

## Meeting Notes: Building Efficiency Workgroup

Date: October 28, 2019

### Attendees:

Commissioner Steve Kelley	Dept of Commerce
Scott McLellan	Dept of Labor and Industry
Deputy Commissioner Rachel Robinson	Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Kelly Hyvonen	Big-D Construction
Justin Knopps	JE Dunn
Jessica Looman	MN State Building and Construction Trades Council
Andy Snope	IBEW Local 292
Gary Thaden	MN Mechanical Contractors Assn
Gerhard Guth	HGA Architects and Engineers
Rick Carter	LHB Corp
Craig Johnson	League of MN Cities
Kurt Schultz	City of St. Paul
Megan Hoyer	Center for Energy and Environment
Ben Rabe	Fresh Energy
Pat Stockhaus	CommonBond Communities
Becky Landon	Newport Midwest, LLC
Richard Graves	U of M Center for Sustainable Building Research
Representative Jamie Long	MN House

Commissioner Steve Kelley started the meeting at 2:02 pm. He noted Commissioner Leppink had an unavoidable conflict that prevented her from attending. Scott McLellan, director of the Construction Codes and Licensing Division for DLI, represented DLI.

Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Commissioner Kelley provided an overview of the workgroup scope: A number of Minnesota cities have established energy or carbon reduction goals and have sought state assistance in achieving these energy goals. As such, many cities are working to

address energy consumption in new residential and commercial building construction beyond that currently regulated by the Minnesota State Energy Code. DLI and Commerce are convening this informal process, to determine potential policy solutions needed to enable cities to voluntarily promote or otherwise ensure greater energy efficiency and better energy performance measures for new & major renovations of commercial and multifamily residential buildings. The meetings are a venue to promote a mutual understanding of the issues related to policy solutions to support cities in their building energy efficiency & performance. Ultimately, the goal will be to identify areas of potential agreement and compromise.

Commissioner Kelley reviewed the proposed schedule of meetings. Several attendees cannot attend the next scheduled meeting on November 13. Commissioner Kelley directed staff to consider alternative dates. Commissioner Kelley then provided a few meeting guidelines: (1) Active listener; (2) Be mindful of jargon and assuming knowledge; (3) Step up/Step back. Commissioner Kelley asked the group if they had any additional guidelines – none were volunteered. He noted that at any point individuals should feel free to raise an idea.

Commissioner Kelley then introduced the presenter, Richard Graves, Director of the Center for Sustainable Building Research and an associate professor in the College of Design at the University of Minnesota. From 2012 to 2014, Graves was the Executive Director of the International Living Future Institute, leading the operations and strategic efforts around all of the Institute's signature programs. Professor Graves is serving as a technical expert to this workgroup.

Professor Graves gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on commercial/multi-family buildings carbon use, efficiency, and energy performance. Questions and discussion included how the state energy code has evolved; past and future energy savings potential; the potential for challenges in operations and the need for trained maintenance workers to successfully implement or maintain the efficiency technology; differences in codes such as prescriptive or performance and modeling how future code improvements could lower the carbon footprint but behavior/user-driven strategies are critical components.

Attendees then held small group discussions on the following questions: What does success look like when cities are empowered to promote or otherwise ensure greater energy performance and efficiency for commercial and multifamily residential buildings? What does success look like from your sector's perspective? Attendees then shared out a brief summary of their discussions. Themes of the small group discussions included: Ensuring the comfort and autonomy of the building resident; strategy needs to be easy/accessible for the end-user; addressing and minimizing potential conflict between codes; implementation challenges; the policy should be understandable and have a long life cycle so as not to revisit every few years, the need for cross-sector strategies in order to realize success; the

importance of lowering buildings' substantial carbon footprint in order to be successful in reaching local climate goals; increasing energy efficiency while keeping costs stable; for a successful experience, cities need to have tools - information, supports such as training; establish how you would track success for a city; look for the win-wins; be willing to rethink current processes as we build the next generation of buildings.

Commissioner Kelley thanked the participants for their contributions and time, and concluded the meeting at 4:05 pm.