

DRAFT  
MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

September 15, 2004  
Maricopa Association of Governments Office  
Cholla Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Lee, Cave Creek	*Unappointed, Mesa
Ken Sowers, Avondale	Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley
Phil Marcotte, Buckeye	Cheryl Levandowski for David
*Mike Tibbett, Carefree	Nakagawara, Peoria
A - Alex Banachowski, Chandler	*Derek Horn, Proxy, Phoenix
*Jeff Sterling, El Mirage	Tim Wegner, Queen Creek
*Unappointed, Fountain Hills	Larry Francis, Salt River Pima Indian
Lynn Farmer, Gila Bend	Community
*Jo Rene DeVeau, Gila River Indian	*David Potter, Scottsdale
Community	Forrest Fielder, Surprise
A – Ben Cox for Ray Patten, Gilbert	A - Roger Vermillion Proxy, Tempe
Joe Rivera for Deborah Mazoyer,	Mario Rochin, Tolleson
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

Fran Smith, Southwest Gas	Gordon Medill, Rinnai (Arizona)
Robert Palmer, Southwest Gas	Michelle Green, MAG
Robert Miedema, Rinnai (Southwest	Constance Kish, MAG
Region)	

1.

## Call to Order

The meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee was called to order by the Chairperson, Bob Lee, Cave Creek, at 2:00 p.m.

### 2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

### 3. August 18, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Tom Ewers moved to accept the minutes; Mario 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

This agenda item was taken out of order; it was originally agenda item # 8.

Fran Smith of Southwest Gas introduced Robert Miedema and Gordon Medill of the Rinnai Corporation, to address the committee on tankless water heaters.

Mr. Gordon Medill said that the Rinnai Corporation came to the US five years ago. Mr. Medill said that frankly the Corporation was hesitant to come to the US because they are based in Japan and members of their family were killed by the US when one of their plants was hit in a bombing.

Mr. Miedema then moved on to a more technical discussion of the heaters and handed out a packet of information about tankless water heaters and the Rinnai Corporation.

Mr. Miedema noted that gas pipe sizing is critical to the proper operation of these units.

He added that there are several remote control options.

He then explained how the output temperatures are adjusted for appliances in different areas of the home, such as the kitchen and bathrooms.

He also noted that a central location of the appliance is important—the closer to the source, the quicker the hot water will reach its destination. He added that it does take a couple of seconds longer to get hot water so the closer you locate the unit to the source the quicker you get hot water.

Certification of installation he added is required.

Mr. Miedema indicated that there are both external and internal mounts. Instructions that come with the unit show clearances required although local codes prevail, but

because there is no venting on the external version it is important to follow the guidelines in the installation manual.

He then explained that interior units use concentric venting that can go behind stairwells and exhaust to the outside. Mr. Miedema added that concentric venting limits the length of pipe you can use for venting.

Mr. Miedema noted that the company is currently in the process of developing a heating system for pools.

He then explained that Pressure relief valves for the water are necessary.

Lime and scaling are an issue; however these systems can be flushed with a vinegar and water solution every 3-5 years typically; however, it varies according to conditions, not usually longer than six years it depends on the water. The Rinnai unit will tell you when this condition exists.

Steve Burger asked if it is possible to use multiple systems at one time?

Gordon Medill responded by saying yes.

Bob Lee then asked if these heaters are addressed in the code?

Mr Medill responded by saying yes they are under Continuous flow on demand water heaters. He also added that they are CSA – AGA approved.

Bob then asked if they available using other energy sources.

Gordon replied by saying yes, but they are not as efficient.

Bob then asked the committee if any member have seen these in their jurisdiction.

Gordon responded by stating that you will find them mostly in the custom home, multi-family, remodel markets.

Tim Wegner asked if there are any issues that they might be dealing with -- for example, he asked, are there heat issues if it is located on the exterior?

Gordon replied by stating that the units are set in the wall—the unit is serviceable by removing the front panel.

It was noted by Mr. Medill that they work with several builders and his understanding is that Syntex homes are going strictly tankless.

Tim then asked if there is a leak, where does the water go?

Mr. Medill responded by stating that excessive pressure rupture can happen and that he would not recommend installation in areas that would cause serious problems.

#### 5. Comments From the Committee

Bob Lee noted that the 2005 NEC is available today.

Rus Brock stated that Phoenix is likely to go to the 2005 version.

Mr. Lee announced that the International Accreditation Service is a Competitor to ISO.

Tom added that you need to go up three classes and the insurance company would need to subscribe to the organization in order to get lower insurance rates.

Forrest then added that the IAS benefits are that it was designed as an evaluative tool and should be more useful than ISO was ever intended to be.

Bob noted the headline “New Florida Codes Bring Mixed Success” he then explained that the Codes were changed and a building designed as a shelter for hurricanes at 140 mph, collapsed under 100-110 mph winds. He then added that Schools are designed for 138 mph winds.

#### 6. High Pot Testing

Mario Rochin provided material to the committee.

He then explained that the purpose of the testing is to examine equipment for safety to make sure there are no alterations or damage that will result in an accidental explosion. He then added that it is not a requirement of the code but it is something that can be done.

Cheryl Levandowski then recited 1999 wording indicating that 1,000 amps have been required since the early 1970s.

Forrest then asked if this came from an amendment to the code. He also asked if there was a need to go back and amend the code again. He also asked if it was a specific requirement in the code.

Cheryl replied by stating that she would bring it up at the next Building Inspectors/Plans Examiners meeting

Mario added that there is no code site for the electrical he explained that it is in the administrative section of the code.

Cheryl added that she will check on that also.

7. Mutual Aid Agreements

Tom Ewers reported that the agreements that were signed in October 1994 and 1995 are due to expire. Mr. Ewers explained that 13 communities signed those agreements. He added that anyone interested in more information should call Warren Leek (602) 273-1411. He then added that the Agreements were signed as counterparts so additional people can sign on if they are interested.

8. Tankless Gas Water Heaters

This agenda item was taken out of order and heard under the Call to the Audience.

9. Water Heater Permits

David Nakagawara was represented by Cheryl Levandowski. She indicated that David would update the Committee at the next meeting.

Larry asked for a copy of David's information. Cheryl responded by stating that she could send it to him.

10. Valuation for the Purposes of Setting Fees

Michelle apologized to Forrest for not having a memo ready for review. She said that she would work on it this month let him review it and then hopefully it will be circulated to the Intergovernmental Representatives for their review and indication of support for the concept.

11. Update on the State Plumbing Commission

No response from the representative that represents the central Arizona jurisdictions, but Terry Vossler usually provides information.

15. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

Changes were noted and an updated roster will be circulated next month.

16. Update Survey of Code Adoption

Bob Lee announced that he and Constance would work together to make sure that the information provided is correct and up-to-date.

17. Topics for Future Agendas

There were no topics noted other than the Papercrete presentation that is expected in January.

18. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2004 at 2 pm in the Cholla Room. Bob Lee made the motion to adjourn, Ken seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 pm.