

# Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: April 16, 2024  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Minutes by: Lyndy Logan  
Location: DLI, 443 Lafayette Rd. No., St. Paul, MN 55155 | WebEx | Phone

## Members

1. Karl Abrahamson (Secretary)
2. Sam Arnold
3. Richard Becker (Chair)
4. Kent Erickson (Vice Chair)
5. Mike Dryke
6. Mike Herman
7. Jonathan Lemke
8. Justin Parizek
9. Bruce Pylkas
10. Scott Stewart – WebEx
11. Rick Wahlen
12. Mike Westemeier (DLI CO’s Designee)
13. Shane Willis – WebEx  
David Weum (MDH CO’s Designee)

## Members Absent

None

## DLI Staff & Visitors

Adam Case (Board. Counsel, DLI)  
Brad Jensen (DLI)  
Lyndy Logan (DLI)  
Hannah Mardaus (DLI)  
Todd Green (DLI) – WebEx

## DLI Staff & Visitors

Thomas Eisert (DLI)  
Sean O’Neil (DLI)  
Jeff Lebowski (DLI)  
Daniel Becker (DLI)  
Steve Nuebel (DLI)  
Charles Olson (DLI)  
John Roehl (DLI)  
Kara Topper (DLI)  
Jake Brunoehler (Adspipe) – WebEx  
Nick Erickson (Housing First)  
Steve Fernlund (City of St. Paul)  
Jeff Hill (MWQA)  
Lori Jansen (MWQA) – WebEx  
Rick Jacobs (Local 34)  
Mike Johnson (J-Berd Mechanical)  
Mike McGowan (MWQA)  
Stephanie Menning (MUCA) – WebEx  
Tom Pakkala (Plumbers Local 15)  
Bradley Peters (Rochester Comm Dev)  
Jim Peterson (MN PHCC)  
David Radziej (MN PHCC)  
Katy Thompson (Stantec) – WebEx  
Matthew Wirth (MWQA)  
Phil Wood (The Jamar Company)

## 1. **Call to Order, Chair**

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker at 9:35 AM. Roll call was taken by the Secretary and a quorum was declared with 13 of 13 voting members present in person or via WebEx.
- B. Announcements – Introductions (members and attendees) – Chair Becker
  - Everyone present in person and remotely are able to hear all discussions.
  - All votes will be taken by roll call if any member is attending remotely.
  - All handouts discussed and WebEx instructions are posted on the Board’s website.
  - WebEx instructions/procedures can be found on the board’s website at:  
<https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/plumbing-board>

## 2. Approval of meeting agenda

A motion was made by Herman, seconded by Erickson, to approve the agenda as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous with 13 votes in favor; the motion carried.

## 3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion was made by Arnold, seconded by Lemke, to approve the Jan. 16, 2024, regular Plumbing Board meeting minutes as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous with 13 votes in favor; the motion carried.

## 4. Regular Business

Expense reports were approved.

## 5. Special Business

### A. Enforcement & Licensing update – Sean O’Neil

- O’Neil said plumbing enforcement actions are updated monthly and can be found here: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/plumbing-contractors/plumbing-enforcement-actions>

### B. Department updates – Mike Westemeier

- Westemeier said at the last meeting Mr. Green, CCLD’s Director, discussed increasing fees but this legislation did not pass. Two additional plumbing plan reviewers were hired. Approximately 30% of submitted plans are incomplete which is time consuming and causes delays.

### C. 2024 UPC update – Chair Becker

- Chair Becker said the ad hoc Rulemaking Committee continues to meet monthly – currently discussing Chapter 6. RFAs are discussed with the relevant chapter/section. The Committee will bring a full recommendation to the board.

### D. RFI PB0162 – Minnesota Water Quality Association – see **Attachment A**

- Jeffrey Hill presented the RFI on behalf of the Minnesota Water Quality Association. Mr. Hill gave an overview of the issue as well as how Minnesota’s homegrown code prior to the adoption of the UPC addressed this question and reviewed the statutory changes subsequent to adoption of the UPC.
- Chair Becker said this isn’t under the scope of the Plumbing Board – this is a question of statutory interpretation for the Department. Only the Legislature can make a change to the relevant statute. During discussion it was stated that the Department would be reviewing the issue.
- **A motion was made by Pylkas, seconded by Parizek, to respond to the RFI with the question and answer below. The roll call vote was unanimous with 13 votes in favor; the motion carried.**
  - **Question:** Pursuant to [Minnesota Statute 326B.50](#), Subdivision 3, are Water Conditioning Contractors permitted to install bypasses in single family homes?
  - **Answer:** The Board cannot answer this question because it requires interpretation of a statute, not the State Plumbing Code.

- **Analysis:** Pursuant to [Minnesota Statutes section 326B.127](#), subdivision 5 the Minnesota Plumbing Board has final interpretive authority applicable to the State Plumbing Code. PB0162 has asked the Board to interpret the language of a statute, specifically Minnesota Statutes section 326B.50, subdivision 3.

## 6. Committee Reports

- A. 2024 UPC ad hoc Rulemaking Committee update – Committee Chair Becker
  - The Committee continues to meet monthly and unless otherwise noted RFAs will be reviewed with the chapter/section they pertain to.
- B. Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC)
  - Abrahamson gave a brief recap from the last CCAC meeting held on [Feb. 9, 2024](#).

## 7. Complaints and Correspondence

None

## 8. Open Forum

None

## 9. Board Discussion

No discussion

## 10. Announcements

Regularly scheduled meetings occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each quarter at 9:30 a.m., in-person at DLI with WebEx/Phone options. The next regular meeting will be held on July 16, 2024.

## 11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Herman, seconded by Erickson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. The roll call vote was unanimous with 13 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karl Abrahamson*

Karl Abrahamson  
Secretary

### Green meeting practices

The State of Minnesota is committed to minimizing in-person environmental impacts by following green meeting practices. DLI is minimizing the environmental impact of its events by following green meeting practices. DLI encourages you to use electronic copies of handouts or to print them on 100% post-consumer processed chlorine-free paper, double-sided.

Plumbing Board  
c/o Department of Labor and Industry  
443 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4344  
www.dli.mn.gov

## Plumbing Board Request for Interpretation

PRINT IN INK or TYPE

NAME OF SUBMITTER

Rule(s) to be interpreted (e.g., 4714.0330)

The Minnesota Plumbing Code (MN Rules, Chapter 4714) is available at [www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlumbingCode.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlumbingCode.asp)

Has a request for interpretation been submitted to Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) staff, either as a verbal request or a written request?  Yes  No

If "No," contact DLI staff at 651-284-5898. The DLI is responsible for administration and interpretation of the Minnesota Plumbing Code, and all requests must be processed and provided a DLI interpretation before being referred to the Plumbing Board. This form is intended to be used to request an interpretation from the Plumbing Board only as a resolution of dispute with DLI interpretation.

Code/Rule to be interpreted:

Name of DLI employee gave interpretation:

Date interpretation originally requested:

Provide a copy of the DLI interpretation with this request (a copy must be provided as reference).

Is there a local dispute with an Inspector or other official?

If Yes, state the name or type of official

Yes  No

State the circumstances of the initial dispute:

Explain what you disagree with the interpretation given to you by DLI staff:

What is your interpretation of the language:

List any other information you would like the Board to consider:

**Information regarding submitting this form:**

- Submit any supporting documentation to be considered electronically to [DLI.CCLDBOARDS@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.CCLDBOARDS@state.mn.us). Once your Request For Interpretation form has been received, it will be assigned a file number. Please reference this file number on any correspondence and supplemental submissions.

**Information for presentation to the Committee:**

- You will be notified with the date of the Committee Meeting in which your Request For Interpretation will be heard.
- Limit presentations to 5 minutes or less.
- Be prepared to answer questions regarding the Code, the circumstances that led to the dispute and please bring copies of any documentation.

**What you can do if you disagree with the Board's determination:**

- You may appeal the Board's determination pursuant to Minn. Stat. Chapter 14.

**Submitted by:**

NAME		FIRM NAME	
ADDRESS		CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
PHONE	SIGNATURE (original or electronic)		DATE

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**Office Use Only**

RFI File No.	Date Received by DLI	Dated Received by Board	Date of Board Meeting
Title of RFI	By:		

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This material can be made available in different forms, such as large print, Braille or on a tape. To request, call 1-800-342-5354 (DIAL-DLI).

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For assistance or questions on completing this form, please call 651-284-5898 or 651-284-5889.

Mailing address:

**Plumbing Board  
c/o Department of Labor and Industry  
443 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4344**

**\*\*\* Please remember to attach all necessary explanations and supporting documentation\*\*\***

## DLI Web Site

<https://www.dli.mn.gov/workers/plumber/water-conditioning-license-basics>



### **What is water conditioning work?**

A water conditioning system is designed to treat water to alter, modify, add or remove mineral, chemical or bacterial content, in a water distribution system. Water conditioning work includes the installation and servicing of water conditioning systems.

Water conditioning does not include:

- a valve that allows isolation of a water conditioning installation;

JH240123.1

## Statute 326B.50



Minnesota Legislature

Office of the Revisor of Statutes

### 2023 Minnesota Statutes

#### 326B.50 DEFINITIONS.

§ Subd. 3. **Water conditioning installation.** "Water conditioning installation" means the installation of appliances, appurtenances, and fixtures designed to treat water so as to alter, modify, add or remove mineral, chemical or bacterial content, said installation to be made in a water distribution system serving:

(1) a single family residential unit, which has been initially established by a licensed plumber, and does not involve a direct connection without an air gap to a soil or waste pipe; or

(2) a multifamily or nonresidential building, where the plumbing installation has been initially established by a licensed plumber. Isolation valves shall be required for all water conditioning installations and shall be readily accessible. Water conditioning installation does not include:

- (i) a valve that allows isolation of the water conditioning installation;
- (ii) piping greater than two-inch nominal pipe size; or
- (iii) a direct connection without an air gap to a soil or waste pipe.