



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
ADVISORY BOARD OF PLUMBERS

*Mail correspondence to: PO Box 44470 □ Olympia, Washington 98504-4470*

Meeting Minutes July 15, 2014

**Board Members**

Steve Menne, Journey Level Plumber, Chair  
Dave Weisbeck, Public Member  
Evan Conklin, Plumbing Business  
Linda Houser, Plumbing Business  
Dave Weickum, Specialty Plumber  
Jake Tapani, Journey Level Plumber

**Department of Labor & Industries**

Dean Simpson, Chief, Contractor Registration/Plumber Certification//FAS  
Bruce Springer, Plumbing Technical Specialist  
Jesse Jameson, Contractor Technical Specialist  
Jackie Lemons, Plumber Certification Supervisor

**Guests**

Krista Braaksma, State Building Code Council  
Richard Dixon, Gold Seal Mechanical  
Brad Moore, WSA of UA  
Steve Simpson, Local 32  
Bill Buckingham, South West Plumbing  
Connie Buckingham, South West Plumbing  
Mark Monlux, Monlux Illustration

**Call to Order**

The Advisory Board of Plumber's meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on July 15, 2014.

**Approve Minutes**

The April 15, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written.

## **Plumbing Infractions**

Bruce reported there were 116 infractions issued for a total of \$42,000.00 for the second quarter of 2014. He mentioned that there were a lot of second and third time violations, which increases the penalty amount up to \$1,000.00.

Bruce mentioned that we are having a problem with supervision. The trainees will get on their cell phones and call in a journeyman if an inspector comes by. Steve stated that the legislation that we worked on would increase supervision to 100% and that would eliminate that problem. He suggested that the journeyman should get cited as well. Bruce said that in most cases the journeyman isn't there. Jesse added that you can't cite someone who isn't there. He said the responsibility is born by the company owner or dispatcher.

Steve asked if the majority of the infractions were from referrals or from the inspectors being out in the field. Bruce and Jesse concurred that the majority of the infractions were from inspectors in the field. Jesse added that when we receive referrals, they are our highest priority.

Evan said that it is almost impossible to tell when someone is out of compliance because of the disconnect between advertising without documentation to a plumber license. He said the general contractor is going to great lengths to be deceitful. Many of them are performing their own work and then hiring a plumbing company at the very end to come in and make sure it will pass inspection.

Jesse said that Bruce and he field a lot of calls regarding what constitutes plumbing work. He said there are a lot of contractors that don't know their limitations regarding plumbing.

Brad suggested that there should be a way to cite companies that advertise plumbing, but have no plumbers on staff. Jesse stated that he had a court case where the individual stated that he subcontracted out all of the plumbing. The judge asked Jesse if he could do that, and Jesse stated that he could. The laws have since changed said Bruce. You can no longer subcontract if you are a specialty contractor. You would have to become a general contractor to subcontract.

Evan mentioned that there was a bill two years ago that would have addressed this issue, but there was no support from the industry and the bill died.

Discussion followed.

## **Fiscal Update**

Dean reported the fund is still healthy and growing. He added that all state agencies are looking at 15% general fund cuts for FY2016-2017. He said he's working with budget on three or four different scenarios and will know more by next March or April.

## **Plumbing Legislation**

Dean stated that the agency will not be moving forward with agency request legislation. Steve said that Randy Scott is reaching out for sponsors to support this legislation and has approached Senator Pam Roach. Steve mentioned that Randy suggested 100% supervision for trainees might be a contentious subject. He added that when the statute is opened up, there will be other industries trying to making a run on our statute.

Steve mentioned that we should also look at increasing fees to raise revenue and boost the budget. Dean suggested that there is potential to grow the fund and dedicate more revenue to outreach or enforcement. Steve requested that we look at the fee schedule at the next meeting.

Jesse suggested that in exchange for 100% supervision, perhaps raising the ratio on a residential jobsite to 3 trainees to one certified plumber might help keep contractors more competitive. Richard Dixon said that plumbers can't handle more than two trainees at once. He suggested that would be a disservice to everyone. Bruce added that the pass rate on the exam for residential plumbers is running about 25%. Evan added that they aren't being trained.

Discussion followed.

### **New Business**

Krista stated that the Building Code Council is recruiting members for technical advisory groups to review the 2015 codes. She added that the information is available on their website.

Motion to adjourn.