

# Lower Mainland Plumbing Code Committee



Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Mainland Plumbing Code Committee in  
**Meeting Room 2A, Burnaby City Hall, 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC.**  
Thursday, May 3, 2018, 1:30 p.m.

Chairman: Bob Kennedy City of Coquitlam  
Co- Chair: James Siemens City of North Vancouver

Present: Ivo Tanner RMOW  
Greg Snider City of Surrey  
Al Stewart District of North Vancouver  
Gord Postle District of North Vancouver  
Gary Harman District of West Vancouver  
Lindsay Wilson District of West Vancouver  
Larry Scott City of Port Moody  
Grant McKechnie City of Abbotsford  
Harold Tamagi City of Burnaby  
Dino Echelli City of Burnaby  
Dale Pfaff BCIT

**(1) CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:33

**(2) MINUTES OF MEETING:**

A Motion was made to adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the April 5, 2018 by Larry Scott of Port Moody and Seconded Greg Snider of Surrey.

Motion Carried

(3) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

- a) None

(4) **NEW BUSINESS**

- A **BCWWA** meeting was held April 6, 2018 with
  - Chairman, Bob Kennedy
  - Carlie Hucul, CEO of British Columbia Waste & Water Association (BCWWA)
  - Richard Yoo, BCIT, Chair BCWWA Cross Connection Control Committee
  - Edward Christie BCWWA Certification and IT Coordinator

The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways to rebuild relationships between our organizations and to find ways of helping the BCWWA to gain acceptance under the BC Building Act and further to allow their members recognition of their certification process. It is understood by all parties that the initial installation and testing of backflow preventers falls within the BC Plumbing Code Subsection 2.6.2. and may be done by a Trades Qualified Plumber. As the Province has ruled that backflow “testing” is “out of scope” of the Section 5 Limitations of the Building Act a Local Government can rule on the annual testing of backflow prevention devices after construction. This would be spelled out in their building bylaw.

Now and historically most AHJ’s have accepted BCWWA tester certificates as prove of competency in the field of installation and testing. BCWWA has BCIT train all applicants and third party certification testing ensures the proper training/testing criteria are being met. None the less, BCWWA is not “accredited” by the Province to “certify” these testers, as a result their tickets simply mean they passed a course. This takes nothing away from the testers and it still remains up to each AHJ to continue or not to rely on the expertise they have to offer in annual testing.

The BCWWA will have to solicit the Provincial Government to accredit their organization in order to accomplish their goals.

- **Macerating Water Closets 2.4.3.5.**  
“shall only be installed where no connection to a gravity *sanitary drainage* system is available”  
In other words, only when the bathroom is proposed to be installed below the building drain.  
Being inconvenient or too difficult or expensive to trench or cut concrete to drain by gravity to the building drain is not justification for the installation of a macerating toilet system.
- **Single Domestic Water Heater with Multiple Storage Tanks**  
A photo example and several drawings were presented to the members in the agenda package on the piping schematic from the domestic boiler to the storage tanks, with the domestic cold and re-cir feeds shown as well. The hot feed leaving the boiler which becomes the “inlet” to the storage tanks must split apart in a header to feed each of the tanks separately. This header must be installed above the top of the tanks then each tank requires a shutoff valve 2.6.1.3.(7) and a vacuum relief downstream of the shutoff 2.6.1.7.(8). Any re-cir collected from the bottom of the tanks in a header must also rise above the top of the tanks to prevent back siphonage. Typically the hot supply from the top of the tanks is collected in a header above the top of the tanks to supply the building. (see attached drawing #5)

- The Committee expressed a desire to have Tony Bartko, President, BOABC, speak with the committee sooner rather than later if possible. As Larry Scott of Port Moody works with Tony, Larry will ask and the Chair will facilitate the meeting as needed if and when possible.

**(5) OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Rock Pits**

A question was put to the members about the design and installation of rock pits in areas of known liquefaction. It was stated that is against the design criteria, much like installing below a known high water table. While there was lively discussion on what we see as fundamental errors, the only real consensus around the table was the reliance on the Registered Professional and their submitted design to be appropriate.

- **Plumbing Apprenticeship Changes**

Dale Pfaff of BCIT informed the committee of the educational changes for the plumbing apprenticeship program. They now must attend;

- 7 weeks for 1<sup>st</sup> year
- 8 weeks for 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- 7 weeks for 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- 8 weeks for 4<sup>th</sup> year

**(6) NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018, 1:30 p.m. in the **Clerks Meeting Room Burnaby City Hall, 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC.**

**(7) ADJOURNMENT:**

The business of the meeting having been concluded, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM