

State of Oregon

FINAL

Residential Structures Board

Rescheduled board meeting minutes

September 25, 2007

- Members present:** Ray Miller, Chairman
David DeHarpport, Vice-chair
Darryl Bishop
Phil Damiano
Mike Goodrich
Kathryn Gray
- Members absent:** Scott Caufield
Douglas Lethin
- Staff present:** Mark Long, administrator
Andrea Simmons, policy and technical services manager
Richard Rogers, structural program chief
Mike Ewert, code specialist
Celina Patterson, policy analyst
Heidi Shamberger, para-technical
Julie Waters, manager's assistant
Debi Barnes-Woods, boards coordinator
- Guests present:** Patrick Bridges, Chairman, Residential Code Review Committee
Eric McMullen, Oregon Fire Marshal's Association
Gary Marshall, Chairman, Governor's Fire Service Policy Council
Troy Buzalsky, Canby Fire District
Terry Lucich, fire chief, Lafayette and Carlton
Don Pamphlin, regional manager, National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc.
Vickie Pritchett, former executive director of Economic and Community Development for Chittem County, Tenn., project manager for Fire Team USA, associate director of public fire protection for the national fire protection association
Shane Ray, fire chief of Pleasantville, Tenn.
David Cohan, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Nancy Orr, Oregon State Fire Marshal
Randy Simpson, chief deputy state fire marshal
Tari Glocar, Oregon State Fire Marshals office
John Caul, deputy state fire marshal
Alan Seymour, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)
Lori Graham, City of Portland
Jim Schwager, Portland Fire Department
Pat Carroll, Oregon State Fire Marshals office

Brady Peeks, Oregon Department of Energy
Donna Desch, Oregon State Fire Marshals office
Phil Sample, City of Lake Oswego, fire marshal
Betty Merrill Oregon Department of Energy
Earl Diment, Portland Fire and Rescue
Peggy Collins, Collins Consulting

I. Board business

A. Call to order

Chairman Ray Miller called the Residential Structures Board meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the Building Codes Division, Conference Room A, 1535 Edgewater Street NW, Salem, Oregon.

B. Roll call

Scott Caufield and Douglas Lethin were absent, excused.

C. Approval of agenda and order of business

Chairman Miller **RULED** the agenda and order of business approved.

D. Approval of the August 29, 2007 board meeting minutes

Chairman Miller **RULED** the regular minutes of August 29, 2007 approved.

E. Date of the next meetings:

- October 3, 2007
- December 11, 2007

II. Public comment - None

III. Reports - None

IV. Communications - None

V. Appeals – None

VI. Unfinished business

[Continued review of the 2008 Oregon Low-Rise Residential Dwelling Code – structural and mechanical provisions](#)

Chairman Miller discussed the process for the meeting: Issues with Appendix P will be addressed first, then the board will review the proposed code changes chapter by chapter.

Chair Miller conveyed that at the August 29, 2007 board meeting, the Oregon Fire Marshals Association and Oregon Home Builders Association were asked to work together to address outstanding issues surrounding the adoption of Appendix P.

Eric McMullen, Oregon Fire Marshals Association and Patrick Bridges, Oregon Home Builders Association, were both asked to report on the progress of the Appendix P discussions.

Mr. Bridges reported that the two associations have met and thoroughly discussed the issues. There are still a number of outstanding issues that were not resolved during the discussions. Mr. Bridges offered the board copies of the proposal made by Oregon Home Builders Association and the recommended modifications to that proposal by Oregon Fire Marshals Association for review.

Mr. McMullen said that the associations are continuing to work toward a consensus document. He agreed with Mr. Bridges that there has not been sufficient time to resolve all the issues.

Chairman Ray Miller asked both associations to provide the board with a report on their progress at the October 3, 2007 meeting.

Andrea Simmons, policy and technical services manager, reported that if both organizations have not come to an agreement at the October meeting, an option would be to refer the fire sprinkler issue to the December 11, 2007 board meeting. This would allow the stakeholders to work on a resolution and to seek public input. The fire sprinkler issue would become a separate process allowing the structural and mechanical provisions in the residential code adoption process to continue towards the goal of an April 1, 2008 effective date. If the Board decides to refer the matter to the December 11, 2007 board meeting, the effective date for the fire sprinkler standards would occur after April 1, 2008.

Gary Marshall, Chairman, Governor's Fire Service Policy Council, said that the organizations represented by the [Governor's Fire Service Policy Council](#), including the League of Oregon Cities, are united on this issue and have asked that the Governor review this issue and give ample support to adopt Appendix P as part of the 2008 Oregon Residential Low-Rise Dwelling Code.

Troy Buzalsky, Canby Fire District, addressed the issue of fire deaths in older housing compared with newer housing raised at the August 29 board meeting. Mr. Buzalsky said that fires are ranked by frequency and fall into the following categories:

- Failure to clean – Chimney fires; dryer vent fires; stove and oven grease, cooking fires
- Abandoned, discarded materials – Smoker's carelessness, fireplace ashes, and fireworks
- Heat source too close to a combustible – Space heaters, stovetop fires, candles, and welding and torch caused fires

- Electrical failure – Overheated electrical components such as motors
- Unattended heat source – candle, cooking, and outdoor burning
- Short circuits and ground faults – Related to the age of the structure (Outlets, switches, and fixed wiring)
- Youth caused – Arson

[Mr. Buzalsky added](#) that the majority of all structure fires are caused by the contents and the components inside the home rather than the performance of the building itself.

Terry Lucich, Carlton Fire District, reported on the cost of the installation of residential fire sprinklers for the 42-lot self-help affordable housing sub-division established by Yamhill Community Development Corporation. The homes averaged 1,200 square foot. The cost for the fire sprinklers was about \$1.32 a square foot. He added that the cost would be lower if more homes were built at one time.

Don Pamplin, regional manager, National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc. Mr. Pamplin is the former fire chief of the City of Vancouver in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. [During his leadership,](#) Chief Pamplin successfully implemented a residential sprinkler ordinance in 1990 that required all new residential occupancies (including single family dwellings) to be protected with a fire sprinkler system. The ordinance resulted in less fire deaths, fire-related injuries and a 50 percent reduction in structure and content fire losses.

Vickie Pritchett, former executive director of Economic and Community Development for Chittam County, Tenn., project manager for Fire Team USA, and associate director of public fire protection for the national fire protection association, reported that Chittam County was the first county to pass a bill that requires fire sprinklers to be installed in residential dwellings. All homes in Pleasantville Tenn., have been equipped with residential fire sprinklers since 2000. Ms. Pritchett said that the key to building a successful fire-safe home is to include homebuilders in the process.

Shane Ray, fire chief of Pleasantville Tenn., worked with others to submit provisions for a fire/life and safety code change proposal (number P29.04) for multi-purpose systems to be included in the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC). Mr. Ray supported the adoption of Appendix P to be included in the 2008 Oregon Residential Low-Rise Dwelling Code.

Pat Bridges, Oregon Home Builders Association, said that the approach taken in model code change referenced by Mr. Ray was incorporated in the proposal being worked on by OHBA and OFMA. He pointed out that the approach taken in the International Residential Code to address the multi-purpose systems is handled in part by amendments to the model code plumbing provisions, which Oregon does not adopt. Just how these provisions will be captured in the Oregon Residential Code will have to be resolved. He added for clarification that the electrical system is included in Appendix P, which the Oregon Fire Marshal's Association supports.

Kathryn Gray asked what were the findings from the Residential Code Review Committee for not recommending approval of Appendix P.

Pat Bridges, Chairman of the Residential Code Review Committee, said that the proposal was inconsistent with the approach taken in Oregon. The proposal did not clearly define how it would be applied, would not ensure code consistency throughout the state, and entails extra costs.

Chairman Miller discussed the process of reviewing the code amendment matrix:

- Matrix will be reviewed chapter by chapter
- Chapters that are not an issue will be forwarded to the consent agenda for board recommendation at the October 3, 2007 board meeting
- Chapters that are an issue, will be taken off the consent agenda and discussed further at the October 3, 2007 meeting

General – Forwarded to the consent agenda

Chapter 1 – Forwarded to the consent agenda

Chapter 2 – Forwarded to the consent agenda

Chapter 3 – Forwarded to the consent agenda: Sections R301.2 and R321.1 were inadvertently left out of the August 29, 2007 board packet. Mike Ewert confirmed that the Residential Code Review Committee did review the proposal and recommended to move it forward. Mr. Ewert reported that there are no substantial changes to this proposal related to flood plains. Most of the authority is left up to the local jurisdiction.

Chapter 4 – Forwarded to the consent agenda

Chapter 5 – Forwarded to the consent agenda

Chapter 6 – Forwarded to the consent agenda

+Chapter 7 – Forwarded to the consent agenda (***R703.1 was pulled to be discussed***) Mike Goodrich referred to R703.1. He was concerned that this section may be interpreted to require a rain screen or furred out system. Mr. Goodrich said the language is vague and could be interpreted to require measures with which some homebuilders would strongly disagree.

Manager Simmons reported that if this language moves forward, a process is in place for a statewide code interpretation, which could be used to clarify this provision.

Chapter 8 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 9 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 10 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
+Chapter 11 - Kathryn Gray was concerned with the proposal eliminating specific references to passive solar design paths. Ms. Gray spoke to Oregon Department of Energy representatives who said that passive solar can still be addressed by balancing the R-values and the U-values in a structure. Ms. Gray recommended including language that allows lowering the U-values only on south facing windows.

Manager Simmons recommended that this Chapter be taken off the consent agenda for today. Additional language will be presented for the board's consideration at the October 3, 2007 board meeting.

Chapter 11 pulled off the consent agenda to be brought forward for the October 3, 2007 board meeting.

Appendix A-F – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix G – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix H – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix I – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix J – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix K – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix L – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix M – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix N – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix O – Forwarded to the consent agenda
+Appendix P – **Pulled off the consent agenda to be brought forward for the October 3, 2007 board meeting.**
Appendix S – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Appendix X – Forwarded to the consent agenda

Mechanical matrix review:

Chapter 12 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 13 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 14 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
+Chapter 15 - **Pulled off the consent agenda to be brought forward for the October 3, 2007 board meeting. (Sections M1503 and M1507)**
Chapter 16 – Forwarded to the consent agenda

Chapter 17 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 18 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 19 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 20 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 21 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 22 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 23 – Forwarded to the consent agenda
Chapter 24 – Forwarded to the consent agenda

VII. New business - None

VIII. Announcements - None

IX. Adjournment

Chairman Ray Miller adjourned the board meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debi Barnes-Woods
Division Boards Coordinator