

Factory Assembled Structures Advisory Board Meeting

Labor & Industries

February 17, 2022

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

L&I Point Plaza East – Room PPE 111 & Zoom

ATTENDEES:

Board Members Present: Joan Brown- Chair, Don Carlson, Michael Lubliner, Kevin McShane, Jim Farley

Absent: Gary Stoskopf, Craig Hillis, Chris Tyler

L&I Staff: Dale Partin, Annette Taylor, Barbara Skiles, Alicia Curry, John McMillan, Matthew Erlich, Ken Knutson, Chris Rarig

Public: Lori Johnson, Will Gibbs, Cara, Joan Krajewski, Shannon Palmer, Ava Talbot, Peter, Knome

PROCEDURAL:

- Meeting called to order by Joan Brown at 10:05am
- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes- No minutes for November 19, 2021 meeting due to no quorum met.

PROGRAM UPDATE:

- Program update and staffing:
 - Programs in place to address the backlog.
 - Acting Program Chief, Dale Partin
 - Three to four months to hire for a permanent Program Chief position.
 - Acting position for six months in order to stabilize the program and the emergency rules.
 - Temporary Field Operations Manager, Chris Rarig
 - Three open full time Plans Examiner positions, three candidates in the queue.
 - Looking at unique strategies for training.
 - Three full time Plans Examiners on staff and three part-time.
- Admin staffing:
 - Fully staffed. One permanent position created and filled and hired one non-permanent position.
- Field staff:
 - All positions filled.
- Emergency rule filed on December 21, 2021
 - Allows for a third party to review plans.
 - Expires April 19, 2022
 - Two paths we can take
 - Permanent rule
 - File a second emergency rule

- Lori Johnson question: Clarification on what fees are reduced by going to an approved third party professional.
 - Application fees are reduced and are located in the emergency rule language.

- Workloads and backlog:
 - 20 weeks plus
- COVID-19 & Impacts
 - Out-of-State inspections
 - Joan Krajewski question – Has FAS considered if a factory got an ISO 9,000 qualification would some of the trips not be required?
 - Chris Rarig response: There’s really nothing in our RCW or WAC rule that allows for others to do our inspections. We are willing to continue to work with virtual inspections where allowed.
 - LNI has the authority to appoint other qualified parties for overseas inspections.
- Planning for the future
 - Electronic plan review system needed.
 - Sat down with IT to identify the needs.
 - Minimal viable product needed as an interim solution.
 - Enterprise solution 2 to 3 yrs down the road.
 - Considering a fee increase
 - Don Carlson: If this is an electronic system, shouldn’t it be less expensive? Once the system is built then shouldn’t there be a reduction?
 - Response from Annette: We have to build the system and bring vendors on board. We can sunset a fee increase, we haven’t done back to back fee increases historically, and the cost of doing business has far exceeded the revenue being brought in.
 - What does the fee increase look like?
 - Conversation happening internally to see what the fee looks like, whether it’s the same 17% as the Elevator program, fiscal growth factor or something that looks different.
 - The last fee increases were 2022, 2021, 2020, prior to that it was 2010.
 - FAS is a dedicated account and therefore cannot reach out for funding from the General fund.

Rules updates:

- No new updates for rule WAC 296-150F or WAC 296-150M, still in progress and reviewing the rules.
- Adopting the fee increase of possibly 17% in early March.

New and other business:

- Joan Brown: We agreed to raise fees for years only to have the Legislature take those funds and

put them in the general fund.

- Annette: At the end of this biennium we stop giving the general fund 7% of our fund.
- Joan Brown: Receiving calls asking how to find a certified installer, there's nothing on the website.
 - Annette Taylor: Will work with the program Chief and Installer Technical Specialist to bring this conversation back around.
 - John McMillan: All of this information used to be on the website, when they revamped Contractor Registration they deleted it. We keep an internal list that has to be updated manually each month.
- Lori Johnson:
 - 1. Manufacturer in Seattle that has designed a lithium battery and there's confusion if a vendor needs to go back through plan review or get an inspection if they have this battery on board. Who can I direct an email to?
 - Ken Knutson/Annette Taylor response: I haven't seen that yet, you can send an email to FAS1@lni.wa.gov and we will get you a response.
 - 2. There are a lot of trucks or trailers that have already been approved and a new owner wants to do equipment changes, it's not very clear on the website what they need to do.
 - Ken Knutson: They would need to submit for an alteration which could include plan review.
 - 3. Vendors who are in line for review and have decided to use a third party is there a refund fee charged for pulling their plans?
 - Annette Taylor: We are waiving the refund fee for these plans.
- Mike Lubliner:
 - There are resources available for those in the modular industry for the energy code through the U of W website.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am

Joan Brown, Chair

Dale Partin, Secretary to the Board