

Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board Meeting Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Iowa Department of Public Safety Building (Conference Room 125),
215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

Board Members Present: Stuart Crine, Thomas Day, Mick Gage, Jane Hagedorn, Dennis Molden, Susan Salsman, Ken Sharp, Chuck Thomas, and Brita Van Horne

Board Members Absent: Ron Masters

Staff Attending: Cindy Houlson, Matt Oetker, Susan Van Horn and Mary Swinehart

Call to Order: Jane Hagedorn called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes dated May 6, 2010 (Emergency Meeting)

Motion to approve: Brita Van Horne made motion to approve minutes

Seconded: Thomas Day seconded

Discussion: No further discussion was held.

Vote: All ayes

Motion: Carried

Minutes dated May 26, 2010 Board Meeting

Motion to approve: Mick Gage made motion to approve minutes

Seconded: Chuck Thomas seconded

Discussion: No further discussion was held.

Vote: All ayes

Motion: Carried

DMACC HVAC-R Program - Ron Anderson

Ron Anderson presented information on the HACR Internship Program at DMACC (a 10-week summer program). Students are required to have 240 hours. This gives the student actual hands on experience in the field. Some of the interns can technically work by themselves unsupervised. A meeting was held with DMACC, DOL Apprenticeship, etc. about concerns of students as to how would they get positions with a no status. On completion of this course a student receives an associate degree in applied science in heating, air conditioning and refrigeration. It is Ron's contention that after the first year when students study basic air conditioning and basic heating and boilers, oil fired furnaces and sheet metal; they are ready to do basic servicing check on an air conditioner or a furnace and help on an install. Their status then is basically an internship. Ron understood that a company can take on one of the interns, put him with someone to help out on the installs, could put him in a shop building sheet metal parts while he is supervised. He can go out on a service call and find out what is the problem, then call back with issue. This program is close to 1500 contact hours. Following that a student may be hired by a contractor, sign up for an apprenticeship program and receive credit for the educational portion of the training. After receiving the required hours of experience, they could take the exam. At the meeting mentioned above there was a comment that credit could be applied for an apprenticeship for the educational portion of this program. No decision was made at that time.

Matt asked if DMACC had applied to the DOL Apprenticeship for approval, as we are bound by statute that candidates are required to be in an approved DOL Apprenticeship program.

Ron understands we are bound by statute. DMACC does not have the DOL label as an apprenticeship program. They just want to education individuals to be able to apply for an apprenticeship program or go to work for a contractor.

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Ken suggested there are three different issues being presented. The reason you were invited originally was because we have received comments about whether your students need to have an apprenticeship license in order to work as an intern. That is a question for the board to address and ask you some questions.

Sounds to me that you have questions about whether the DMACC education program will qualify for apprenticeship credit if they apply for an apprenticeship program. That is not for this board to decide. That is a decision for the Department of Labor Apprenticeship.

Ken recalls from the meeting that the educational portion could qualify for credit with an apprenticeship program. There is no approved apprenticeship program at this time.

CEU issue raised refers to requirements to maintain a license. An application for the instructor and the class should be submitted to receive board approval.

The question that this board can address is: Does the student as an intern, not as an employee of a contractor need to be licensed?

This requires direction from the Department of Labor. Our rules clearly indicate that an individual must be in a DOL approved apprenticeship program to obtain an apprenticeship license

Matt commented that Iowa Law Chapter 105.10 –HVAC work cannot be done without a license and Iowa Law Chapter 105.11 Exceptions explains that working as a helper does not count toward an apprenticeship.

Mick commented that an intern should never be working alone on any level.

Jane commented that she sees it as a helper status, that carries things to and from, assists someone who is doing the work, but not doing the work and not out on own.

Tom commented that an apprentice committee (associated with each apprenticeship program) has the ability to grant credit to attend an approved DOL program. There is not a set amount of time that can be credited to a student entering an apprenticeship.

From audience: Gary Reeher from Bettendorf commented that their program is accredited by HVAC Excellence. They can grant up to two years of credit for a DOL apprenticeship.

Geothermal Stakeholders Meeting – Ken Sharp

The Geothermal group meet on June 22nd to follow-up on some discussions from the May board meeting. There was indication from the DNR to at least look into what role they play in geothermal licensing issue. We are dealing with a small group from the geothermal industry that deals with loop installations that are shallower than 20 feet. Currently, DNR regulates the vertical installations that go deeper than 20 feet. The HVAC and/or Hydronics licensing covers work performed inside the home. On the mechanical side there is this small subset that we have not figured out what to do with. At this point, this board has no role to play in terms of issuing a license for geothermal loop installers. We had some discussion about the appropriateness of leaving the language in Iowa Law Chapter 105 as it currently stands. For the most part, the group agreed it would be appropriate to remove that language until such time that we could learn more about what is happening nationally with geothermal installation standards. Geo Exchange is working on some nationwide standards that Paula will speak to. Russ Tell was going back to the DNR management and leadership to discuss their interest and willingness to

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look at a couple of different options. Whether to roll the shallow loop installers into some of their licensing and certification programs or whether to go to some minimum construction standards and have some of those discussions. Following discussions here the plan is to get some representatives from the June 22nd meeting and hold some conversations with Representative Quirk and Danielson about the appropriateness of that language as it currently sits in Chapter 105 and whether it would be appropriate delete that language. Decisions about how we will approach that will hinge on the outcomes of the elections this November or whether or not we even want to bring up this language or whether we sit on this and run the risk of someone raising questions as to why we are not doing anything with statute that requires development of that license

DNR Rules – Russ Tell

Russ approached his management team with some of the options including level certification for horizontal installers that would take in the headering and any shallow loop installation. Also discussed the viability of having our current certification fulfill that same role. The last thing we discussed was developing a standard. I was put on task to develop the cost of each of these programs to determine the viability of what our program can actually handle considering our current certification staffing and the realism of what can be done in the enforcement environment. After crunching the numbers, it appears the DNR is not prepared to take on a new level certification for shallow installation. Just the breakeven point for that certification is out there several years with the current budgeting and staffing constraints, Russ doesn't believe having a regulation that we can't manage is an effective use of our time. That brings us back to the two options of trying to roll installers into the current certification, which means candidates would be taking tests that are not viable for the element that they are doing and trying to manage that through the various associations involved in representing their contractors. at the last option would be to develop a good sound standard, put it in our rule and move forward. We would have a standard of how the product should be used, how it should be installed and then look to those minor cases of enforcement if those come to be. Russ' intention is move forward with a standard as the most serious option. Another meeting is scheduled with our geothermal stakeholder group about a month from this week where discussion will take place about the other option of using our current certification and putting all contractors through a general certification that would include well driller status. Stakeholders will have input and give me the thumbs up or thumbs down. If they are willing to sell it to the group that is the best use of the tool, we can probably increase the number on our exam to cover a wider range of things and hopefully give people some better resources for study materials and probably get those through the exam cycle alright.

Ken asked if Russ had idea about how many shallow loop installers there are.

Russ does not have a good handle on that, he used a rough estimate of 200 for his figures. Some in the industry say there are many more and some other believe it is somewhat less. Part of the issue is some of the contractors that do looping are also doing headering work; it is not an inclusive thing. Some of them are already in our regulatory roll and it would be a matter of shuffling them to a new category. That would reduce the number of newly certified contractors to help pay the bills for the certification program. That is where we run into the monetary issue. We would have the funds today to establish a program but that takes all our funding capability as times continue to get lean. Funds to keep our program moving forward are also needed as we are a fee driven program. My program can't take the fees at the current rate, I have to increase the fees to the contractors, which is something I don't necessary look forward to doing because I want to provide the service at the current fee level. I would personally move toward developing a standard.

Tom would like to thank you for all you have done. We were having a tough time trying to put something together. What you have come up is very viable.

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Russ appreciates comments as he wants to be a resource to the contractors, He derives his job from helping them and wants to continue to be helpful. Contractors in general do want a level of certification, just think at the state level, in our current funding and employee status that we can not make that realization today. We can always revisit down the road

Paula Dierenfeld for Geothermal Association

Paula distributed copies of a Report to Brian Quirk dated July 12, 2010 (attached)

Representative of the Iowa Geothermal Association (IGA) have met several times with representatives of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Iowa Plumbing and Mechanical systems Board and other interested groups. The discussions have been productive and have resulted in:

Legislation passed in 2009 was ahead of its time i.e., it preceded the development of nationally recognized geothermal heat pump installer certification standards.

IDNR has the authority to adopt rules to provide standards for the installation of the outside horizontal loops.

Until nationally recognized certification standards for geothermal heat pump installers are developed, persons who install geothermal heat pump systems should be required to have an HVAC/Hydronics license.

The language of SF224 should remain the Iowa Code until the national standards are developed and the issue of a separate/special license is finally resolved.

Ken asked if there is any indication as to how long training, certification and testing will take.

Steve Jurshak replied the first part should come through the first part of next year, and then it will take another year to develop training certification and testing. The grant is a two year program and was awarded sometime this year. The soonest that a program could be implemented is 2012.

Ken commented his concern of not addressing legislation at this point is the change of leadership that has occurred at IGA within the last year, seeing a dramatic shift in the opinion and the approach of geothermal licensing. With Steve it is much more realistic approach with how we deal with this issue. Concern is now that we are talking about another two years perhaps before this thing can be implemented what assurances do we have that the next leadership change with IGA that there isn't some swing back to requiring the board to develop licensing requirements or raising a stink with the legislature about the board not fulfilling its expectations. How do we protect ourselves from a change in position of IGA or any other organization that might bring forward that language is in legislation state it and the board is not doing anything about it?

Matt commented that also any individual can approach the legislature with concerns that the board is not doing anything.

Ken asked as the Department of Energy is funding this endeavor will they then take over or will the Geo Exchange as professional organization take ownership?

Steve commented he believed it will go to the DOE. DOE would have an actual code in place.

Ken commented he is still uneasy leaving legislation in that we do not have anything to fall back on. Also realize there is an election coming up, that may influence the sensitivities of legislation around licensing, I believe we should watch over the next few months to see what happens in terms of leadership changes in terms of legislature and the governor's office. That will decide how much of an issue we make of removing this language or not.

Committee Reports and Recommendations for Actions

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Administrative Rules Committee Susan Salsman, committee chair

Sue Salsman reported this committee had hoped to have this chapter ready, however there was more work than originally anticipated. This Committee is working on the specialty license at this point. Next meeting is scheduled for July 29th.

Application and Fees Committee Jane Hagedorn, committee chair

Jane reported this committee met after the last board meeting and reviewed several applications. We are still working on the contractor and specialty license applications.

CEU Committee Jane Hagedorn, committee chair

Jane reported this committee continues to meet.

Statistics (updated following meeting):

618	Total applications received
237 Instructors	Approved
285 Courses	Approved
7 Ecourses	Approved
89 Applications	Incomplete

Matt submitted for the Board's input. Under the CEUs current administrative rules in order to be qualified for safety an individual must either possess and maintain a current Occupational Safety and Health Act 500, 501, 502, or 503 card and/or completion certificate, or possess a current train-the-trainer or instructor card issued by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or board-approved equivalent. As the committee reviewed applications it became obvious that the qualifying criteria is board and open ended, that the committee was not receiving the appropriate information to determine if an applicant is qualified.

The committee is bringing this issue to the full board for input. The issue is would a Certified Safety Professional or National Safety Council be considered a board approved equivalent for safety training? The committee agrees there should be a standard toward teaching; however the committee is split on what that standard should be.

Tom feels train the trainer type card should be provided, as that represents that that individual has been trained to teach safety. That removes the gray areas. The committee assumes that if an instructor is certified to teach CPR, he/she will not be teaching ladder safety. A prerequisite to take train the trainer is CSP. A certified safety professional should go that next step and get the train the trainer. Tom will not compromise when it comes to safety.

Brita commented that not all safety training is OSHA related. Minimal teaching can be covered by a CSP, may be an abbreviated version of a program based upon the CSP's qualifications. A great amount of education and testing is required to obtain a certified safety professional status. Brita feels Certified Safety Profession should be allowed for our purposes.

Jane we have approved instructors to teach Lead safety that have been trained through the Department of Public Health for that class.

Sue feels that train the trainer may be too narrow, if there are good program requirements for education.

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Denny commented that he believes we are getting too technical. We started out the CEUs with code, specialty training and threw in a bit of safety training. A two-hour class of safety training is going to help some people and even if you watch a two hour movie you are going to get something out of it. Just to get a little safety in there, not to get so technical that you have to have specific training and completely certified. I think that it is nice to have but as long as an individual gets something out of it, it doesn't make any difference who teaches the class.

Jane commented we have set a standard of making sure there is some framing for teaching so that it is not just anyone teaching a class. We have a split on the committee on what that level of training has to be.

Mick commented that their insurance company comes in once a year gives a slide presentation on driving and ditch work. Right now they cannot get approved to teach safety. Mick thinks we have been too rough on instructors. Thinks we should allow insurance companies to provide training. They may not have train the trainer, however they are teaching safety.

Cindy: quite a few of the insurance people hold a CSP. They obtain that certification due to working for an insurance company.

Stuart as long as there is enough flexibility for staff to make exceptions when warranted. Evaluations will also contribute to the merits of a class.

Ken asked of the instructor applications you have reviewed, how many have not had train the trainer? Jane we have had the equivalent, the American Heart Association and American Red Cross or they have had that training card.

Matt for purposes of this discussion we still have criteria of a certification of some sort to be able to train, it just does not include CSP.

Roger Fouche (Schaal Heating & Cooling) asked to present a scenario. In my company we have three employees that are certified in CPR training by the American Red Cross. They do our safety training. We also work with our insurance company to do a 20 minute safety presentation every month. The three employees I have make that presentation provided by the insurance company. Would they be qualified showing that safety presentation?

Jane: Our rule is now; it would not be covered because we require 50 minutes to equal one hour.

Once your instructor is qualified for safety, if that course comes in under safety and meets the requirements it would be approved. Roger is a larger contractor, but it could pose a financial burden for the smaller contractor to hire someone to be a safety instructor.

Jane commented it has been our hope that our industry partners and the professionals will help with the training needs.

Chapter 29 Committee Ron Masters, committee chair

Tom Day reported in Ron's absence. We held a meeting on Thursday July 15th wherein Jim Holder from Merchants Bonding Company and Anne Crouner from Holmes, Murphy & Associates, Inc. made presentations regarding the bonding and insurance requirements for the contractor license. We discussed what the surety bond is. Performance bonds would require the surety bonding company to determine if the contract had been breached. Compliance bonds would require the board to determine if an action was deemed non-compliant. This type of bond would mirror the actions that the disciplinary

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rules already identify. Additional discussion focused on the set amount of the bond and alternative suggestions. Amounts ranged from the existing \$5,000 to \$25,000 - \$50,000. Concerns with the higher amounts were the costs and what was required for credit screening. There also was discussion on the notification time frame of 15 days verses 30/60 day notice.

After discussion it was determined that the contractor license would go forward with the current definition and wording found in the chapter. The committee will continue to explore opportunities to add more detail in the rule to help provide more guidance to the bonding and insurance industry.

Sue asked for clarification. She has always thought that at \$5,000 bond is minimal and typically required by a city. On individual jobs usually asked to provide certificate of liability, so if there is something wrong with the performance they do have recourse with my insurance company.

Tom responded you are actually looking at two different things. \$5,000 liability insurance would cover if a contractor installed a piece of equipment incorrectly, injury from that would go to the liability insurance. If equipment was put in, running fine, then vendor approaches owner that equipment has not been paid for. At that point the bonding company will get involved, will make contractor pay for unit or that \$5,000 will cover the cost of the unit. If that contractor does that same thing to multiple companies, the first company is paid and if the amount is \$5,000 the others would receive nothing as the \$5,000 is used up. It is not per job it is a \$5,000 bond.

Plumbing Code Committee Tom Day, committee chair

Tom reported that Chapter 25 was scheduled to be reviewed by the Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC) on Tuesday. Chapter 25 was bumped from the schedule due to a more pressing controversial issue. We may be rescheduled for next month. This action does not stop the adoption of the 2009 Plumbing Code with amendments effective tomorrow. The ARRC has the option of reviewing rules whenever they choose.

Testing and Credentials Committee Chuck Thomas, committee chair

Chuck reported this committee had a phone conference call with Prometric. It is that time of year to review our exams. There are a couple of changes to implement the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code and the 2009 International Mechanical Code. We reviewed the references suggested. We had a few questions that will be answered at the next Committee meeting.

The following statistics were presented:

There have been a total of 179 candidates that have applied for testing with 110 candidates taking the exams.

33	journey Plumbing with 18 passing	17	master Plumbing with 6 passing
11	journey Refrigeration with 3 passing	0	master Refrigeration
22	journey HVAC with 3 passing	5	master HVAC with 0 passing
22	journey Hydronics with 2 passing	0	master Hydronics

Reciprocity Committee Ron Master, committee chair

Brita reported in Ron's absence that this committee has not met.

Inspections Study Committee Update – Ken Sharp

Ken reported that this committee has met twice and is making some very good progress. The local building offices, Roger Schemmel from Urbandale and Cody Christensen from the City of Des Moines have developed a survey tool that will be sent out to local jurisdictions to gather more information about

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what is happening with inspections. We are going to pilot with our small group with early August distributing to local officials. Based upon the data from this survey a recommendation for a statewide inspection program will be completed. We also collected a great deal of information for members of the committee. We plan to have recommendations drafted late October or early November to present to the Board. By December we would like to finalize the recommendations to present to the legislature. Chris Gruenhagen, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) presented to this committee concerns from IFBF about what impact this statewide inspection would have on agriculture properties. We did not answer any questions or come to any final resolutions, it has just opened the door for us to understand their concerns and allow us to form some agreements on where that falls out. We would like to work out any differences we have prior to going forward to the legislature.

The question remains: At what point do we decide to formally request a legislative package or do we turn over our recommendations to the legislature and let them react to the report? With the contention over licensing, we have to decide how much noise would this board like to make about statewide inspections and does that put us in jeopardy as far as licensing?

Conference Planning – Ken Sharp

We held a meeting on July 1st with all the folks that commented at the May meeting. We came to an understanding of what the desires of the department are. There are still some concerns and we appreciate and recognize those. They involve the notion of the board being involved in conference planning or CEU offerings. It was agreed that there is a recognized need that we need to take every step we can, at least during this first licensing cycle, that we have done everything reasonable as a board to make sure that continuing education units are available to licensees, especially when we run up against that June and December time frame, when the bulk of the renewals will occur. We have generally talked about this effort staying away from the larger metro areas. What we are going to be doing is GIS mapping of where our current licensees reside; GIS mapping of CEU providers; and then do some mapping for possible locations for a conference. We are focusing on rural Iowa, northeast, northwest and both south corners. Decision has not been made if we will put on two or four sessions. We requested those around the table to provide feedback of their concerns as it relates to where an appropriate location would be, as we do not want to interfere with existing plans. We would like to compliment what is already out there. We will be meeting again in August or September to put together some more formulized plans. One of the main issues we need to address is what time of year is most appropriate to offer this. Our conference planner is telling us it will take about six months at lease to pull conferences together.

We are focusing on the two groups of renewals June and December of 2011. Focusing on rural areas of the state to identify where the greatest need is based upon where licensees reside and CEUs are not available and looking at appropriate locations.

We expressed very clearly that this board has no long term interest in being a CEU provider or organizer.

Sue asked if Ken was talking about the department itself making a presentation of training.

Ken responded that no, we are talking about simply making arrangements for the conference, for training sessions to be provided and working with the 600+ CEU providers and professional organizations to bring in their expertise and training resources to provide the content. We are simply providing the framework to get it done. We have heard from one legislator already saying there are not CEU offerings in rural areas. We are getting calls weekly that CEUs are not available.

Bill Schweitzer commented that the biggest obstacle is the procrastinators.

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Ken: We are well aware of that and are trying to make training available. There was submission that there have been training offered and had to canceled due to lack of participation. We will continue to see procrastinators going forward.

Jane commented she is in total support of that focus. She was not in support of something that was an ongoing program provided by the Board.

That was made very evident at the July 1st meeting we have no interest in getting involved long term in providing CEUs.

Organizational Changes at IDPH – Ken Sharp

Ken assured the board that nothing changes as far as the role of this board. We had a couple of discussions earlier about what this board is doing to link with backflow registrations, the work that Mike Magnant has done with the Plumbing Code and those types of things. We have also had some changes legislatively that require our front line managers to be at a supervisor ratio of one supervisor to 15 employees. Because of some fundamental requirements of organizational structure, and because of our opportunities of how we will better coordinate with some of the water programs, within my division we are simply shifting the organizational chart, the office of the Plumbing and Mechanical Board staff are being shifted into the Bureau of Environmental Health Services. This is simply an organizational change, it does not change anything as far as how the staff supports or interacts with the board, and it doesn't change how they do their jobs, at least at this point. What it does allow us to do is look at how we can take the existing infrastructure that we have and better coordinate with some of the other things like the backflow registration program and then how we can set the stage for moving that type of program into coordination with this board. Whether that is a wholesale move legislatively the IDPH is no longer in charge of that program. We have not had those discussions but it sets the ground work for that to occur. I believe it does raise concerns about the appropriateness of a Division Administrator sitting as an official board member of a board I am an administrator over. One of the discussions we will be having internally is as we see staffing increase with the Plumbing and Mechanical office, is it more appropriate for one of the more technical staff to have in that office or within that bureau of environmental services serve as a board member rather than myself as administrator over those staff. That shifting occurred July 1st as far as the organizational chart. We are going to have a very slow transition in terms of supervisory responsibility and my engagement of the different committees working with the geothermal and statewide inspections.

Jane: Is it still under the department of public health.

Yes, no change. We have the department of public health, in the department there are six divisions – division of environmental health is one of those divisions and I am over it. There are 3 bureaus in my division – environmental health, radiologic health and lead poison prevention plus the office of the plumbing and mechanical systems board.

Sue: I have suspicions whenever I see government making changes I've never seen in the long run the benefit for the individuals as well as for other interests. I feel that sometimes we are making decisions for political gain not is the right thing to do for individuals in society. While it sounds harmless, I don't know what the entire scope of that is and direction it is taking.

Ken: I think I have been as honest with all of you as I can be. There are no mal intentions in terms of this move, the reasons I've pointed out to you are exactly the reasons for this change. We have a mandatory mandate to make our management a one to fifteen ratio that helps us accomplish that. We have received questions about why are we not doing more with backflow and that helps us address

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that. It aligns our opportunities to get staff exposed to some of the things that are going on elsewhere in the division. That is it.

Jane: Are there changes in staff responsibilities?

No, the only thing that perhaps changes is as we look at two areas that may have some influence. If the backflow registration is moved to the authority of the board, those authorities would change to this staff. The other change we will be looking at as we bring on the engineer position that person will coordinate very closely with Mike Magnant to learn the plumbing code and get the background information for understanding of that. Mike does a great deal of other functions such as pool code and water treatment devices. Mike will be retiring the end of this year so there will be some overlap and coverage with this new engineer to provide. That is an area we have to figure out as far as what an engineer does, what the skill sets are,

Jane: Where does it put us as far as hiring additional staff?

On the same path the engineer position has been requested to be posted. We still have authority to bring on temp staff as needed. We are still on track to take a look at when we go back and request additional staff for the CEU program.

Chuck: how are these other areas doing financially?

Supervisory salaries have not been paid out of board funds. This board only supports staffing. One of the changes we have made is we have shifted 50% of Mike's salary to come from the board funds. As we look at adding additional staff there are two questions that must be answered: will this board become large enough to become its own bureau – as we look at that whether it does or it doesn't at some point we have to ask the question given the amount of time this office and this board takes is it appropriate to support at least a portion of a supervisor's salary? We have not done that yet, but I feel this is a discussion that will have to be looked at internally.

Jane: Will there be someone to take your place on the Board?

That is what we will look at when we add additional staff. Don't see changes happening for six to twelve months. For the next 6-12 months I will directly engaged in board meetings and committee meetings. I will continue to meet with Cindy every two weeks. I'm going to be bringing in the new Bureau chief to get her up to speed. We have not made any decisions in regards to what that will look like going forward.

Jane in terms of supervising staff who is the bureau chief?

Carmily Stone. She is strictly supervisory responsibilities, such as leave slips, personnel reviews in conjunction with Ken. In 6-12 months we will be better able to define roles.

Tom: Would the person that joins this board have the same decision powers as Ken?

Those types of concerns I will have to discuss with Matt.

Jane: Would like to see organizational chart.

As those charts are updated they will be distributed to the members.

Licensing Report – Cindy Houlson

The Plumbing and Mechanical Licensing staff has processed applications for a total of 15,622 individuals. A total of 26,605 licenses have been issued. There is slow time now.

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Mick asked about issuing laminated licenses similar to a driver's license.

There has been discussion about changing the current license. Ken has chosen to leave the license as is until we have completed issuing licenses. Contractor and Specialty licenses will get us to a final state. We don't know how that will work for a single card. The change can be made at any time, does not have to be at renewal time.

Other Business

Electrical Board HVAC Special Disconnect/reconnect license

Chuck Thomas reported that Kevin Kruse, Cindy Houlson, Barb Mentzer, Chad Leyland and Brian Young met on July 14th. Kevin had expressed concerns that having to go to two state agencies to be able to do the work. The Plumbing and Mechanical is a two year licensing cycle and Electrical is a three year cycle. Licensee must prove experience to both boards to obtain a license. The HVAC Connect/Disconnect license is in statue for the electrical board. There have been 1800 of those licenses issued. Applicants must prove two years of experience with no test or CEU requirements. Cost is \$75. for three years. At the July 15th Electrical Board Meeting they would discuss. Stuart commented that he was at that meeting and their decision was to not change at this time.

Investigations

Matt commented that we are moving forward with contested rules. As we focus administratively how to streamline the process one idea was to form a disciplinary committee. Every complaint that comes in is under this board's jurisdiction, the board would have to take some type of action. Given the number of complaints received, it s felt a committee would act as an intermediate between staff and the board as well as work on administrative duties.

The disciplinary committee would bring complaints along with recommended action to the board. At the Chairs meeting it was recommended that the board of input. This Committee would allow some direction for Dan to be focusing his actions.

Sue asked how many complaints have been received.

Presently, there are a little over 70 complaints. Currently, it is still some sort of written communication. Dan is working on this process, such as developing a form for complaints.

Jane commented that rather than form a new committee, we should look to the Chapter 29 Committee that has run its course and redefine as a Disciplinary Committee. Denny commented that members of that committee would need to be readily available on a weekly basis.

Jane was not sure of a weekly basis but it would be difficult to conduct a meeting via conference call.

Sue suggested setting up meeting more structurally at the same time each month.

Jane sees the Disciplinary Committee similar to other committees, initially heavily involved, then taper off.

Jane spoke to Ron and he is more than willing to serve. Chapter 29 Committee is composed of Ron Masters (chair), Tom Day, Mick Gage, Chuck Thomas and I. This would be a simple transition without changing a lot structurally.

There were no objections, so we will move forward.

Public Comment

Mike Macula: *Can a plumber connect/disconnect a water heater or does he need a HVAC connect/disconnect license.*

Mike was referred to the Electricians Board for guidance

What is the gas code for the State of Iowa and where do I find it?

Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board Meeting Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Iowa Department of Public Safety Building (Conference Room 125),
215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

NFPA 54 is still a legal rule, although it is not organized the way it should be organized. was referred to Mike Coveyou, Rules Administrator if he has additional concerns.

The IMC refers to the IGC. When you take the plumbing, hydronics, refrigeration or HVAC test it covers fuel gas piping – where do I look up question, they are not allowed to take in the International Fuel Gas Code book, they are allowed to take in NFPA 54 & 58, but the question might be out of the International Fuel Gas Code.

That concern has been addressed at the Testing & Exam Committee Meeting. The Plumbing test still recommends NFPA 54 & 58. The mechanical exam references include NFPA 58 and the International Fuel Gas Code. The testing committee is working with the vendor to provide consistency on the references.

Stuart feels we should stay with the NFPA 54 & 58 as the state has not adopted the International Fuel Gas Code.

Mike thanked the Board for sending CEU information to each licensee. That really got the phones ringing.

How close are we with the new backflow language?

It is in the process.

Mike commented that he had eleven apprentices test for the journey hydronics with gas, there were ten questions on estimating. Each of them bombed on estimating. Didn't realize on the journey test that there would be estimating questions, thought it would be on masters test.

The testing committee is reviewing that issue.

Can they retest for free? They were not prepped for estimating questions, as it was my understanding there would not be any on the journey exam. Some reference materials were removed and those questions may have come from the deleted reference materials.

Your concerns will be forwarded to the Testing committee for review. Prometric was supposed to review exams to be sure the removed references did not affect any of the questions.

Next meeting scheduled August 17, 2010 at University Hygienic Laboratory, Iowa Laboratory Facility Rooms 207 & 208 (Enter the West doors of the building) DMACC campus, 2220 S. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny, IA 50023-9093

Adjournment

Motion: Chuck Thomas made a motion to adjourn

Seconded: Ken Sharp seconded

Discussion: No further discussion was held.

Vote: All ayes