



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS
"Leading the way to excellence in building and life safety"

Minutes

WABO Executive Board Meeting – December 06, 2023

1. Call to Order

The WABO Executive Board was called to order by President Andy Higgins at 12:15 p.m. via Zoom Conferencing.

2. Roll Call

The following officers were present:

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

The following Directors were present:

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

The following Directors were absent:

Max Booth	-	Education
Ryan Mumma	-	Emergency Management

The following management personnel were present:

Tara Jenkins	-	Executive Director
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3. Consent Agenda

Agenda Approval – December 06, 2023. Approved unanimously.
Minutes Approval – August 10-11, 2023. Approved unanimously.

4. **President Report.** Andy reported that Representative Duerr will be moving forward with her legislation that was brought forth last legislative session. Andy announced that the City of Seattle does not have a resolution at this time on the Seattle Energy code.
5. **Business / Action Items –**
 1. **WABO Business –**
 - a. **Action Between Meetings –** Andy Higgins reported that action occurred in between the last board meeting and the following motions need to be reflected in the minutes:
MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve a \$1,500 donation to the WA Association of Permit Technicians Scholarship fund. Motion passed.
 - b. **Winter Committee Meeting –** Tim Woodard announced that the Government Relations committee is trying to secure volunteers to speak to their representatives during the virtual week on the hill. Tim held a discussion regarding the current format of the Winter meeting and if there is interest to return to the in-person format.
 - c. **2024 Legislative Priorities –** Tim Woodard informed the board that a request was made to support legislation to increase state support for emergency response volunteer programs (eg; WAsafe) or promote such programs. Tim will take this request through the Government Relations committee for vetting and approval. Micah Chappell brought up the issue of the legislative priorities only being available on the legislature page, which is a members only page, the Board has no issue with the priorities being made available to the public once Tim reviews them with Marian.
 - d. **SBCC Outreach –** Kurt Aldworth led discussion on the letter that has been drafted to the State Building Code Council (SBCC) regarding the WA Custom Codes. The Board felt language from the recent Council meeting needed to be incorporated into the draft and then it can be submitted. Andy Higgins will work on the final language.
 - e. **Facility Request for Consultant Expenses –** Tara Jenkins led the discussion regarding a fabrication facility that submitted a request to the Board for an estimate of Technical Consultant fees prior to an on-site audit. Having the consultants provide the facilities will result in more billable hours, the WABO office staff members will be directed to provide comps to the facility prior to so they can have an expectation of costs in advance.

- f. **Liaison Consultant** – Stacy Criswell provided an update on the Walla Walla meeting and stated there was a lot of interest from the membership. The Outreach committee came up with a list of 22 organizations. The Board discussed if our lobbyist role can just add to the scope and fulfill this position. A cost benefit analysis will need to be done. Stacy will send the organization list to the Board to narrow the scope of focus to the top 5 organizations and then bring back to the Executive Board Retreat.
- g. **Organization Partnership Criteria** – Tim Woodard led a discussion on whether the Board wanted to establish criteria/guidelines for organization partnerships. If a Board member is interested in establishing criteria/guidelines for Board consideration a draft must be presented for review.
- h. **Feasibility Study for Implementing Immediate Occupancy Standard(s) Draft Bill** – Tim Woodard reported that Jon Siu provided the WA State EMD bill informing us that EMD would like WABO to support the bill.
- i. **2021 WA Custom Codes Update** – Angela Haupt reported that the IFC is the only code we are waiting on except for the Energy codes.
- j. **Jim Tinner AEI Scholarship** – Tara Jenkins led the discussion that WABO Past President Willie Hill wanted to present a Jim Tinner AEI Scholarship to the Board to be discussed. The Board embraced the idea of a scholarship for the members of which have contributed so much to the organization for the Education Institute. The Outreach Committee has been tasked with creating two separate scholarships, the ‘Legacy Scholarship’ and ‘Memorial Scholarship’ and develop eligibility criteria to be presented at the next meeting.
- k. **Other** – James Tumelson informed the Board that he had a conversation with Steve Hart and stated that substantial inclusion of the Energy code is incorporated into the WA State Amendments. He stated that training on this topic will be critical. Todd Blevins will contact Steve Hart to see if he is able to instruct at the 2024 Annual Education Institute.

Kurt Aldworth informed the Board that Max Booth is stepping down from Education Chair and Brian Smith has submitted a nomination form for Education Committee Chair. Outreach efforts for Certification and Registration will need to start as well as for any positions that are applying for 2nd Vice President which will be open this coming April. Tim Woodard led a discussion on an ICC letter distributed regarding protection of their intellectual property.

Micah informed the Board that an SBCC special meeting was held last week and the Residential Energy changes moved forward but that the commercial changes did not. Micah reported that the Governor will call for another special meeting and that the minutes are available for review on the SBCC website. Micah announced SBCC removed all mapping from Chapter 3 in the IWUIC and requires local jurisdiction to do their own mapping. Micah questioned the legality of removing the mapping as legislation requires DNR to do mapping and has not received an answer. Micah reported that if the SBCC felt another delay could occur due to the energy code, the council has discussed decoupling the codes and let the Energy Codes stay behind.

Angela Haupt informed the group that the SBCC voted on the 2024 code implementation date which will be November 1, 2026. The Education Committee will need to poll the membership at the 2024 Annual Education Institute to see if the membership wants to keep with a Spring Institute or move it to Fall in 2026.

2. ICC Business –

- a. BRIC Grant Program –** Andy Higgins stated that Jake Hesselgeser and Ryan Mumma provided detailed information about the FEMA BRIC program. The information was forwarded to the SBCC for consideration for the 2024 WA Custom Codes for them to pursue grant funding. Kraig Stevenson also provided information to WA EMD for disaster response program.

Meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m.

The Executive Director prepared the proposed Minutes. Written documents or reports referred to in the Minutes are on file in the association office.