will roll out slowly, the EV project hand raisers will be taken care of first and they get a free wall mount in the home. He said as pedestal mounts get UL certified they will be installed.

Marc Sobelman said the Chevy Volt is ahead of schedule and they are expected to put cars into the market the end of second quarter. Tom Paradise asked if the Ecotality chargers are only for the Nissan Leaf. Marc Sobelman said that anybody can charge at any station as all chargers and cars are standardized.

Ecotality is tied into the Leaf via the EV project and all cars can charge at all charger locations. Standardized which is great.

Marc Sobelman said he is working with Gila River Indian Community however Ecotality cannot put charging stations at casinos.

Bridget Jones asked if there are costs associated with charging stations. Marc Sobelman replied yes, and Ecotality wants to ensure that every host gets charged back for all electricity used at their site. Ecotality will pay the host back for the electricity used. Marc Sobelman said a card can be purchased to use to fuel their EV.

Marc Sobelman said that APS said a full 8 hour charge at peak time would cost \$2 to \$2.50. He said Level 2 chargers will be about .75 cents to \$1.50. It will be about 130 miles on a full charge for the Nissan Leaf. The DC fast chargers have a different cost.

9. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

Members were encouraged to send any changes to Heidi Bickart.

Steve Hether asked that Julie Belyeu from City of Phoenix be added to the list and Tom Wandrie be deleted from the list.

10. Update on Survey of Code Adoption Document

Steve Hether encouraged members to send Heidi Bickart changes to the table.

Steve Hether said that Mesa has decided to go with the 2006 energy code.

Ken Sowers announced that he has already submitted a packet to his Council for adoption Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. He said it includes all the 2009 codes and 2008 NEC, with an effective date of July 1, 2011.

11. Topics for Future Agendas

Tom Paradise asked if AZBO amendment process should be discussed. Steve Hether said yes it could be a future agenda item. Bob Lee will share information on who sits on AZBO committee. Bruce Dimig is current chair and email distribution list is about 100 people with 12-20 people attending each meeting. Steve Hether said the MAG BCC will ask Bruce Dimig to discuss at a future meeting.

12. Adjournment

Michael Clack made motion to adjourn and Mario Rochin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.