



**Building Code Training Council Meeting Minutes**

Date: June 13, 2024	Location: Video Conference
Attendees: Frank DaCota, Thomas DiBlasi, Michael Fullerton, Arnie LaRosa, Daniel Loos, Thomas Manning, Henry Miga, Michael Musco, David Preka, Kimberly Rogers, Douglas Schanne, Raymond Steadward, Peter Zvingilas	
Recorder: Shane Cayer	

	Item
I. Introduction	<p>Daniel Loos called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm with a quorum of 9 members.</p> <p>A motion was made by Henry Miga to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2024, with the correction of Raymond Steadman’s title from COA to CBOA. Thomas DiBlasi seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.</p>
II. Old Business	<p>There was a discussion regarding the May 22, 2024, Energy Code Program held in Rocky Hill at the Department Veterans Affairs campus. There was an oblivious issue of the screen not being visible and/or clear to the majority of attendees. There was also a request for presenters to distribute PowerPoint hand out in the format of 2 slides per page.</p>
III. New Business	<p><b>Aligning building code training with industry trends and addressing common mistakes.</b></p> <p>Daniel Loos highlighted inconsistencies between code requirements and field observations, citing smoke detectors as an example.</p> <p>Michael Fullerton raised the issue of code complexity, suggesting it's getting more complicated.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the need for improved electrical inspections and training in municipalities. Building officials lack expertise in multiple MEP areas, leading to citation of chapters without specifics. Tom DiBlasi suggested surveying communities for their most common violations or areas of concern and sharing the results through OSBI or a live discussion board.</p> <p>Michael Fullerton mentioned the need for input and assistance in revising programs. He is seeking input on identifying common mistakes in building codes and their administration. He then hopes to incorporate feedback into course materials and assessments to make training programs more relevant.</p>

Kimberly Rogers also highlighted OEDM's needs assessments and programs, including a panel discussion on smoke removal systems. OEDM aims to improve networking initiatives for building officials, electrical inspectors, and mechanical inspectors.

**Training and regionalization for building inspectors.**

There was a discussion regarding building officials facing challenges in field inspections due to lack of experience and training.

Thomas Manning suggested regionalizing building code enforcement for smaller municipalities. He shared his experience with regionalization in public health, suggested it could work for building departments as well. Michael Fullerton emphasized the need for regionalization in trade-related inspections and training. Henry Miga agreed with a regional approach to specialized inspections but noted budgetary and managerial challenges. Tom DiBlasi outlined challenges with regionalization, including budget constraints and resistance from some people. He shared his experience of helping one-person towns through outreach and collaboration. Henry Miga discussed challenges with inter-town agreements for specialized inspections, including pay scales and control issues.

**Plan review and remote inspections with a focus on technology and education.**

Henry Miga emphasized the importance of tiered training for building officials, based on size of buildings and communities. Michael Musco agreed and acknowledged the need for efficient review processes to serve public interest. Michael Fullerton discussed prioritizing the development of a comprehensive plan review program. He aims to create a library of remote inspection technologies and creative elements

Michael Fullerton discussed the potential for utilizing augmented reality technology in inspection trainings. Thomas DiBlasi suggested using VR/AR technology to help building officials and inspectors do their jobs more efficiently and emphasized the importance of real-world examples in learning building code compliance. Henry Miga discussed remote inspections and shadowing programs for plan review. He suggested job shadowing or on-site inspections for hands-on learning.

Michael Fullerton plans to continue hybrid programs with live events and online offerings.

Michael Fullerton expressed concerns about allowing pre-licensure students to audit continuing education courses. Michael V Musco suggests that pre-licensure training could benefit from additional administrative and technical classes. Michael Fullerton also discussed streaming pre-licensure classes for remote participants, providing study guides for self-study.

	<p><b>Sharing knowledge and addressing code violations in a construction industry.</b>  There was also concerned about losing institutional knowledge when code section or amendment writers retire or leave. It was suggested cataloging that knowledge in writing for future reference.</p> <p>Kimberly Rogers also shared concerns about maintaining quality and addressing misinformation in a public Q&amp;A platform for building officials. Michael Fullerton mentioned they've been soliciting information unofficially and hopes to have a survey ready by the end of July.</p> <p><b>Community development programs and survey planning.</b>  Michael Musco asked about the future list of programs and if there's a fall lineup set yet. Doug provided information regarding speakers who plan to host various professionals for live programs on career development, building codes, and engineering.</p> <p>Doug Schanne plans to retire in August with technical support available.</p>
IV. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1:42pm.
V. Next Meeting	TBD