State Building Code Council (SBCC) Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
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Meeting ID: 933 4308 8652
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Minutes

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

Lyle Carden  SBCC Vice Chair
Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (SEAOH)

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

Neal Tanaka SBCC Member
Hawaii County Department of Public Works

Mark Kennedy SBCC Member
Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA)

Lloyd Rogers SBCC Member
State Fire Council (SFC)

Gregg Serikaku SBCC Member
Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

Richard Meyers SBCC Member
American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Members Not Present:

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

Glen Ueno SBCC Member
County of Maui Department of Public Works

Other Attendees

Stella Kam Deputy Attorney General (DAG)

Kika Bukoski Plumbers and Fitters Local 675

Kraig Stevenson International Code Council

Dwight Perkins International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials

Constance Mitchell Institute for Human Services

James Koshiba Hui Aloha
1. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Introductions and Public Comments – Attendees introduced themselves.

Ms. Mitchell stated she is seeking information on “tiny homes” and what the SBCC might offer to assist her efforts. James Koshiha is a member of the Hawaii State House of Representatives Subcommittee on Coronavirus Disease of 2019 and Housing and with the current economic downturn, the housing industry faces an uncertain future. They would like to build tiny home villages to house about 100 individuals as one solution to address the homeless issue. They envision the villages to have shared kitchen and bathroom facilities, with living and sleeping units configured for different sized families. Unit windows would provide ventilation and meet fire exit requirements and units would be separated by outdoor lanais. The Governor’s Emergency Proclamations could provide the pathway for expeditious construction for those in need.

Member Tanaka stated he appreciates their efforts and that Hawaii County is likewise interested in tiny homes and adopted Appendix Q of the International Residential Code (IRC), 2018 edition, together with seismic foundation and wind
requirements and would be considered temporary structures. Under the Governor’s Proclamation, structures in COH have provided a challenge. The emergency housing are built as temporary housing, or transient housing, not permanent housing. Because the IBC considers transient units as R-1, they would require fire sprinklers, whereas the International Residential Code classifies them as R-3 which does not require sprinkler, but does not have Appendix Q. Member Haigh stated that Kauai is looking at allowing residential clusters without kitchen or bathroom facilities. Vice Chair Carden stated that requirements for structural anchors are not costly and should not be relaxed. Wind requirements for windows can be met by providing plywood coverings. Clearance access for termite inspections can be met, together with using termite resistant materials. Member Rogers stated that fire department road access and water supply requirements for tiny home villages should not be overlooked. The road access is not only for fire department, but for emergency medical or law enforcement response. In many cases water supply can be more cost effective by providing residential sprinklers instead of fire hydrants.

Hawaii County Council Member Susan Lee Loy stated that they are looking at modular homes as one solution to reducing housing costs. Kraig Stevenson stated that the IBC offers flexibility by classifying dwellings as R-2 cluster units that allow three ways to provide sleep, sanitation, and kitchen facilities. Darryl Oliveira stated that HPM is also looking at modular dwelling designs for future use in Hawaii.

Chair Wiig stated that UV-C lighting is already being used in health care facilities, hotels and retail establishments and is proving to be effective in significantly eliminating bacteria and viruses. Bill Brizee stated that the International Codes and Standards offer performance codes to meet lighting requirements.

Kraig Stevenson stated that the deadline to submit code proposals on all the ICC codes is January 2, 2021.

Mike Newalu from RMA Sales is looking at jalousies that are being used in Europe and Australia that have a three-sided louvered support system with spanned of 55 inches. Most counties only allow 36 or 48 inches because of two-sided support system to meet wind pressure and debris impact requirements. Member Haigh stated that to meet Level C requirements for passive ventilation, counties allow alternative provisions upon approval. He also cited Section 609 of the IRC 2018 edition. Clark Diamond stated that they offer a window with aluminum slats with a door-like hinge to open the window for emergency egress.

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

4. Discussion of the International Building (IBC) and Residential Codes (IRC) 2018 Editions Amendment Package

Member Carden stated that he and Member Meyers will try to get the IBC/IRC amendment package finalized soon.

5. Updates from the Investigative Committees:

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

See Item #4 above.

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

See Item #4 above.


Chair Wiig stated that he will be sending out the proposed amendments to the IECC 2018 edition for review/comment. It will include most of the counties IECC 2015 amendments. The changes from the 2015 to the 2018 edition were fairly minor. Member Tanaka stated he looks forward to the review and has questions regarding some of the 2015 county amendments, including if the new code lowers construction costs or not.

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

Member Serikaku stated that there was no update to report, other than the Subcommittee of Building Officials having received copies of the UPC 2021 edition.

e. Investigative committee for the Green Code

There was no update.

f. Investigative committee for the Mechanical Code
There was no update.


Member Rogers stated that the SFC will be voting to approve the revised amendment package at their meeting on September 10, 2020. If approved, it will be submitted to the SBCC for review, comment and approval.

h. Investigative committee for the Energy Efficiency Code Coordination

There was no update.

i. Investigative committee for the State Elevator Code

There was no update.


Member Carden stated that proposed amendments have been incorporated into the IBC 2018 amendments.

k. Investigative committee for Boiler and Pressure Vessels

There was no update.

l. Investigative committee on Health Care Facility Guidelines

There was no update.

6. Update on communication and training

Chair stated that training on the IECC 2015 edition is upcoming.

Kraig Stevenson stated that training is scheduled for late October for the International Code Council’s Construction Services Institute criteria for various code topics.

7. Update on county and state adoption of building codes
Hawaii County Councilmember Susan Lee Loy stated that the council is reviewing for approval a combined code package that includes the IBC, IRC, IECC, UPC, and NEC. Member Tanaka stated that there have been challenges with the current pandemic situation for community and stakeholder input at council hearings. Council member Lee Loy would like to submit a suggestion for a future Governor’s Emergency Proclamation to address the statutory timeline to adopt the State and County codes or be subject to the default adoption of the national codes. Kraig Stevenson stated that the Stafford Act requires the states to adopt the latest editions of IBC/IRC, which is the 2018 editions, in order to qualify for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s disaster assistance funds. Most of the counties are currently on the IBC/IRC 2006 editions, but are moving to adopt the 2012 editions. He added that the latest editions of ICC’s codes provide savings in construction costs and benefits the local design and construction industry by having a uniform set of statewide codes. Member Rogers stated that the SBCC has never been provided State funding and with the time and effort it takes to review and amend the roughly seven different national codes and standards, it’s a struggle for its all-volunteer members to accomplish this task. He also stated that stakeholder input on the various codes should be given an opportunity to review and comment well before the amended codes are trying to be approved by the State or the Counties.

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

Possible agenda item could include a review of a possible submittal for a Governor’s Emergency Proclamation to address the current State and County building code adoption timeline.

9. Announcements

There were no further announcements.

10. Next meeting: September 15, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment

12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.