

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

July 20, 2005

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
Cholla Room
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Lee, Cave Creek, Chairperson

*Dennis Dixon, Apache Junction

Ken Sowers, Avondale

*Phil Marcotte, Buckeye

Mike Tibbett, Carefree

*Alex Banachowski, Chandler

Art Swanson, El Mirage

*Peter Johnson, Fountain Hills

*John Smith, Gila Bend

A - Jo Rene DeVeau, Gila River Indian
Community

A - Ray Patten, Gilbert

Jim Fox for Deborah Mazoyer, Glendale

Steve Burger, Goodyear

*Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park

Tom Ewers, Maricopa County

*Brian Goble, Mesa

*Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley

David Nakagawara, Peoria

Tom Wandrie, Phoenix

Dennis Street for Tim Wegner, Queen
Creek

*Larry Francis, Salt River Pima Indian
Community

Michael Clack, Scottsdale

Forrest Fielder, Surprise

A - Michael Williams, Tempe

Mario Rochin, Tolleson

A - Lyle Murdock, Wickenburg

Bob Cooperider, Youngtown

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

Lanny M^cMahill, City of Phoenix

Jay Mundy, City of Phoenix

Pat Meisenbach, Medical Gas

Brian Bernett, Medical Gas

Bart Atwater, Clinical Air Systems

Michelle Green, MAG

Steve Gross, MAG

Harry Wolfe, MAG

1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Bob Lee, Town of Cave Creek, called the meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee to order, at 2:02 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. June 22nd 2005 Meeting Minutes

Ken Sowers made a motion to accept the minutes; Mario Rochin seconded the motion. The chairperson asked if there was any discussion on the minutes, hearing none, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Tom Wandrie requested that agenda item # 10 SES Installation Practices be moved forward on the agenda because the person available to provide information on the topic would not be available later in the meeting. The chairperson agreed to move the agenda item forward following agenda item #6. Agenda items are recorded in the same order as the agenda even though item # 10 was heard following item # 6.

4. Call to the Audience

No members of the audience asked to comment.

5. Comments From the Committee

Art Swanson asked committee members if they received a barrage of faxes concerning air admittance valves, and if so, had anyone approve their use. Committee members responded that they had also received faxes on the subject.

Steve Burger reminded everyone of the Fall Education Institute on October 31, 2005. Mr. Burger added that the Institute would be held at the Holiday Inn in Tucson this year. He explained that there would be many interesting topics, including the administration of building departments, making the \$85 fee worthwhile.

6. Papercrete, Using Paper to Create Building Blocks For Residential Construction

Bob Lee introduced Barry J. Fuller, founder of the nonprofit Center for Alternative Building Studies, to present the concept of using Papercrete as an alternative building material for residential construction. Mr. Fuller began his presentation with a short video that described the concept of creating building blocks from waste paper combined with five binders: fly ash, glass, Portland cement, sand and dirt. He noted that committee members could obtain a copy of the video by contacting him via e-mail at barry_fuller@yahoo.com.

Mr. Fuller explained that he has a research grant for papercrete and that there are no standard specifications for mixing and building with it. It is based on experimentation and testing.

Bob Lee asked what the load or carrying capacity of the material is.

Mr. Fuller replied that it was 1,800 lbs.

Michael Clack asked about the homogeneity of the mix.

Mr. Fuller responded that the homogeneity tracks with the amount of each binder that is added.

Forrest Fielder asked if the building materials are mixed on site or if they are created in a plant and then transported.

Mr. Fuller explained that the building materials are currently mixed on-site, adding that in the future it is possible that they could be mixed at a plant and then be transported to a development site.

The question of who held the patent was raised, and Mr. Fuller replied that the patent is in the public domain.

Mr. Lee asked what kind of testing had been done on the material.

Mr. Fuller stated that the Department of Civil Engineering at Arizona State University assisted in the project by performing structural testing.

Mr. Lee asked if the building blocks are supporting walls or interior walls.

Mr. Fuller explained that the blocks are supported by # 4 rebar, which is driven into the walls allowing them to be structurally sound building blocks for residential use.

Bob Lee asked Mr. Fuller if he intended to build homes with this material.

Mr. Fuller said that was his intention once more testing could be done. Mr. Fuller continued by explaining that he sees this as a potential solution to affordable housing.

7. Soils/Compaction Reports

The chair introduced Michael Tibbett and asked him to read a resolution he prepared regarding pad certification for built-up pads with the intention that the committee would discuss the resolution and vote on it at the next meeting.

Mr. Tibbett read the following resolution: All foundation footings are to be a minimum of 18 inches into undisturbed soil or as directed by an Arizona licensed soils engineer. Test reports and pad certification shall be submitted to the jurisdiction prior to footing inspection.

The chairperson asked if there were any comments on the motion.

Forrest Fielder asked if a resolution is preferable to an amendment.

Bob Lee noted that, it is already in the code some way if you read R.10-4.4.

Mike Tibbett added that the resolution applies to built up pads and soil that has been disturbed.

Bob Lee suggested that Mike Tibbett revise the resolution based on comments received at the meeting and bring the revised resolution back to the committee for consideration again.

Michael Clack asked what the committee is looking for, compaction of the soils?

Mike Tibbett responded by stating that they need to know and a soils compaction report is inadequate.

The chairperson then noted that this would return as an agenda item for a possible vote in August or September.

8. Medical Gas

Jay Mundy of the City of Phoenix was introduced to discuss the topic of Medical Gas and potential issues one might encounter with the various codes.

Mr. Mundy explained that the issue with Medical Gas facilities is that they require certification by certain bodies, and the State Plumbing Code (1994 UPC) is not sufficient to address current standards and practices. Some certifying bodies, he explained, rely on the most recent edition of the code to set their certification standards.

Mr. Mundy explained that there are few, approximately five, inspectors in the State able to certify medical gas equipment.

Mr. Mundy noted that, under state law, it is not possible to amend Appendix F of the State Plumbing Code (1994 UPC), so the City of Phoenix developed written policies and procedures to address medical gas using the modification approach.

Mr. Mundy then passed out copies of the City of Phoenix policies and procedures for the design and inspection of medical gas equipment as a guide for anyone who may be dealing with this issue.

Mr. Mundy noted that some of the inspections require constant supervision because once the equipment is assembled it is not possible to tell if the components were installed correctly.

Bob Lee clarified that this method does not change the code.

Jay Mundy verified the fact that no code language was changed and added that they allowed people to design to a standard that would enable them to achieve certification. Mr. Mundy also noted that the 1996 State Plumbing Code does not address dry systems, which was the main reason the 1996 code was not adopted by the State Plumbing Code Commission.

Forrest Fielder noted that he is deeply involved in this issue and is currently dealing with two dental offices.

Steve Burger then asked if Mr. Mundy is planning to take the 2005 code to the Plumbing Commission.

Mr. Mundy replied that he has resigned from the State Plumbing Code Commission.

Jay Mundy then passed out information regarding the 6" rainfall intensity standard that was discussed at the meeting last month.

The chairperson thanked Mr. Mundy for the information and noted that the issue would be discussed at the next meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee.

9. Building Codes Compilation and Web Addition Project

Staff noted that the project is nearly complete and that there will be one more attempt to find the missing minutes for August 1994; September 1994 and November 1995 before moving forward and placing the document on the website. Staff explained that the items marked for possible update are going to be brought before the committee for review based on the direction of the Chairperson. Staff asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

10. SES Installation Practices

The Chairperson noted that Mike Baker is going to present a code change proposal to the AZBO Code Review and Development Committee. The chairperson introduced Lanny M^cMahill of the City of Phoenix who had some comments and questions for the committee.

Mr. M^cMahill explained that he has not been directly involved in the process that resulted in an AZBO code change request by Mike Baker and that he did not understand the process moving forward. Mr. M^cMahill stated that he could not technically support what he saw on paper, noting that many of the items noted are already in the code.

The AZBO code change process was explained to Mr. M^cMahill, noting that amendments have been recognized as Arizona-only amendments. The explanation concluded with the fact that AZBO would be reviewing the proposed amendment at their August meeting.

Mr. M^cMahill then added that he would like to remain neutral; however, he is looking for something more stringent than the code.

Bob then suggested that everyone could work together to come up with a reasonable solution.

Mr. M^cMahill said that his suggestion is to use the alternative methods and materials section of the code to come up with something that is stronger than the existing code language.

Forrest Fielder then asked if the City of Phoenix has made a decision on the issue.

Tom Wandrie noted that Phoenix staff is still waiting for the homebuilders to present their case.

Ken Sowers asked if the City had a timeline in mind, referring to the resolution the committee passed with a deadline of December.

Rus Brock explained that City staff asked him to have something to them by July 1, 2005. Mr. Brock added that they have had discussions and that a draft was submitted, it is being revised and will be resubmitted soon.

Steve Burger asked Mr. M^cMahill if they are allowing current practice to continue.

Mr. M^cMahill responded by stating that he could not say that it is unsafe, but it is definitely not code compliant.

11. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

No updates were provided.

12. Update Survey of Code Adoption

No updates were provided

13. Topics for Future Agendas

In August, there will be a presentation about fiber-reinforced swimming pools as opposed to reinforcing bars. Rainfall intensity will be back on the agenda as will the issue of soils/compaction reports. Sediment Traps and Drip legs.

15. Adjournment

Mario Rochin made the motion to adjourn, Tom Ewers seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on August 17, 2005 at 2 pm in the Cholla Room.