



## WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

*“Leading the way to excellence in building and life safety”*

### **MINUTES – 2023 Annual Business Meeting**

*Leavenworth, Washington*

*April 20-21, 2023*

#### **Call to Order**

The annual business meeting of the voting representatives was called to order by President Andy Higgins on April 20, 2023 at 8:10 a.m.

#### **Roll Call**

The following executive board officers were present:

Andy Higgins	-	President
Ray Cockerham	-	1st Vice President
Todd Blevins	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Kurt Aldworth	-	Immediate Past President

The following executive board directors were present:

Brian Smith	-	Certification & Registration
Micah Chappell	-	Technical Code Development
Tim Woodard	-	Government Relations
Angela Haupt	-	Finance
Max Booth	-	Education
Stacy Criswell	-	Outreach Services
Ryan Mumma	-	Emergency Management
James Tumelson	-	Accreditation
C. Ray Allshouse	-	Past President
Trace Justice	-	Past President

The following management personnel were present:

Tara Jenkins	-	Executive Director
Troy Jenkins	-	Jenkins Management Solutions
Tanner Jenkins	-	Jenkins Management Solutions

#### **Introductions**

The active member voting representatives, associate members, and guests introduced themselves. Registration list is on file at the WABO office.

## **Agenda**

President Andy Higgins presented the proposed Agenda for the April 20-21, 2023, Annual Business Meeting.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the agenda as presented be approved.**  
The motion carried.

## **Minutes**

President Andy Higgins presented the proposed Minutes for the WABO Winter Committee Meeting on February 02, 2023.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the Minutes be approved as presented.**  
The motion carried.

## **President's Report**

President Andy Higgins provided a brief report on the Executive Board meeting that was held on February 27, 2023 touching on the legislative session, meeting venue locations, 2021 Washington Custom Codes, and Code Official Accreditation Program licensing. Andy announced that Building Safety Month (BSM) is coming in May and encouraged members to forward the proclamation template to their jurisdictions. BSM is a great way to elevate the role of the building official. Andy reported the 2023 Annual Education Institute was a successful event.

## **First Vice President**

Ray Cockerham reported on the 2021 WA Custom Codes and stated the volunteers put in a lot of very much appreciated work. Ray announced he attended the OBOA meeting in Woodburn, OR and stated that they are experiencing a lot of the same things legislatively that we are in WA.

## **Second Vice President**

No Report.

## **Nominating Committee**

Kurt Aldworth announced one of the duties of the Immediate Past President is to serve as the Nominating Chair. WABO typically will ask a board member to serve in their position for a 2-year commitment. The WABO Board of Director elections will be held in the afternoon, and we have a full slate of candidates running for each position. Kurt reminded members that voting representatives can run for any position, and even though we have a full slate, that it does not preclude anyone from running from the floor. Any persons interested in running for office should fill out a nomination form.

The current candidates for the WABO Officers are as follows:

Andy Higgins	-	President
Ray Cockerham	-	1st Vice President
Todd Blevins	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President

The current candidates for the WABO Committee Chairs are as follows:

Brian Smith	-	Certification & Registration
Micah Chappell	-	Technical Code Development
Tim Woodard	-	Government Relations
Angela Haupt	-	Finance
Max Booth	-	Education
Stacy Criswell	-	Outreach Services
Ryan Mumma	-	Emergency Management
James Tumelson	-	Accreditation

### **Executive Director**

Tara Jenkins announced the meeting logistics to the membership. Members were informed of the Governor and WABO's BSM proclamations. Tara highlighted the WAsafe professional development and Code Official Accreditation Program fall registration opening.

Meeting recessed for committee meetings at 8:45 a.m.

**Meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m.**

### **Election of WABO Board of Directors**

Kurt Aldworth announced the current candidates and asked if there were any other nominations for the officers.

He called for unanimous consent for the entire slate of officers.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the officers be approved.**  
The motion carried.

Kurt Aldworth asked if there were any other nominations for the committee chairs.

He called for unanimous consent for the entire slate of committee chairs.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the committee chairs be approved.**  
The motion carried.

### **GUEST REPORTS:**

#### **International Code Council**

Kraig Stevenson announced information on Pro Codes Act and ICC's Chapter Rewards Program. Kraig reminded members to make sure that their staff designation is current so their staff can vote at upcoming code hearings. Kraig stated ICC has many services for jurisdictions.

#### **ICC Region II**

Andy Lorenz announced Region II consists of WA, ID, OR, MT, WY and AK. The Region is the voice to ICC on code and political issues. The Region meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each

month and provide periodic training, with the upcoming training being on Solar App. Anyone interested in getting on their distribution list was asked to contact Andie Lorenz.

### **ICC Local Chapters**

**Western WA Chapter** – Quyen Thai announced the WWC chapter met with the Olympic Chapter who will be dissolving. The Olympic Chapter will be donating their funds to WWC which will be used for training. The WWC will have Energy Code Training at the University of Puget Sound in July.

**Southwest WA Chapter** – Max Booth stated the SWWC provides training in May, one week focused on residential and a second week focused on building and plumbing. Max announced the SWWC launched a new website and can now accept payments online for registrations.

### **WSAPT**

Tela Gardner announced the upcoming annual spring education conference will have a Customer Service Class and a Career Growth Class. The fall meeting will be held at the end of September. Tela also reported WSAPT is working on building relationships and are in a rebuilding phase.

### **WPLBO**

Trace Justice announced the Western Pacific League of Building Officials (WPLBO) is made up of the following regions - WA, CA, Southern NV, & OR. WPLBO will be hosting a Candidates Forum August 24-25, 2023 at the Sheraton by the airport in Portland, OR. Trace reported that even though WPLBO comes together collectively for the Candidates Forum, everyone has their own voice and vote for the candidates they choose to support in the ICC nomination process.

### **OBOA**

Amy Williams reported OBOA's Planning Institute will be held the first week of May. Amy announced that they will be holding their Quarterly Business meeting virtual and planning on holding their 2023 Annual Business meeting at a new venue (Eagle Crest Resort). Amy stated OBOA is reengaging with WPLBO. Amy reported Oregon is finishing their long legislative session and OBOA was tracking 65 bills this session.

### **WABO/SEAW**

No report.

### **State Agencies**

**Labor & Industries** – Chris Rarig from FAS reported that their division is almost fully staffed. Chris reported the FAS advisory board increasing from 9 to 11 which will be at-large or from the trades positions. Chris announced and thanked new FAS Board member Todd Blevins, Building Official from City of West Richland and WABO Officer for applying to sit on the FAS Board. Chris talked briefly about panelized construction and floating homes. Chris announced the Education Committee will be working with L & I to offer FAS Inspector training at the Fall 2023 Walla Walla seminars.

Jesse Jameson with L & I's Contractor Compliance division reported that significant changes to the house flipper bill are causing issues. Jesse announced that L & I can help jurisdictions with

issues that are occurring regarding the plumbing laws that require contractors to hire licensed plumbers.

Dennis Straley with L & I's electrical division reported that new rulemaking is coming up regarding GFCI protection for heat pumps and accepting public proposals. Dennis reported they are also accepting proposals for the Technical Advisory Group. Dennis stated that the virtual electrical inspection program is working well and they are doing about 4K inspections a month.

### **State Building Code Council**

Micah Chappell announced that the SBCC has a lawsuit pending that essentially states the council exceeded their authority. Micah could not report on the lawsuit as it is an active litigation. Micah reported there is a request to delay just the energy code that will be presented at the next council meeting. Micah informed the membership of an off-cycle rule on Energy Storage Systems that are posted on the SBCC website. Micah reported that DCYF is asking the SBCC to further increase family home child daycares from 5 to 12 and stated the agency is allowed to grant waivers. Micah reported that Managing Director, Stoyan Bumbalov, will be putting together a work group to look at TAG and council process and urged code officials to be involved in the process.

### **NFPA**

Gary Honold announced NFPA has an electrical inspector section on the NFPA website and if a person becomes a member for \$99, they will receive a free code book worth \$149. Gary provided information on NFPA's newsletter that is customizable to your interests. Gary updated members on NFPA Link. Gary announced volunteers are needed to sit on the IWUIC committee. NFPA's world conference will be held in Vegas.

### **MyBuildingPermit.com (MBP)**

Kurt Aldworth reported that MyBuildingPermit.com (MBP) is a one-stop shop portal for applying for permits online. Kurt announced the website has an inspection checklist and tipsheets that are great resources to utilize. Kurt reported that the Executive Board approved a backend permitting system and a steering committee will develop the pathway for development. Kurt announced the 2021 Significant Changes training being held May 15-19, 2023, upcoming electrical training provided by Chris Jensen, and virtual training opportunities. Kurt announced that tip sheets are being updated to the 2021 codes. Kurt reported the MBP Annual Business Meeting will be held in October of 2023.

### **NW Housing Association**

Lance Clark reported that their association is seeing a lack of qualified installers. Lance also reported that there are only 7 manufacturers left in the industry. Lance stated that they were following the kit home bill SSB 5657 closely and will continue to follow if it comes back next year.

### **Liaison Reports**

State Electrical Board – James Tumelson reported the next meeting will be held in April.

2021 WA Custom Codes – Lee Kranz reported that he, along with a team of volunteers, consolidated the CR 103's WAC State Amendments and compared it to the 2021 model code language to create a series of documents to send to ICC. The team of volunteers had to

correctly identify the insertions and deletions into the model code. All initial files have been sent to ICC and the team of volunteers will review the files from ICC once they are sent back to WABO. Lee Kranz thanked all the volunteers who worked on the project, Stoyan Bumbalov, and the SBCC for their work on the project.

Meeting recessed for code forum at 3:15 p.m.

### **Friday, April 21, 2023 at 8:10 a.m. – Meeting reconvened**

President Andy Higgins reconvened meeting at 8:10 a.m.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Motion and Action Items**

None.

#### **Technical Code Development Committee**

Micah Chappell provided an overview of the new ICC code development process, encouraged members to get involved, and stated that the next two committee action hearings will be held in Orlando and Long Beach for ICC. Micah asked members to provide code change ideas to himself or Jon Siu. The TCD schedule will be out soon and posted on the website.

#### **C & R Committee**

Brian Smith reported the Weld Advisory Board has received full copyright permissions from AWS for weld standard 27-13. Brian asked members if there is interest from the jurisdictions in having the Technical Consultants have new special inspectors tour the building departments. Brian asked members if building department inspection staff would have interest in participating in special inspection lab tours. Brian provided an update on the WSEC Plans Examiner Certification Program and thanked all the subcommittee members. Brian announced that work has been done with the Department of Commerce to try to help obtain grant funding for Evergreen Technology Consulting and Washington State University and that WABO sent in a letter of support for the federal funding package that Commerce has submitted.

#### **Government Relations Committee**

Tim Woodard asked members for legislative questions since all members were able to attend the committee meeting. Kraig Stevenson suggested that legislation be explored to help fund local government to refine the mapping tool to help with the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

#### **Finance Committee**

Angela Haupt provided the membership with an overview of WABO's 2022/2023 third quarter financials.

## **Education Committee**

Max Booth reported that the Education Committee discussed future education institute formats being in-person or virtual and the committee decided that the 2025 Annual Education Institute and beyond will, in the foreseeable future, remain in-person. The Education Committee will be looking at other venue options – public buildings and amenities. Max reported the class topics for Walla Walla seminars have been nailed down. Max wants to create good connections with other chapters and maybe Walla Walla will be the template. Max asked that if anyone has ideas or needs for training to please e-mail him.

## **Outreach Services Committee**

Stacy Criswell spoke to the first-time attendees and stated this was a real opportunity to connect. He encouraged the first timers to look at the attendee list and reach out as there is a lot of wisdom in the room. Stacy encouraged members to take part in the Building Safety Month Challenge. A template is included in the meeting packet and states this is a perfect opportunity to elevate the role of the building official to your council. Once you have your signed proclamation turn it back into the WABO office for a chance to win a free meeting registration.

## **Emergency Management Committee**

Ryan Mumma reported that the WAsafe Professional Development Training is geared towards what plans you have in place and what resources you have. The program will need help from our Eastside members. Ryan reported that WAsafe is finalizing a refresher course for renewals. Ryan reported the state is working to update inventory to build a database on URM's. Ryan stated they are looking for volunteers and that so far Hoyt Jeter, Quyen Thai, and Jon Siu have volunteered. Ryan announced the Emergency Management Department shared a report on the tsunami in Japan highlighting two schools and the difference that practicing and reviewing the plans can make. Ryan also reported on a Lithium Battery presentation and questions our members on how we dispose of the batteries. It is really difficult to safely recycle, and the committee will see if this can be addressed. Ryan reported that Quyen Thai authored part of an annual report that was sent to the Governors office to address interlocal agreements.

## **Accreditation Committee**

James Tumelson announced that the state licensing application is moving forward and encourages all new building officials to consider enrolling in the Building Official track of the Code Official Accreditation Program (COAP).

Andy Higgins reported that the COAP program offers great scholarship opportunities. Tara Jenkins reported the state is finally reviewing the application as our financial institution called to confirm Worksource was a credible request.

## **Announcements**

Micah Chappell cannot comment on the SBCC lawsuit but did announce that the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit struck down a local ordinance banning natural gas in the Berkeley vs California Restaurant Association. Micah reported that at the next SBCC meeting there has been a request to delay just the Energy code and wanted feedback on how he should vote.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded that WABO will support a delay of ALL codes with an implementation date to November 1, 2023 to the SBCC but no**

**further delay.**  
The motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.