

Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: April 18, 2023
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Minutes by: Lyndy Logan
Location: Minnesota Room, DLI, 443 Lafayette Rd. No., St. Paul, MN 55155

Members

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

Members Absent

Mike Herman (Vice Chair)
Rick Wahlen

DLI Staff & Visitors

Brittany Wysokinski (Board. Counsel, DLI)
Lyndy Logan (DLI)
Sean O'Neil (DLI)
Brad Jensen (DLI)
Chuck Olson (DLI)
John Roehl (DLI)
John Blenker (WestwoodPS) – WebEx
Ryan Bluhm (WestwoodPS) – WebEx
Jonathan Boesche (MN ABC) – WebEx
Nick Decker (Veit) – WebEx
Thomas Eisert (City of Edina) – WebEx
Nick Erickson (Housing First)
Dean Gale (Plumbers Local 34) – WebEx
Becky Guenther (ISG Inc) – WebEx
Julie Hagstorm (HGA) – WebEx
John Hass (VEIT) – WebEx
Jason Haugen (Canterbury Park) – WebEx
Todd Hubmer (Bolton & Menk Inc) – WebEx
Mike Johnson (J-Berd Mechanical)
Stephanie Menning (MUCA) – WebEx
Tom Pahkala (Plumbers #15)
Jim Peterson (MN PHCC)
Scott Thompson (My Plumbing Training)

1. **Call to Order, Chair**

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker at 9:31 AM. Roll call was taken by the Secretary and a quorum was declared with 11 of 13 voting members present in person or via WebEx.
- B. Announcements – Introductions (members and attendees) – Chair Becker
 - **New members:**
 - Bruce Pylkas, Comm/Industrial Plumbing Contractor – Metro
 - **Re-appointed members:**
 - Sam Arnold, Scott Stewart, Rick Wahlen, Shane Willis
 - 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 Abrahamson, seconded by Arnold, to approve the agenda as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion was made by Erickson, seconded by Dryke, to approve the Feb. 10, 2023, special meeting minutes with the following revisions: Remove “WebEx” next to Brittany Wysokinski’s name under DLI Staff and Visitors and under Special Business, item A, Abramham's comments should include the word "footing" as follows: “There are elevator *footing* drains that are tied into these storm systems.” The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.

4. Regular Business

Expense reports were approved.

5. Special Business

- A. Enforcement & Licensing update – Sean O’Neil – provided handouts – see **Attachment A** and summarized plumbing enforcement actions found [here](#).
- Scott Thompson, My Plumbing Training, addressed the Board with his question about the new iMS program and how it affects the plumbers in the field for relicensing.
 - O’Neil stated that there will be some efficiencies that users of iMS will be able to utilize in the database. Currently information is being shared on how it will impact individual licensees and businesses. Resources on the department website is readily available regarding renewing licenses. He also recommended for those that want more information and updates that they should enroll in the Gov Delivery Email list which can be done by emailing O’Neil or Lyndy Logan.
 - Thompson also asked if the new iMS system will remind licensers when they need to renew licensing and CEs.
 - O’Neil stated that the new iMS system will make reminders for renewal more efficient for both renewing licenses and CEs.
- B. Department updates – Mike Westemeier
- Plumbing inspectors will soon be performing virtual inspections, and the department will be hiring another plan reviewer in the fall.
 - Steve Noble is our newest plumbing standards rep for the central region from Forest Lake to Crow Wing.

6. Committee Reports

Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC) – Mike Herman (rep) / Richard Becker (alt). The last CCAC meeting was held on Feb. 9, 2023. The presentation can be found at <https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ccac-020922-presentation.pdf>

7. Complaints and Correspondence

None

8. Open Forum

- Nick Decker, Veit, addressed the Board regarding the following: *DLI inspections are more than a week out and this does not work with General contractor timelines. Last year we were told that it would be possible to use photos at times for inspections, now we are told this is not acceptable. Does DLI need more inspectors to help cover this busy season?*
- John Hass also addressed the board regarding the same issues.
- Chair Becker stated that DLI inspections are not under the prevue of the Plumbing Board – he recommended reaching out to Brad Jensen at brad.jensen@state.mn.us

9. Board Discussion

None

10. Announcements

Regularly scheduled meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each quarter at 9:30 a.m., in-person at DLI with WebEx/Phone options

- Jul. 18, 2023
- Oct. 17, 2023
- Jan. 16, 2024

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Arnold, seconded by Stewart, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Erickson

Kent Erickson
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.

Unlicensed Farmington contractor fined \$30,000

- An unlicensed Farmington contractor was found to be performing residential building construction, remodeling, roofing, plumbing and electrical work without a license. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$30,000.
- An unlicensed Burnsville contractor, whose license was previously revoked by DLI, was found to be performing residential building construction, remodeling and roofing without being licensed. The unlicensed contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activities and fined \$30,000.
- A licensed Overland Park, Kansas, technology systems contractor failed to ensure its employees were appropriately registered and/or licensed with DLI and failed to comply with supervision requirements. The contractor was censured and fined \$35,000 of which \$20,000 was stayed contingent on full future compliance.
- A licensed Lake Elmo plumbing contractor failed to ensure its employees were appropriately registered and/or licensed with DLI and failed to comply with supervision requirements. The contractor was censured and fined \$2,500, of which \$2,200 was stayed contingent on full future compliance.
- An unlicensed Minneapolis contractor was found to have engaged in unlicensed electrical work. The contractor was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed activity and fined \$10,000.



Enforcement actions
View enforcement and license actions levied against licensees.

More information

View summaries of enforcement actions at dli.mn.gov/workers/homeowners/file-complaint-and-view-enforcement-actions. Contact us at 651-284-5069 or dli.contractor@state.mn.us.

WATER AND SEWER PIPE-LAYER TRAINING BEST PRACTICES

To perform water and sewer pipe-laying work, Minnesota law requires individuals to obtain a plumbing bond or be an employee of a person in compliance with the bond and insurance requirements of Minn. Stat. §326B.46, subd. 2. Individuals performing building sewer or water service installation are not required to hold a plumbers license if they have completed pipe-laying training.

Best practices

The following are best practices for water and sewer pipe-laying training:

1. Those performing water and sewer pipe-laying training are responsible for providing qualified instructors. Qualifications generally include a mix of directly related formal training and field experience.
2. The instructors maintain records of those who have completed the training and issue pipe-layer cards with the expiration date to those who pass the course. Cards can be issued electronically and can be carried in the field as a paper card or on an electronic device when performing pipe-laying work. Pipelayer training cards expire every three years. 