State Building Code Council (SBCC) Meeting  
Tuesday, May 19, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

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Minutes

Howard Wiig SBCC Chair  
Hawaii State Energy Office

Tyler Dillon SBCC Vice Chair  
General Contractors Association (GCA) of Hawaii

Douglas Haigh SBCC Member  
County of Kauai

Willard Nishigata SBCC Member  
City and County of Honolulu  
Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP)

Glen Ueno SBCC Member  
County of Maui Department of Public Works
1. Call to Order: Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. Introductions and Public Comments: Members and meeting participants introduced themselves.

a. Chair summarized the discussion on tiny homes from last month’s meeting for newcomer Jess Leorna of the BIA.

b. Ms. Leorna stated she would like to assist businesses who are experiencing delays in the building permit process. She also stated that collectively we should be cautious when implementing codes at this time that increase the cost to build considering the unique circumstances that COVID-19 has inflicted on the economy. Since we are experiencing uncertain times, there is a need to maximize construction efficiencies in permitting and other procedural activities that might delay productivity in Hawaii’s construction industry. Like Alaska, where she had been residing, Hawaii is separated from the continental U.S. and has a high cost for new construction. Alaska does not have a state building code adoption agency.

c. Member Carden stated that the SBCC tries to adopt building code requirements that are cost effective without compromising safety. He hoped they would be able to work together as a SBCC participant to find common ground. Member Rogers stated that the fire service and Ms. Leorna’s predecessor at the BIA had a very adversarial relationship that extended to the State legislature on several issues. Chair stated that Hawaii has a long history of people working together to find win-win solutions to problems.

d. Member Carden stated the Federal Emergency Management Agency grant that the SEOAH is working on is designed to cover costs related to the new code amendment process, specifically wind development, along with support for the other code disciplines. One example is a cost study to merge wind-born and energy requirements for high performance windows. He is also working with Member Meyer on fire related requirements in the building and residential codes. SEOAH is also considering using a paid consultant depending on the grant budget. He solicited input from the other SBCC members, but there is a short timeframe. He will try to have a draft by tomorrow.

3. Review and approval of the minutes of the April 21, 2020

Motion: Member Haigh motioned to approve the April 21, 2020, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by member Carden and unanimously approved

4. Review and Possible Approval of the Proposed State Plumbing Code

Member Dillon began by thanking the investigative committee members for their hard work, patience, and cooperation in drafting the final State Plumbing Code amendment package. The month’s long effort by the committee included SBCC
Members Dillon and Serikaku, Kika Bukoski, Dwight Perkins, Kraig Stevenson, and Ryan Takahashi. The committee members present echoed this appreciation.

**Motion:** Member Haigh motioned to approve the proposed amendment package as the State Plumbing Code. The motion was seconded by member Tanaka and unanimously approved.

5. Updates from the Investigative Committees:

   a. Investigative committee for the Structural Provisions for the IBC and the IRC 2018 Editions

      There was no update.

   b. Investigative committee for the Non-Structural Provisions of the IBC and the IRC 2018 Editions

      Member Carden stated he is working with Member Meyer on merging structural and non-structural amendments.


      1) Chair stated there are very few changes in the 2018 edition from the previous edition, other than increased lighting efficiencies. He will be incorporating the Hawaii amendments in a draft document.

      2) Ms. Leorna stated that Alaska has a cold climate research center that is an industry based group that helps develop and test energy efficient and cost effective building technologies for cold climate regions. These technologies have been used in warm climate regions, like Arizona.

   d. Investigative committee for the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) 2018 Edition

      Member Serikaku stated that the UPC 2021 edition has been published.

   e. Investigative committee for the Green Code 2018 Edition

      There was no update.

   f. Investigative committee for the Mechanical Code

      There was no update.

There was no update.

h. Investigative committee for the Energy Efficiency Code Coordination

Chair reported that the next committee meeting will be held on May 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

i. Investigative committee for the State Elevator Code

There was no update.

k. Investigative committee for the International Existing Building Code 2018 Edition

There was no update.

l. Investigative committee for Boiler and Pressure Vessels

There was no update.

m. Investigative committee on Health Care Facility Guidelines

There was no update.

6. Update on communication and training

Chair stated there will be a webinar on the IECC 2015 edition on June 19, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

7. 2020 Legislation

There was no update.

8. Update on county and state adoption of building codes

a. Chair stated that Bill 25, which adopts the IECC 2015 edition, has a scheduled final hearing before the full Honolulu City Council.

b. Member Carden has been communicating with Tim Hiu, Honolulu’s Deputy Director for the Department of Planning and Permitting regarding the City Council’s passage of Bill 50, which adopts the IBC/IRC 2012 editions. Honolulu’s Mayor is planning to veto the bill citing the added cost requirements, such as safe rooms to meet high wind and tsunami standards. Member Carden has been asked to provide information that the added costs are very minimal. Member Haigh stated that the increase in occupancy
classifications for tsunami standards was an added cost item. Member Carden stated that occupancy classifications for high risk buildings, such as hospitals and tall buildings can be met with reinforced concrete or masonry walls at the lower levels.

c. Chair asked the Deputy Attorney General (DAG) if State law would allow a deferral for the SBCC’s deadline to adopt new codes due to the current COVID-19 restrictions. The DAG stated she did not believe the law allowed that exception, but it may be a possibility for the counties.

9. Discussion of possible agenda item(s) for next Council meeting

The SBCC will continue to meet using the Zoom platform, until such time that the DAGS meeting room becomes available.

10. Announcements

There were no further announcements.

11. Next meeting: June 16, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.