

STATE OF OREGON
Department of Consumer and Business Services
Building Codes Division

TRI-COUNTY BUILDING INDUSTRY SERVICE BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Dieter, Chair
Jim Chapman (arrived at 9:40)
Jim Ferris
Jeffery Grunewald
Ray Kerridge
John Leeper
Linda Lindsten
Ronald Murray
Forrest Soth
Rob Yorke

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Cliburn

STAFF PRESENT: Maureen Pointer, Tri-County Board Coordinator/Recorder
Tom Phillips, Acting Manager Field Operations/Building Officials

GUESTS PRESENT: John Stelzenmueller, City of Tualatin
Bob Moore, City of Gresham
Dennis Carney, City of Forest Grove
Jim Muir, Washington County and OBOA Legislative Committee
Scott Caufield, Clackamas County
John Wheeler, City of Happy Valley
John Lape, Architect

I BOARD BUSINESS

I.A Call to Order

Chairman Terry Dieter called the Tri-County Building Industry Service Board to order at 9:35 a.m. The meeting was held at the NECA, 601 NE Everett, Portland, OR.

I.B Roll Call

Michael Cliburn, excused.

I.C Approval of Agenda and Order of Business

MOTION by Forrest Soth to approve the agenda. Chairman Dieter noted item III.E had been withdrawn at Cleve Joiner's request.

Chairman Dieter **RULED** the agenda approved as modified.

I.D Approval of the February 12, 2003, Minutes

MOTION by Forrest Soth to approve the minutes.

Chairman Dieter **RULED** the minutes approved as submitted.

I.E Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

June 11, 2003

9:30 a.m.

NECA, 601 NE Everett, Portland, OR.

Jim Chapman arrived at 9:40 a.m.

I.F Recognition of John Lape's Outstanding Service to the Board

Deferred until John Lape's arrival at 10:40.

Tom Phillips recognized John's outstanding service to the board, noting his professionalism, high standards as an architect and an individual, willingness to serve the state in a selfless manner, and his ability to share a point of view which helped make the Tri-County projects successful. On behalf of the division and the governor of the State of Oregon, Mr. Phillips thanked Mr. Lape for his participation on the board and committees and presented him with a plaque and certificate of appreciation. Chairman Dieter added his thanks and noted that Mr. Lape had been a tremendous resource. Mr. Lape expressed that it took the entire board to complete the process and that the spirit of cooperation and willingness to listen to all sides had been remarkable. He added that the board had made great progress.

II PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III STAFF REPORTS

A BCD Update

Tom Phillips distributed a handout (Exhibit A) and explained that the "Talking Points" document was put together by industry to explain Senate Bills 710 through 715. He gave a brief update on the bills, commenting that they are moving forward as a streamlining package after the first hearing on April 2nd. The next hearing is scheduled Monday, April 14th at 1:00 p.m. with Business and Labor. If passed, Building Codes Division is

expecting SB 710 to go to the Ways and Means Committee due to fiscal attachments, with SB 711-715 going to the House of Representatives.

B Legislative Update

SB 710 Regional Code Administration. Mr. Phillips continued with a description of SB 710. The bill, if passed, would develop a regional based system of a state building code administration that would result in consistent code application and interpretation, and provide local conflict resolution of site specific disputes. SB 710 would sunset the Tri-County Industry Service Board but would not change the level of service in the area. Ron Murray noted that Tri-County has been a model of efficiency and good government and has filled the role set out by SB 512. He added that the new bill was built on the Tri-County model, expanding the regionalization concept to promote statewide code consistency. Mr. Phillips noted that the intent of the bill was to streamline efforts so BCD could better serve the areas/regions. He further commented that if the funding were available, the division would have the ability to make code chiefs available to each region. This would help enhance code consistency, compliance and provide local dispute resolution. There were questions and concerns about the 1% Tri-County surcharge, who would benefit by it, if a new fee structure might be established, and what the financial impact would be on the state. Mr. Phillips noted the fiscal impact would be determined at the Ways and Means hearing to be held next week. It was noted that industry overwhelmingly supports this bill and continues to work with the division to facilitate solutions that benefit the state. Mr. Murray and Mr. Phillips suggested attending the legislative meetings with further concerns, questions, or suggestions. Mr. Phillips noted that if the bill passed, BCD would use the Tri-County model as a tool to help streamline regionalization in other areas of the state. It was noted that the division has remained neutral on the bill and that the participation of stakeholders had been invited and solicited.

Chairman Dieter invited questions regarding the remaining legislative bills.

SB 711 Prioritizing Plan Review and Inspections. Mr. Phillips gave a brief overview and answered questions on SB 711 which would allow architects and engineers to approve certain residential plans and limits certain electrical and plumbing plan review requirements. Mr. Muir gave an update on changes made to this bill at a recent meeting he attended with stakeholders, homebuilders, OBOA, City of Portland architects and engineers.

SB 713, E-commerce. Mr. Phillips noted that SB 713 would direct the division to study a statewide electronic permitting and plan review system using the Tri-County area as a pilot. He added that the division was currently seeking federal funds to support such a streamlining process. One concept includes a system to allow emergency service first responders to have access to building plans through the Internet. He commented that some federal funding was earmarked for investigating this possibility. Mr. Phillips commented that to minimize the financial impact on jurisdictions, an e-commerce system that is interoperable with local jurisdictions' electronic systems would be developed. Ray

Kerridge noted that the federal government's original idea was to finance a pilot program for homeland security, allowing first responders access to online building schematics.

With no need for further discussion on senate bills, Chairman Dieter acknowledged John Lape's arrival and proposed to return to agenda item 1.F.

C Code Consistency Task Force – Ron Murray

Mr. Murray started his update with praise for Joanie Stevens-Schwenger's dedication and hard work on the code forum program. He noted that all stakeholders had met to discuss the pros and cons of the different forums. It was determined that the pros outweighed the cons. The "pros" included that the forums were a great place to get questions answered and the answers received were good. The "cons" included that the forums were occasionally gripe sessions for personal issues and meeting times were not always suitable. It was determined that the time issue was not something that could be remedied. The largest negative response was the confusion of whether the answers provided in the Tri-County newsletters were for the Tri-County region only or had statewide approval. Overall, people were very pleased with the code consistency forums.

D Public Outreach Committee – Jim Muir

Mr. Muir gave a brief update on the committee's activities. He described the committee's participation in the February Home and Garden Show, commented on the poor booth location, and noted that the committee is working on improving the booth's location at future shows. Home show participants showed a fair amount of interest and asked many questions. Customer feedback was positive. Other upcoming events include sponsoring Permits Protect booths at the Oregon Convention Center grand opening on April 18-19, including two ½ hour classes on Permits Protect and at the Washington Square Mall for National Public Works Week, May 17-18. The committee is preparing a display for the Street of New Beginnings and the Street of Dreams this summer. Mr. Muir brought attention to a recent article in the Portland Home Magazine, entitled "Building Permits and Licensed Electricians Protect the Safety and Value of Your Home." The April meeting will be dedicated to reviewing the committee's mission and creating a to-do list for the remainder of the year. Mr. Muir acknowledged and gave his appreciation to those who have volunteered and donated their time and efforts to a program with a limited budget. He also noted that the local metro building officials have a voluntary fund set up that is monitored by OBOA to help support the Permits Protect program. The committee is still looking for a way to permanently fund this program but will continue to ask for stakeholder support in the interim. Mr. Muir requested that board members suggest to BCD and stakeholder groups any ideas to help support the public outreach effort in order to continue the program and to insure the Permits Protect message reaches everyone, including the homeowner. He noted that it was important to involve homeowners to achieve code compliance, consistency, and safety.

E Consistent recording of impacts to fire service delivery from new construction projects.

Agenda item withdrawn at Cleve Joiner's request.

IV COMMUNICATIONS

None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Dieter commended Ms. Stevens-Schwenger on her excellent job in revising and condensing the Building Department of the Future Discussion Summary. He noted that after review and board discussion, the recommendation was to forward the draft to BCD for future consideration. Forrest Soth commented that some of what the board envisioned might have a direct bearing on the regional concept contained in the Senate Bills introduced and suggested the summary be sent to Mark Long without further discussion. Jeff Grunewald and Mr. Kerridge agreed. Mr. Kerridge added that he felt quite satisfied with the level of discussion by the board.

MOTION by Mr. Kerridge to move forward.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Grunewald spoke briefly about fire service availability in new construction and asked the board's advice before taking this issue to the building officials. He described Washington County's current service availability form and a fire service description of access availability. The two fundamentals needed to provide fire service are access to the new development and water supply. At this time there is no consistent way for the building or planning departments in the Tri-County area to achieve accurate input. He noted that with new construction there is an increase in traffic, which can block emergency service from gaining access. Mr. Grunewald asked the board if the Processes and Forms Committee could develop a methodology or form for service availability for emergency services providers that would include an area to note concerns. It was determined the board may not have jurisdiction over this issue. Chairman Dieter suggested putting the question in writing, sending it to other venues that may have influence on such improvement, and to get BCD's confirmation on the board's authority, bringing it back for discussion at the next board meeting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tri-County Building Industry Service Board Vacancies:

§ Public Member

§ County Building Official

Code Forums:

One- and Two-Family Structural

April 23, 2003

Local 290

Meeting Hall

20210 SW Teton Ave

Tualatin

Electrical

May 1, 2003

PCC – Sylvania Campus

Pine Room – Cafeteria

12000 SW 49th Ave

Portland

Building Code Forum

May 22, 2003

Multnomah Building

Board Room 100

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd

Portland

Plumbing

April 24, 2003

Sunnybrook Service Center

Clackamas Co. - Auditorium

9101 SE Sunnybrook Blvd

Clackamas

Mechanical Code Forum

May 14, 2003

Multnomah Building

Board Room 100

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd

Portland

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dieter adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Maureen Pointer

Boards Coordinator/Recorder

Exhibits:

A. Talking Points

B. Summary report of Board's discussion of Building Department Concepts