



**JOINT TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING
BUILDING CODE TRAINING COUNCIL AND FIRE MARSHAL TRAINING COUNCIL**

January 14, 2015 Minutes

Chairman Loos called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Members present:

Building Members: Mary Ann Basile, Dan Loos (Chair), Mark Mastropasqua, Henry Miga, Michael Musco, Eric Schoonmaker

Fire Members: Donald Harwood (Chair), William Abbott

Office of Education and Data Management: Bonnie Becker, Michael Fullerton, James Quish, Craig Russell

A quorum was present for Building Council. Member introductions were provided by both councils.

Approval of November 19, 2014 Minutes: A motion was made by Dan Loos to table the approval until more attendees arrived.

Communications: No communications were received.

The meeting began with **Staff Reports**.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT (OEDM)

Craig Russell reviewed his Summary Report of the Director which outlined OEDM's recent accomplishments in partnership with the Construction Institute in implementing the Design & Trades Conference in May of 2014 and the complete rewrite and update of the pre-licensure and (partial rewrite) of the pre-certification programs.

Craig gave kudos to James Quish for his job in developing presentation materials for the program, doing most of the work and doing all of the presentations and OEDM has received positive feedback from participants.

Craig also noted OEDM's initiating of the review, update and rewrite of test bank test questions for building and fire credential exams in summer of 2014 as well as the CBOA/CFMA Conference in November 2014 which provided 3.5 CEU's to attending building and fire officials.

Craig recapped the issue of the implementation of on-line training for building and fire officials, turnover of the OEDM database from DESSP to DAS for re-write and update, and implementation of new regulations and for new fire marshal certification requirements; updating pre-certification program to comply with new fire code and the ability to hire consultants through PSA's for career development purposes.

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Action item: OEDM to provide council organization chart

Don Harwood requested an organization chart from OEDM in order for council to observe and understand the relationship to understaffing issues and how it relates to government statutes.

Bonnie Becker reported council's request to identify the number of active certifications and clarified the number of fire certifications previously reported revoked as 34 and not 346. Bonnie also noted her conversation with Judith Dicine regarding the liability training of municipal leaders and the agreement of said training to be sponsored by CCM instead of OEDM.

Michael Fullerton provided a brief summary of OEDM's approach to revising and updating the fire and building test banks. Michael discussed how test bank questions are selected and placed into categories in order to analyze a certain range of correct answers for reliability, understand and adjust outliers, and consider unclassified (random) questions.

Jim Quish gave a brief overview of the new Pre-Licensure Training program he redesigned. Jim advised that OEDM has received great feedback from students on the code program and considers it a success for a pilot program.

Jim noted significant changes made regarding the format where modules were changed to residential followed by a commercial module, like the ICC is organized; when previously OEDM went through the IBC first and then the IRC. Wanting to build from something familiar, Jim felt this worked out as everyone who tested as an IBR took the exam did very well.

Jim also noted that OEDM is starting to bring in people to assist with certain areas as more facilities are being used. Jim pointed out that Dan Tierney attended the class that covered the administrative portions of the residential and IBC codes, which turned out to be beneficial. Jim and Dan took students outside of the classroom and brought them to the Plumbers and Pipefitters local 777 mechanical lab where small residential heating units were set up with non-code compliant problems and students were given an inspection sheet prepared by Doug Schanne to go through the inspection process. Jim noted that students learned and enjoyed the process.

Students also spent 4 days at the Electrical IBW in Wallingford Local 90 facility where Frank Levin taught the class with the NEC portion of electrical. Jim noted that the facility was great for students to be able to use materials that were at their disposal and hands on.

Jim introduced the Connecticut Building Code – Smoke & Fire Protection, Chapter 7 program packet which is given to students daily with a general objective based on the state's statutes that covers training and testing for students. Jim advised that the packet includes activities which last about 5-15 minutes to get students moving, working in groups, and involved more into the code book. Students are given a break and upon return items are discussed and solutions are given to students.

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Jim also gave an overview of the take home Unit Quiz 1-201-CGS/SBC Chapters 1 & 2 which is given to students at the end of the day based on daily and passed objectives. Jim advised that on the next day he follows up with students and they have advised the packet as very helpful to them. Jim also noted that the use of open ended questions as opposed to multiple choice are more beneficial to guide students through the code process and that students are contributing more to class.

MaryAnn Basile suggested OEDM provide funding to the ICC for pre-licensure training due to their online capability and have OEDM trainers organize all of the CT amendments in the future which would make sense monetarily.

Bonnie Becker noted that students are emailed slide presentations one week prior to class where they may print out or upload to their laptop and follow during class. Jim encourages students to bring laptops to class because of the excessive printing of paper and waste involved.

Jim noted the task of the soon to be 2015 building code and the challenge it has with the amendments. Students were provided a draft copy of the amendments which they were told to guard with their lives not to make public. Jim stated that it becomes challenging for teaching class because of the question of whether the language is ICC or CT language. Jim advised that statutorily language is going to make its way into the CT amendment. Jim did advise that state mandated regulations are reviewed lightly with students within the confines of the schedule.

Action Item: Councils to look at outcome of assigned task

Don Harwood gave Jim kudos for a work well done; however, raised the issue and struggle of what council is putting in for amendments and its cumbersomeness; where council stands, and whether all amendments are needed. Don recommended councils going back to figure out an outcome. Don believes obtaining a copy of the amendments would help councils to have an idea of what they are working on back and forth. Don also believes that if the ICC code were used the state would be a relatively safe place.

Jim noted that by the end of class students understand how to use a reference standard and know that access to every portion of each listed standard is not practical. Jim also noted that concept is taught first in class, specifics of the code next, and then how it all relates to the code.

Action Item: OEDM to find out what is driving no-shows

Craig Russell suggested charging a fee for students who do not show up for class. Facility location and time frames may be considered. OEDM to consider the implementation of Saturday classes from 7:30-3:00 p.m.

Action Item: OEDM Report to provide more specification concerning Career Development

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OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM)

Bill Abbott reported that the hazmat codes have not sunset; therefore, the office is still utilizing previous hazmat codes. Bill noted that when fire prevention code is adopted in February or March new requirements will be updated at that time. Bill also advised that the Office of the State Fire Marshal website remains in the updating process.

Confirmation of next meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Dan Loos, Chair
Building Code Training Council

Donald Harwood, Chair
Fire Marshal Training Council

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