

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

TRI-COUNTY BUILDING INDUSTRY SERVICE BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Blatner
Jim Chapman
Jim Ferris
Jeffery Grunewald
Ray Kerridge
John Lape
Ronald Murray
Forrest Soth
Rob Yorke

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Judy Bauman	- absent
Michael Cliburn	- excused
Terry Dieter	- excused
Lisa Naito	- excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe Brewer, Administrator, Building Codes Division
Joanie Stevens-Schwenger, Tri-County Service Center
Manager and Board Secretary
Marion Peterson, Tri-County Board Coordinator/Recorder
Bob Brown, Tri-County Training Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT:

Kevin Brice, Building Official - Washington County
Stan Scotton, City of Portland
Clint Hilman, Building Official – City of Gresham
David W. Davies, Building Official – City of West Linn

I BOARD BUSINESS

I.A Call to Order

Tri-County Building Industry Service Board Secretary, Joan Stevens-Schwenger called the Tri-County Building Industry Service Board meeting to order at 9:40a.m. In the absence of the chair and the vice chair, the board moved that Forrest Soth proceed as Chairman, given his experience in chairing such meetings. The meeting was held at the National Electric Contractors Association, 601 NE Everett Street, Portland, OR 97232

I.B Roll Call

Judy Bauman was absent
Lisa Naito, Michael Cliburn and Terry Dieter were excused.

I.C Approval of Agenda and Order of Business

Acting Chairman Soth **RULED** the agenda approved as submitted.

I.D Approval of the February 14, 2001 minutes

Acting Chairman Soth **RULED** the minutes approved as submitted.

I.E Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting June 13, 2001

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. STAFF REPORTS

III.A Legislative update – Joe Brewer

Administrator Brewer distributed an updated Administrator's Compendium Report (**Exhibit "A"**).

HB 2152 renames limited journeyman limited energy electrician's license as class "A" limited energy technician license. This department-requested bill calls for consolidating limited energy licenses from eleven to two: "A" level for limited journey level activity and "B" level for the minor categories of activity. The bill has passed the House.

HB 2153 originally required jurisdictions that assume building inspection programs to carry out certain compliance activities. The current bill requires jurisdictions to submit a plan to the department outlining their programs intended to create compliance with the state licensing laws.

HB 2912 allows alternative means of meeting fire code requirements or uniform Building Code wildfire hazard mitigation provisions. This bill would allow fire officials and building officials in a jurisdiction to collaborate when making decisions and allow the department to adopt rules creating consistent criteria for making those decisions. Consensus is anticipated.

HB 3043 requires residential building designers to register with the Department of Consumer and Business Services. This bill will receive a courtesy hearing.

HB 3611 exempts the equipment technician who assembles the interconnects between pieces of manufactured equipment from having an electrician's license. With this bill, a licensed electrician is still required to make the connection to the equipment from the power source, but an individual who is working for the vender as a full time employee, trained by the vender, may perform the interconnects.

HB 3613 limits the administration and enforcement of municipal building code programs to jurisdictions of 35,000 or greater. A work group has met. Consensus was reached only in that counties would be required to have such a program. These programs would be required to provide full service.

HB 3764 expands membership of Electrical and Elevator Board. This bill has been withdrawn.

HB 3833 removes the Department of Consumer and Business Services' authority over state building codes. HB 3833 would undo the current building code process and create the boards as semi-private entities. These entities would work independently, have their own staff and budget. Tri-County Building Industry Service Board would report to the Structures Board. The Structures Board would be the "primary driver" of the building codes system in the State. The bill would also take the moneys collected by the state as a surcharge, turn it over to the department of administrative services, who in turn would give that money to needy eastern Oregon counties for building inspection programs. This bill will receive a hearing.

SB 14 and 15 are bills that deal with seismic issues in Portland. DOGAMI would have the primary responsibility for implementing the bill with help from BCD.

SB 530 requires municipalities administering building inspection programs to incorporate deferred submittals and phased permitting into their operating plans. It appears this bill will pass.

SB 5507 The Building Codes Department's budget is scheduled to be heard April 23, 2001.

SB 5508 asks for approval of all fee increases during the past interim.

HB 2517 was submitted by Representative Kruse from Douglas County. Representative Kruse will possibly amend the bill to create liability for inspectors who require corrections outside the code.

III.B Status report from the Program Planning Panel – Stan Scotton

The task of the Program Planning Panel is to develop approved off-the-shelf, standardized in-training programs for plan examiners, and structural and mechanical inspectors in the Tri-County area (Exhibit "B". Participants in the panel include Linda Lindsten, Ron Murray, Guy Sperb, Tom Philips, Stan Scotton with staff Joan Stevens-Schwenger, and Bob Brown. The Planning Panel has already completed, and BCD has approved, the A- level Plans Examiner, A-level Fire and Life Safety Plans Examiner and A-Level Structural Inspector and A-Level Mechanical Inspector master programs. The timeline for implementation for A- Level Structural Inspector, One- and Two- Family Plans Examiner, One- and Two Family Mechanical Inspector, and One- and Two-Family Structural Inspector is July 1, 2001.

The next step will be the B level programs for plan examiners, and structural and mechanical inspectors. The panel has also reviewed the various forms used by the Building Code Division for training and in-training programs along with the application process. BCD is working toward speeding up the approval process as much as possible.

III.C Status report from the Forms and Processes Committee – Clint Hilman

Clint distributed the draft commercial application checklist that is ready for final approval by the committee (**Exhibit "C"**). The next challenge is to develop the phased processing checklist doing the pioneer work for SB 530. The committee is also discussing deferred submittals and how they fold into the process. The commercial checklist should be ready for approval by the June board meeting.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS – Joanie Stevens-Schwenger

Tri-County NewsFlash, a newsletter targeted at area electricians and electrical contractors is a prototype for communication efforts linked to the facilitation of consistent application of code in Tri-County. Tri-County Service Center is designing a series of newsletters to communicate with a number of disparate constituent groups, to ensure that they are aware of new rules, updates, forum and committee meetings, forum results, as well as general interest information and announcements.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approve Tri-County Dispute Resolution Process- Joan Stevens-Schwenger

Joan Stevens-Schwenger discussed the new, improved flow chart for the Tri-County dispute resolution process. The major adjustment made to the flow chart since the February board meeting was a clarification of the formal appeal processes, and when

customers could access them. Joanie recommended that the Code Consistency Committee (not yet approved) assist Tri-County Service Center in choosing the experts for the on-call groups. John Lape reminded the Board that this dispute resolution process is limited to site specific issues.

MOTION by Rob Yorke that the board approves the Tri-County dispute resolution process.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VI.A Approve Tri-County processes to facilitate the consistent application of code. -Ron Murray with Joan Stevens-Schwenger

The committee's model is built upon a forum concept. When there are concerns that need to be discussed, Tri-County brings a panel of experts together for discussion and invites the larger interested party constituents to join in the discussion. The committee chose to establish five groups to assemble regularly because of the on-going issues. The five groups are the plumbing code forum, electrical code forum, mechanical code forum, structural code forum, and the one and two family structural code forum. The code panels assigned to each forum cover issues that come up on a daily basis, establish a regular schedule, and publish an agenda for each meeting. Continuing education credit is offered when possible. The forums are to be used primarily as arenas to discuss code issues, but there also exist opportunities for updates on new rules and regulations, what is happening in Tri-County, and training on "hot", current issues. Jurisdictions or industry may submit questions for forum consideration by calling the center.

Kevin Brice pointed out that the Building Officials have met and talked about these processes. The Building Officials have agreed to follow the standard set by the forums. If they do not agree with a standard, they will formally appeal it.

MOTION by Ron Murray to approve the Tri-County process to facilitate the consistent application of code.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI.B Approve the establishment of the Code Consistency Task Force as a standing committee of the Board. – Ron Murray

The committee felt that there would be issues that could not always be dealt with under the five forum panel structure, and it would be appropriate to have the Code Consistency Task Force as a standing committee of the Tri-County Building Industry Service Board. Joan Stevens-Schwenger suggested that, in addition to other possible issues, a Code Consistency Committee could provide an opportunity to evaluate the forums, to assist in setting agendas, and to re-appoint panel members when necessary.

John Lape stated that he had voted against the task force becoming a standing committee. He explained that he is concerned with the volunteer staffing issue involved in the panels and committee and also is a proponent of task forces that assemble, do a specific duty and disperse when their duty is finished.

The purpose of the Code Consistency Committee is to establish procedure for code consistency, to have forum oversight, and to report to the board. Jim Ferris observed that the spirit of the code consistency process was to root out problem areas between industry and enforcement, and to develop some method of repairing relationships that are broken.

Extensive discussion followed concerning the purpose and actions of the MASER (Metro Area Structural Engineer Reviewer) group, which presently meets to discuss engineering code issues. It was pointed out that the MASER group has been meeting for an extended period of time and is not at cross-purposes with the Tri-County Code Consistency mandate. Administrator Brewer suggested the board provide a leadership role in establishing an inner connection between the two processes by inviting the MASER group to attend a Tri-County Board meeting explaining their purpose.

John Lape pointed out the value of having the various parties involved in the issues is addressing them from a variety of standpoints. It is vital that information concerning the issues be distributed to all interested parties in a timely manner.

MOTION by Jim Ferris that we establish the Code Consistency Task Force as a standing committee of the Tri-County Building Industry Service Board.

MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE DESENTION

Discussion continued concerning the relationship between the code forums and the MASER group. Clint Hilman pointed out that the forums would provide a method for such groups to come and discuss their issues, and to come to a conclusion with the experts in the field. Then the results are published. It was recommended that such groups interact with the Code Consistency Committee and the Forums rather than with the board.

Ray Kerridge asked that an update on the Tri-County budget be presented at the June board meeting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Code Consistency Task Force Meeting: April 11 directly following Board meeting.
- B. Electrical Code Forum, sponsored by the Tri-County Service Center, NECA and IEC, April 19, 4-8 p.m. Sunnybrook Service Center, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Blvd, in Clackamas.
- C. Meeting for all Tri-County inspection departments: Consistent Application of Code, and Code Dispute Resolution in Tri-County – What This Means for You. May 22, 2001, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at U.A.P.S., Local 290, 20210 SW Teton Avenue, Tualatin, Oregon. Presenters: Sherman McDaniel, Building Code Consultant who provides training through the International Academy for Professional

Code Administration, and Joan Stevens-Schwenger, Tri-County Service Center Manager. Introduction by Joe Brewer, BCD Administrator.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chairman Soth adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Marion Peterson
Boards Coordinator/Recorder

Exhibits:

- A. Administrator's Compendium Report (Agenda III.A)
- B. Program Planning Panel (Agenda III.B)
- C. Commercial Application Checklist (Agenda III.C)