



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

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

**MINUTES – 2023 Fall Business Meeting**

*Walla Walla, Washington*

*October 26-27, 2023*

**Call to Order**

The Fall Business Meeting of the voting representatives was called to order by President Andy Higgins on October 26, 2023 at 8:05 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

The following executive board officers were absent:

Kurt Aldworth	-	Immediate Past President
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The following executive board directors were present:

Brian Smith	-	Certification & Registration
Micah Chappell	-	Technical Code Development
Tim Woodard	-	Government Relations
Angela Haupt	-	Finance
Stacy Criswell	-	Outreach Services
James Tumelson	-	Accreditation
Trace Justice	-	Past President

The following executive board directors were absent:

Max Booth	-	Education
Ryan Mumma	-	Emergency Management
C. Ray Allshouse	-	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. The registration list is on file at the WABO office.

## **Agenda**

The President presented the proposed Agenda for the October 26-27, 2023, Fall Business Meeting.

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

## **Minutes**

The President presented the proposed Minutes for the WABO Summer Business Meeting held on July 20-21, 2023.

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

## **President's Report**

President Andy Higgins reported that the government relations committee is meeting with representatives (sponsors) from bills during last session. He announced that the Technical Code Development Committee (TCD) has several workgroups working on issues resulting from bills from last session and thanked Shane Nilles, Ardel Jala, and Kim Barker for chairing those groups. Andy announced that he, Tim Woodard, Marian Dacca, and Tara Jenkins met with Senator Wilson to discuss the kit housing bill. Additionally, he reported on the 2023 ICC Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in St Louis and the election results. A brief history was provided on the Western Pacific League of Building Officials (WPLBO) to our first timers and the candidates forum. Lastly, Andy briefly touched on an AI tool that could be transformational for the industry.

## **Executive Board Report**

No Report.

## **First Vice President**

Ray Cockerham attended the ICC Board meeting at the 2023 ICC ABM and provided highlights on the IABO dissolution, PRONTO updates, ICC Audit, recent accreditation in Canada, Digital Strategy with AI, the Pro Codes Act, and FEMA presentation. Ray announced that OBOA elected new Officers and are dealing with the middle housing issue like Washington.

## **Second Vice President**

Todd Blevins asked WABO members to make the first timers feel welcomed and encouraged the first timers to learn from the individuals in the room. Todd provided a brief overview on the two seminars that were held – Anatomy of an Installation (Manufactured Home Installation) and Electric Vehicle Requirements in the Model Codes.

## **Election of Board of Director Nominations**

Andy Higgins announced that this is the last quarterly business meeting before our Annual Business Meeting (ABM) being held in Leavenworth. The WABO Board of Director elections will be held at the ABM on April 18, 2024. At this time the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position will be open and it is anticipated that a current committee member will run for this position. Andy reminded members that anyone can run against incumbents and situations could change where a position

could open before the next meeting. You must be one of two voting representatives for your jurisdiction and obtain management approval for involvement. The nomination for leadership application was provided in the meeting packet. For more information on serving and time commitments please contact Andy.

### **Executive Director**

Tara Jenkins announced the meeting logistics to the membership. Tara reminded members of the Committee Volunteer page on the WABO website as a great resource to review all WABO committees and encouraged members or staff members to get involved. Further, she informed members of outreach tools for WAsafe and that the Emergency Management Committee created informative business cards that can be distributed to staff members interested in signing up as a building safety responder.

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

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

### **GUEST REPORTS:**

#### **International Code Council**

Jack Applegate announced that ICC CEO Dominic Sims will retire at the end of 2024 after serving as CEO for 12 years and having been employed with ICC for almost 20 years. Jack provided an update on Pro Codes Act HR 1631 that, if passed, will protect codes and standards. Jack introduced two new code intelligence tools: ICC AI Navigator and ICC Premium Answers. Lastly he announced ICC is celebrating 30 years as a consolidated model code organization and encouraged mentoring and getting involved.

#### **ICC Region II**

No report.

#### **ICC Local Chapters**

##### Western WA Chapter

Quyen Thai reported that the Energy Code Training they had scheduled November 2, 2023 is being rescheduled to January 25, 2024 due to the code implementation delay. Training will be held at the University of Puget Sound. Quyen encouraged members to mentor with other chapters.

##### Olympic Peninsula Chapter

David Kinley reported that the Olympic Peninsula chapter had been dormant for years and they recently held two meetings and elected officers. They are going to focus on training and that currently the active members are jurisdictions in the Kitsap County area. David reported they have a code enforcement focused training scheduled in January.

#### **WPLBO**

Andy Higgins provided the WPLBO update in the President's report.

## **OBOA**

Ray Cockerham provided the OBOA report in the First President's report.

## **WSAPT**

Tela Gardner provided an update on the Fall Conference held in Chelan where Mary Dickson taught IRC & IBC update classes. Tela announced that new Officers were elected and their 2024 leadership retreat has been selected. 2025 will mark 30 years for WSAPT. Tela Gardner was recognized this year at ICC as Permit Technician of the Year.

## **NFPA**

No report.

## **WABO/ SEAW**

Ardel Jala reported on behalf of the WABO/SEAW committee that 6 meetings have been held. The committee is working on updating two white papers WP-7 Seismic Design and Gravity Support Requirements for Nonstructural Components and WP-6b Deferred Submittals.

## **NW Housing Association**

Lance Clark informed members that Labor & Industries Factory Assembled Structures (FAS) has received communication from HUD regarding the International Wildland Urban-Interface Code interpretation request. Labor & Industry FAS should provide communication prior to the November meeting. Lance reported their membership is concerned with inventory and trade in's being grandfathered to the build date.

## **State Agencies**

No report.

## **State Building Code Council**

Stoyan Bumbalov, managing director, introduced code specialist Dustin Curb. Stoyan and Dustin want to know what issues the code officials are having and encourage members to email those issues to them. Stoyan wants to receive complaints up front and wants members to get involved in the process. He stated that there was a great group of volunteers with the 2021 code publishing and stated that the SBCC cannot do custom code and insert pages. Stoyan wants to establish a monthly Q & A meeting with code officials. Further, he announced that he is trying to negotiate with the Code Revisers office to adopt code by reference. The membership was informed that Micah Chappell's term is due to end in January and Angela Haupt has stepped up and submitted an application to the Governor's office.

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

Tyler Running Deer provided an overview of MyBuildingPermit.com's (MBP) services and highlighted the tipsheets, checklists, & training that is available on the website. Tyler reported that MBP is going to provide a backend system which they have decided to build. Tyler reported on SB5290 dealing with the exploration of statewide electronic permitting. He announced that

there are two state grant funds available in 2024 and 2025 in acquiring or upgrading electronic permitting system and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grant on improving permit processing.

### **Liaison Reports**

No Reports

### **Other Reports**

Ray Cockerham announced the executive board supported Washington Association of Fire Marshals (WSAFM) in their efforts to be recognized for inclusion on the State Fire Marshal Office Service Delivery Workgroup.

Jon Siu announced that WAsafe has launched their new website and that you can scan the QR code on the emergency responder cards and click the WAsafe Coalition button which will take you to wasafecoalition.org. Jon reported there is a section for Building Officials to request help in the event of a disaster that he fully developed and asked for members to review it. If there are any additional tools needed, please let him know for additional development. Jon reported WAsafe will be providing training at the 2024 Annual Education Institute and on the eastside of the state. Please watch the WABO calendar for details.

Tim Woodard reported on the BRIC program that can be used for permitting and reported that Stella Car from ICC can assist with the process.

Meeting recessed for code forum at 3:00 p.m.

### **Friday, October 27, 2023 at 8:05 a.m. – Meeting reconvened**

President Andy Higgins reconvened meeting at 8:05 a.m.

### **Motion and Action Items**

None

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Brian Smith announced that Gary Schenk has developed curriculum on the history of WABO and the history of special inspection and encouraged members to stay for the professional development presentation.

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

Micah Chappell encouraged members to visit the Code Development page of the WABO website as well as the SBCC website and to get involved. TCD has scholarships available to attend the ICC Committee Action Hearings and Public Comment Hearings.

#### **Government Relations Committee**

Tim Woodard reported the Government Relations committee discussed standing legislative items and possible new legislation WABO would be seeking in the future. Tim reminded members to review the draft legislative priorities for 2024 and that if members wanted any

modifications, bullet points removed, or additions to the list to please e-mail him prior to the next government relations meeting.

### **Finance Committee**

Angela Haupt provided the membership with an overview of WABO's 2023/2024 first quarter financials.

### **Education Committee**

Stacy Criswell announced the 2024 Annual Education Institute courses are finalized and will be held at the Lynnwood Event Center on March 25-28, 2024. Stacy reported the Education committee discussed the challenges with rising venue costs and are still working on securing a location for 2025. He also reported that the committee discussed the possibility of moving the date of the Annual Education Institute to the beginning part of April, which Jon Siu reported would coincide with the ICC code hearings.

### **Outreach Services Committee**

Stacy Criswell reported that the committee discussed the idea of having a liaison position within WABO. Stacy stated the ideal function of this person/position would be to actively communicate with a multitude of other state, local, and federal agencies where roles overlap.

### **Emergency Management Committee**

Quyen Thai reported the Emergency Management committee has been working on the committee charter.

### **Accreditation Committee**

James reported that all four years of the Code Official Accreditation Program (COAP) are running. James reported the numbers for the fourth year Building Official track are lower than he anticipated and hopes that will change in the future as the course was designed to accelerate learning. James provided an overview on the history of the program, tuition, and scholarship. James encouraged jurisdictions to utilize this program as a preferred criteria in job descriptions. He also provided an overview of the Accredited Code Official (ACO) program which is a different arm of the Accreditation Committee.

### **Announcements**

None.

### **Unfinished Business**

Marty Gillis asked on the status of the self-paced Plumbing Code. James Tumelson announced it will be launching soon.

Marty Gillis asked if the 2021 Washington Custom Codes will be available in print form. Tara Jenkins stated that there will be print versions available in soft cover. They can be ordered on the WABO website for pre-order now.

## **New Business**

Jack Applegate stated there is a new Eastern OR Chapter up and running.

Micah Chappell announced the TCD email distribution list is not the same distribution list as WABO's. If you want to receive correspondence from the TCD Committee please send a request to Micah, Jon Siu, or Tara Jenkins to be added to the TCD Committee.

James Tumelson reported that he attended the Electrical Board Meeting, and the 2023 National Electrical Code implementation date is April 1, 2024. James stated that there is currently a 0% vacancy rate as Labor & Industries are paying 120K for their inspectors but that it is just temporary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.