

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

November 19, 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

A - Alex Banachowski, Chandler

Art Swanson, El Mirage

*Peter Johnson, Fountain Hills

*John Smith, Gila Bend

*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

George Ritchie for Tom Wandrie, Phoenix

Tim Wegner, Queen Creek

Larry Francis, Salt River Pima Indian
Community

*Michael Clack, Scottsdale

Forrest Fielder, Surprise

A - Michael Williams, Tempe

*Mario Rochin, Tolleson

*Lyle Murdock, Wickenburg

Bob Cooperider, Youngtown

Rachel Aja for Rus Brock, Home Builders
Association

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Charlie Gohman, Federal Energy Office

Robert Palmer, Southwest Gas

Fran Smith, Southwest Gas

Steve Gross, MAG

Harry Wolfe, MAG

Heidi Pahl, MAG

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

A-Those members participating via audioconference

V-Those members participating via videoconference

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. October 19, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Bob Lee asked if there were any comments on the minutes. Ken Sowers noted that the word “the” on the third page, third paragraph, first sentence, should be deleted. It was moved by Ken Sowers, seconded by Art Swanson and unanimously recommended to approve the October 19, 2005 meeting minutes as amended.

4. Call to the Audience

No comments were made by the audience.

5. Comments From the Committee

Bob Lee reported that Mr. Goodhue sent out the IRC interpretation question and he received feedback from Building Codes Committee (BCC) members. He asked that BPE address 311.4.3. He mentioned that there is a question as to whether a no step entry is required. Queen Creek, Avondale and Phoenix are interpreting that a no-step entry is required.

Bob Lee said that he is the only building code official on the ICC code technology task force. He mentioned that he talked about the climbable guard at the ICC code technology task force because industry realizes they need to do something about it.

Bob Lee mentioned that at the October meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee (BCC), a representative from Southwest Gas asked a question about water heater installation charges in the city of Phoenix. He noted that the question was resolved and Southwest Gas notified its members.

Bob Lee said that he has been Chair of the MAG BCC for four years and he would like to encourage other BCC members to step forward to fill the chairmanship role.

Tim Wegner asked if the Home Depot issue regarding the collection of permit fees was resolved. David Nakagawara said that the issue of big box stores collecting fees has been resolved. The big box store has a list of contractors available and it is up to the contractor to get the permit and give the money to the city. Mr. Wegner mentioned that he did not have that understanding when speaking with staff at the Queen Creek Home Depot.

Art Swanson complimented AZBO Educational Institute staff for an excellent session in Tucson. Bob Lee noted that staff have benefited from attending the AZBO seminars.

6. Federal Energy Policy

Charlie Gohman, Manager, Building Science and Efficiency Energy Office, for the Arizona Department of Commerce, said that his presentation is about Federal Energy Policy. Bob Lee announced that the presentation is available on the MAG Web site for those attending via audio conference. Mr. Gohman gave a presentation.

Art Swanson asked what the cut off is for low-income housing. Mr. Gohman replied 150% of poverty but noted that it depends on family size. He added that this applies for both fuel assistance and the low-income programs. Bob Lee noted that changes at the federal level might increase the number of building permits issued in the future. Mr. Lee thanked Charlie Gohman for his informative presentation.

7. Service Entry Section Installation Practices

Bob Lee announced that all committee members were e-mailed the Service Entry Sections (SES) resolution with Exhibit A. He asked if there was any discussion needed on the proposed resolution recognizing the current installation practice in regards to Service Entry Sections. Jim Fox said that after talking with his staff in Glendale he would propose one change to Exhibit A. After discussion about 600 amps in 1-2 family dwelling units, Mr. Fox agreed to e-mail MAG staff his proposed changes to Exhibit A. Mr. Ewers moved that the MAG BCC adopt the SES resolution with Exhibit A and Mr. Burger seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. The vote passed unanimously.

Art Swanson asked if city of Phoenix has approved the SES resolution with Exhibit A. George Ritchie responded yes, it was approved by the Phoenix Development Advisory Board without Mr. Burgers amendment, so Phoenix will make that amendment and add it to the Phoenix NEC. Mr. Fielder asked why Exhibit A was limited to one and two family dwelling units. George Ritchie replied that Rus Brock of the HBA, brought this issue forward and he is only concerned with one and two family dwelling units.

8. Pad Certification

Bob Lee tabled this agenda item to the next meeting since Mike Tibbett was not in attendance.

9. Water Heaters

Bob Lee explained that after July 2004, all the water heater manufacturers create water heaters with a sealed combustion chamber so that there is less potential for creating a fire. The BCC agreed that a water heater with a sealed combustion chamber would not need to be elevated 18” above the garage floor. Mr. Wegner asked if the committee discussed the potential of combustion with the water heater and a car in the garage. Mr. Burger said yes the committee considered it and agreed that it was safe not to elevate the water heater 18” above the garage floor.

10. Storage Space Lighting

Steve Burger said that a homeowner in Goodyear had an inquiry about lighting under stairs in his home. Mr. Burger said that Goodyear does not require a light in the storage space under the stairs of a foyer, unless it is being used. Bob Lee asked if a stair is considered a floor, since the code requires a light under a floor. Larry Francis said that Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community does not require a light in storage spaces under stairs. George

Ritchie asked if there was any way that this issue could be determined by the builders and engineers, allowing them to make the decision, and not have a code for it. Bob Lee responded that BCC could overlook this issue. Mr. Burger said that the RPR committee has this issue on their January 2006 agenda and whatever they decide could be adopted by BCC. Bob Lee thought that was a good idea and asked that the storage space lighting be on the February MAG BCC agenda as an action item.

11. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

Phil Marcotte said his e-mail address was .gov not .org.

12. Update Survey of Code Adoption

Larry Francis said that Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community now uses the 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code. Art Swanson reported that El Mirage now uses the 2003 International Fire Code.

13. Topics for Future Agendas

Topics identified for future agendas included: Mike Tibbett resolution on Pad Certification, and lights under stairs issue.

Bob Lee noted that because the regular meeting time of the Building Codes Committee is the third week of each month, the standard December meeting was being changed to avoid conflicts with the holidays. The next meeting will be held December 7, 2005.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.