



Mechanical Plumbing and Solar Board Approved MINUTES

**BOARD MEETING
August 28, 2018**

The Mechanical and Plumbing Board convened on Tuesday August 28 2018 at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road, Suite 300, Austin, TX.

Robert Thornton, Chair, called the Meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Robert Thornton, Stephen Cox, Joseph Bowie, Joseph Cooper, Basheer Mohamed, Michael Hart, David Nichols, William Harris. **Absent members** were Jerry Garza, David Dixon, Joseph Hernandez

Staff Members in Attendance: Rick Arzola, Richard Anderson, Jonathan Orenstein (AWU)

1. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION** – Terry Barlow?- Texas State Board of Plumbing
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the July 24, 2018 meeting was approved as written on a motion from Board Member Cooper second by Bowie for a 8-0 vote.
3. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**
 - a. **Austin Water Utility-** Jonathan Orenstein answered questions from the board regarding water meters being held “hostage” at the time of inspections. Orenstein clarifies that meters are not held up on purpose but rather cannot be distributed until Site and Subdivision (ROW) notifies AWU on the approved commercial site that they are ready for their meter. For Residential meter, contractor calls into the Amanda IVR asking for the meter, AWU then reviews the request and then confirms with the DSD inspector if meter can be set and if there is an acceptance letter or can be set in lieu of the acceptance letter if Inspector is ok with everything on the job site. Also AWU has begun a pilot program where a Hydric meter is retrofitted to fit into a vault where a permanent meter would be going into a commercial building and allowing water use. Still requires DSD ROW to sign off.
 - b. **Adoption of 2018-2021 Codes-** Richard Anderson explains that DSD had its own internal stake holder to get a general consensus with the codes and some changes need to be updated in the fire criteria manual to meet the 2015 codes. The plumbing and Mechanical codes have not been addressed and with discussion with internal stake holders, the 2018 codes will not be addressed and DSD would like to hold off to 2021 codes are published. Board approves with this decision.
 - c. **Austin Build and Connect Training-** DSD staff has received numerous suggestions to provide training for stakeholder and contractors to the Austin Build and Connect website. Staff is wanting a feel from the board on a time and day that would be convenient for attendance. DSD would contact IT staff to assist in the training. Board suggests a time frame of early afternoon after lunch.

Pre-pour/Ufer Checklist- DSD created a pre-pour checklist (commonly called copper inspection) for Residential to allow the RMP (Registered Master Plumber) to move forward with his/her scheduled prepour. The RMP is responsible to upload the checklist to the permit for inspector verification. This must be done prior to the plumbing top-out. This was created due to high quantity of volume building and only used for Residential.

The ufer checklist is somewhat similar. Must be done before the electrical rough and will require the electrical grounding to be called in. This can be used for residential but commercial as well. It verifies the concrete case electrodes are present at each structure or building served and shall be bonded together to form the grounding

electrode system.. Commercial projects are currently not available for the pre-pour checklist.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- a.** Water Meters – Ruben Cantu and Jonathan Orenstein

5. ADJOURN – Vice Chair Cox made a motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:31a.m. Board member Cooper second the motion 8-0.