State Building Code Council (SBCC) Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2020
9:00 a.m.

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Minutes

Howard Wiig  SBCC Chair
Department of Business, Economic Development
and Tourism (DBEDT)
Hawaii State Energy Office

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
Neal Tanaka
Hawaii County Department of Public Works

Lloyd Rogers
State Fire Council (SFC)

Gregg Serikaku
Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

Lyle Carden
Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (SEAOH)

Richard Meyers
American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Members Not Present:

Dennis Mendoza
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Elevator Division (DLIR)

Mark Kennedy
Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA)

Other Attendees

Stella Kam
Deputy Attorney General (DAG)

Ian Robertson
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Hawaii (UH)

Kika Bukoski
Plumbers and Fitters Local 675

Kraig Stevenson
International Code Council

Gail Suzuki-Jones
Hawaii State Energy Office

Dwight Perkins
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials

Sehun Nakama
Hawaii Energy
1. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Introductions and Public Comments

Ian Robertson, UH Professor, reviewed a power point presentation examining critical, high occupancy building’s ability to withstand the forces of wind and tsunami impacts. The results of the evaluation would support the evacuation of occupants to the upper floors based on the structural load integrity of the building’s support columns. The impact is also dependent on the distance from the shoreline in tsunami impact zones. Existing buildings were usually designed to support lateral forces from seismic or wind speeds on gravity load, foundation columns. An example building on the Waikiki shoreline was reviewed. The increased cost to design new buildings to withstand tsunami forces is approximately two percent. Professor Robertson stated that he may be contacted via the U.H. website for further information. Member Carden added that light-framed buildings need structural steel or reinforced concrete foundations. Seismic requirements for coastal flooding surges are pretty good in the International Building Code 2012 and 2018 editions.

3. Review and approval of the minutes of the June 16, 2020

**Motion:** Member Carden motioned to approve the June 16, 2020, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by member Rogers and unanimously approved

4. Election of the Vice Chair

Chair opened the nominations for the SBCC Vice Chair. Member Rogers nominated Lyle Carden. Member Haigh seconded the nomination. Member Carden’s nomination was unanimously approved.
5. Report from the Subcommittee of Building Officials (SBO)

The SBO did not meet so there was no report.


Member Meyer stated that much of the review of the IRC provisions on termite, water and damp proofing was done by Jim Reinhardt. He correlated the sections of Chapter 13 and 14 from the 2012 editions to the 2018 edition. He was not sure if IRC requirements for mechanical, plumbing, or electrical should be deleted without referring the reader to the plumbing or electrical codes. The requirements for boilers should reference the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations adopted boiler standards and the mechanical code sections should be treated as referenced standards. They plan to include the appendix requirements for tiny homes with increases in square footages, like Kauai County. The electrical sections will refer to the adopted State Electrical Code which did not amend the National Electrical Code.

Member Haigh stated that the Department of Health does not regulate the mechanical requirements for residential (R-3) occupancies, but the national mechanical code is used as a reference. Since no counties have mechanical engineers on staff, third party inspectors verify mechanical requirements were met for R-3 occupancies. He suggested that State agencies coordinating low-income or residential projects should be solicited for input. There are also requirements for residential sprinklers in the State Plumbing Code. There was a discussion on the use of the adopted State Plumbing Code or the plumbing requirements in the IRC. If the requirements are not covered then can another code be used? There may be instances where the Uniform Plumbing Code conflicts with the plumbing requirements in the IRC. Member Tanaka stated his department is not ready for third party review of mechanical code sections, but the third party review was actually mistakenly termed and should have been called a special inspection where a licensed mechanical engineer would verify compliance with the mechanical code. Member Haigh stated that members should review Honolulu’s language for compliance with the mechanical code for residential occupancies.

Member Carden stated that the IBC structural requirements were sent for review to Member Haigh. He also has some fire requirements found in the International Existing Building Code 2018 edition that he would like the State Fire Council to review.

Chair stated that he plans to show the differences between the IECC 2018 and 2015 editions. He also plans to compile a matrix of each of the counties 2015 edition requirements to compare the performance improvements.

8. Discussion of Code Adoption Timelines for State/Counties

Members weighed on their understanding of the adoption timelines for the State and County building codes. Hawaii Revised Statutes 107-24 and -27 states that the SBCC shall adopt the State Building Codes within two years of the official publication date of the national code or standard. If the SBCC does not adopt the national codes within the two years, the national codes become the State Building Codes until it is superseded by the SBCC’s adoption of an amended version of the code. The counties have two years to adopt their codes either when the national code becomes the State code or the SBCC adopts an amended State code. The DAG Kam confirmed this interpretation.

9. Discussion on Default Adoption Timelines

This item was covered in item #8 above.

10. Discussion on the Meaning of the Term Adopting Codes on a Staggered Basis

Kraig Stevenson believes that the term came about several years after the original statute created the SBCC. Without funding for staff personnel the SBCC had to rely on its volunteer members to review and adopt all the national building codes. National codes are updated every three years, so the term would allow the SBCC more time to adopt codes every six instead of three years. It could also mean that the different codes have different publication dates so the adoption of the different codes takes place on different, or on a staggered basis. There is no definition of the term in statute, so it is difficult to decide exactly what it means.

11. Updates from the Investigative Committees:

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

See item #2 above.
b. Investigative committee for the Non-Structural Provisions of the IBC and the IRC 2018 Editions

See item #6 above.


There was no update.

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

Member Serikaku stated that the committee has not started the review of the UPC 2021 edition.

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 stated that the next meeting will be in early September 2020.

i. Investigative committee for the State Elevator Code

There was no update.


See item #6 above.
k. Investigative committee for Boiler and Pressure Vessels

There was no update.

l. Investigative committee on Health Care Facility Guidelines

There was no update.

12. Update on communication and training

Chair stated the State Energy Office will conduct training when the IECC 2018 edition makes progress on its State adoption.

13. Update on county and state adoption of building codes

a. Member Tanaka stated that the Hawaii County Council will have its first reading on the UPC 2012 edition with another readings needed to pass. The National Electrical Code 2017 edition is on the same bill.

b. Member Haigh stated that a task force will begin next month to review the IBC 2018 edition.

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

Member Haigh would like to discuss an adoption timeline for the IBC/IRC 2018 edition. He would like them to review the language that Honolulu used to reference the mechanical code. He’d like to schedule a SBO meeting for review and discussion of these codes and because future meetings will be online, it does not have to coincide with the SBCC meeting.

15. Announcements

The question was asked if the SBO meetings are subject to the Sunshine Law requirements and the DAG confirmed that it is. Member Haigh will take the lead in posting the next SBO meeting.

16. The next meeting will be scheduled for August 18, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

17. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.