



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT

BUILDING CODE TRAINING COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

1:00 P.M.

Via Collaborate

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Council Chairman Daniel Loos called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. In Attendance

- a. Members: Daniel Loos, Council Chairman; Thomas Manning, Council Vice-Chairman; Omarys Vasquez, State Building Inspector; Arnie DeLaRosa; Thomas DiBlasi; Mayor Warren "Pete" Hess; Henry Miga; Michael Musco; and Raymond Steadward Jr.
- b. State: Darren Hobbs, Bonnie Becker, Douglas Schanne, Michael Fullerton

3. Approval of Minutes

Mike Musco made a motion for a general approval of the August 17, 2021 minutes, seconded by Tom Di Blasi, Chairman Loos declared the minutes approved.

4. Communications

Bonnie Becker, Interim Director, Office of Education and Data Management (OEDM) reported no communications were received.

Staff Reports

a. Office of Education and Data Management

Bonnie reported that the LMS is up and running to mixed reviews. Career Development classes are on the LMS, numbers are increasing but not as high as when users linked to webinar outside the LMS. Sent out schedule announcement to increase usership, looking for other ideas. LMS numbers indicate there are currently 491 BOs and ABOs licensed; 82 ABOs and 409 BOs.

Omarys suggested video tutorials for use of the LMS. Bonnie reported there are currently screen shot videos on OEDM website, OEDM is working on video tutorials of common question areas.

Mike Musco asked for a day warning for a pending online class. Michael Fullerton reported that there is a calendar link that you can add to your calendar and added that the system is not set up to send out a warning announcement. Ray Steadward noted that some BOs don't use Outlook. Doug reported that he sends out an announcement 30 minutes before class as a last-minute reminder. Dan said that those messages go to their home address, doesn't work for night classes. Doug suggested sending out the announcement at 3:30 the previous afternoon. Dan suggested to check Spam folder for announcements.

Bonnie reported on OEDM staffing, saying Jim Quish retired April 30th. Replaced him with Mark Sevetz. End of September Bill Lussier retired. Just today announcement went out for



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT

his replacement. Jim Quish on 120-day contract to develop and teach PLTP, which is scheduled for January 3 – July 23, 2023. Class is live; because of new Code, no hybrid or modular format.

b. **Office of State Building Inspector**

Omarys reported no current new hires. Dan Loos, thanked Omarys and welcomed her aboard.

5. Old Business

- **Board of Control Membership**

Bonnie reported that there are now four members on the Board of Control: Keith Flood, appointed by Speaker of the House, representing Codes and Standards Committee; Alan Lagocki, appointed by DAS Commissioner, representing Architects; Henry Miga, appointed by House Majority Leader, representing Codes and Standards Committee; and Michael Musco, appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, representing Codes and Standards Committee.

The BCTC member is appointed by Senate Minority Leader, and Bonnie reported that OEDM has sent him Arnie and Ray's names for consideration. Bonnie added that Kevin Kelley is the Senator who is holding up the BCTC appointment. Plan is to train the new Director in the budget and then have the Board of Control meeting.

6. New Business

- **Spring Career Development Schedule**

Douglas Schanne, OEDM Training Program Supervisor, gave an overview of the fall career development schedule. For spring 2023, he presented a proposed schedule: Greg Grew, Updates to IBC; Brad Cronin, NFPA 1; Sal Cenatiempo, second part of NEC Code Changes; Issues and Challenges of Administrative Warrants by Ray Walker; Resiliency and Sustainability of Wood Structures with Matt Hunter; Inspections of Carnivals and Fairs by Paul Makuc; Updates for the IEBC by Joe Versteeg; Connecticut Energy Code Updates with Mike DeWein; Tents and Temporary and Permanent Membrane Structures with Mike Sinsigalli; Review of Assembly Occupancies Under the New Codes, instructor TBD. Doug reported OEDM is looking for IPC and IMC instructors. Dan said the career development schedule looks like a good set of programs.

Mike Musco asked where to get handouts. Doug responded that handouts are available on the LMS. Doug suggested that OEDM needs to revisit posting the handouts on the OEDM website. Mike Musco continued that as a code reviewer, he uses the OEDM website frequently to reference handouts. Dan said he agreed that posting the handouts on the website was a good idea.

- **Special Act 22-14: Building Official Training and Apprenticeship Programs**

Darren reported that in the original form, Special Act 22-14 had far-reaching scope, including regionalization of Code officials. Now it has two parts: digitization of building code records and on the agenda today is training and apprenticeship programs for



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT

people who want to become code officials. A report is due to the Legislature by Jan 1, 2023. Ideas around apprenticeship program are being explored by a work group. Some things being looked at include how do we take people from technical high schools or technical colleges and put them on a pathway to become code officials; what that looks like in terms of education, experience, support and mentoring from code officials. Also looking at associated topics like recognition of other states' code licenses, ICC certification programs.

Ray Steadward said he had an HIC spent one week in his office, thinks most BOs are supportive of mentoring. Reach out to him or CBOA if want help with this. He said we may need to push entry-level positions of EI or RBI with a sponsorship or some other way, might be easier to get approval by municipality. Darren mentioned that we might have to change statutes or regulations to reflect current needs instead of when it was written. Dan Loos is on the working group, CBOA is involved, Bill Nash from ICC. Any thoughts or ideas, send to Darren or Omarys. Henry Miga requested that the provisional requirements be revised to apply to lower licenses. Towns would be more inclined to approve use of mentoring if resulted in an employee that could do inspections.

Omarys said regarding what we can use the trainees or apprenticeships for, we're hoping they can shadow and learn and support some of the paperwork or backend work reviewed by the official. Michael Fullerton reported that in the past we've had municipalities that had candidates unqualified for BO or ABO, had them sit for RBI or CI, with mixed success. Omarys stated that avenues they are exploring include giving the apprentices prerequisite training, vocational schools, community college, ICC exam portion, so they are halfway there in terms of education, apprenticeship is oversight and live experience. Can't become an ABO until take ABO exam with Connecticut amendments.

- **International Green Construction Code**

Darren reported that discussion of the IGCC came about on two fronts. In CGS we have some high-performance construction standards that apply to state construction projects and there has been some move about to have them replaced with compliance to the IGCC. The other aspect is the potential of having a stretch code in Connecticut that is over and above Connecticut codes, it wouldn't necessarily become part of the Building Code but would align with it because it's part of the ICC suite of documents. The question really is if we have the IGCC as a high-performance building standard or stretch code, neither of which is enforceable by the building official under the Building Code, would it be appropriate to offer OEDM Code-funded training in the IGCC?

A discussion followed establishing that the IGCC is over and above the Energy Code; officials still need to inspect to the Energy Code. Omarys reported IGCC very similar to LEED. Darren reported that DEEP has oversight of the state statute regarding high performance standards for state buildings, and they have the task of updating the statutes and associated regulations, so it will be updated to reflect the adoption of the IGCC.



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT

Darren reported the IGCC would be an enabling statute, so a municipality may adopt the stretch code in their jurisdiction. The Building Official may end up wearing two hats, like zoning for example, but not part of the building code. Omarys suggested there could be a Sustainability Department, including vehicle charging stations for example.

Bonnie asked if someone took an IGCC class, would OEDM grant credit for it. Doug reported at this point we have not given credit, perhaps partial credit based on what's in the content. Reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Henry suggested checking into funding dollars for resiliency or federal dollars for training. Otherwise, it's another unfunded mandate.

Darren said when you look at the requirements for our training fund, the IGCC is out of scope for training the building code; might prohibit training on IGCC. Will need to be determined by the Board of Control.

7. For the Good of the Order

Bonnie said this was her last meeting, and that it had been an absolute pleasure working with everyone.

Mike Musco suggested the group identify a yearly list of meetings. It was decided to wait to work with the new OEDM director to schedule meetings going forward.

Mike Musco told the group to stay healthy and well.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m. by Chairman Loos.

Daniel J. Loos, Chairman
Building Code Training Council