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## PLUMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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### TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

April 16, 2024

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

PLUMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

**CERTIFIED  
TRANSCRIPT**

April 16, 2024

Tumwater, Washington

Pages 1 through 65

Taken Before:

Andrea L. Clevenger, CCR, RPR

Washington Certified Stenographic Court Reporter #3041

for

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Plumber Advisory Committee Members**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Todd Allred</b>     | <b>Plumbing Business Seat</b>          |
| <b>Dave Weisbeck</b>   | <b>Public Member Seat</b>              |
| <b>Jed Scheuermann</b> | <b>State Plumbing Code Body Seat</b>   |
| <b>Antonio Cruz</b>    | <b>Journey Level Plumber</b>           |
| <b>Brad Moore</b>      | <b>Journey Level Plumber</b>           |
| <b>Melissa McBride</b> | <b>L&amp;I, Secretary to the Board</b> |



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1                   BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday,  
2                   April 16, 2024, at 7273 Linderson Way Southwest,  
3                   Tumwater, Washington, at 10:00 a.m., before ANDREA L.  
4                   CLEVENGER, CCR, RPR, the following proceedings were had,  
5                   to wit:

6  
7                   <<<<<< >>>>>>

8  
9                   CHAIR ALLRED: All right, everybody.  
10                  We'll bring the meeting to order. Thank you, everybody,  
11                  for being here. We'll start out with introductions.

12  
13                  Introductions

14  
15                  CHAIR ALLRED: We'll start over here  
16                  with -- I'm guessing you're the court reporter.

17                  THE COURT REPORTER: I am. Andrea  
18                  Clevenger, with Capitol Pacific Reporting.

19                  MR. WEISBECK: Dave Weisbeck, public  
20                  member.

21                  CHAIR ALLRED: My name is Todd Allred.  
22                  I am with Chipper Plumbing.

23                  MS. MCBRIDE: Melissa McBride,  
24                  Department of Labor and Industries, and secretary to the  
25                  board.

1 MR. MOORE: Brad Moore, journeyman  
2 plumber.

3 MR. SCHEUERMANN: Jed Scheuermann,  
4 with the IAPMO group.

5 MR. CRUZ: Antonio Cruz, journeyman  
6 plumber.

7 CHAIR ALLRED: And could we have the  
8 guests introduce themselves as well?

9 Well, actually, after our folks over here from Labor  
10 and Industries.

11 MS. BOWMAN: Whitney Bowman, Project  
12 Specialist 3.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Alaina Williams. I'm  
14 administrative assistant to Melissa McBride.

15 CHAIR ALLRED: And then guests,  
16 please.

17 MS. CURRY: Alicia Curry, FSPS senior  
18 policy manager, field services and public safety.

19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Carissa Rodriguez,  
20 field services senior project manager.

21 MR. HORNBACK: Brian Hornback, deputy  
22 assistant director, field services and public safety.

23 MR. SWITZER: Jason Switzer,  
24 Washington State Association Local 26.

25 MR. HART: Steve Hart, Public Health



1 Seattle and King County.

2 MR. SPRINGER: Bruce Springer,  
3 technical specialist in plumbing.

4 CHAIR ALLRED: Welcome, everybody.  
5 Thank you for being here.

6 Next up on our agenda is -- Melissa has fresh look  
7 reconsideration for us.

8

9 Fresh Look Reconsideration

10

11 MS. MCBRIDE: Yes. So the fresh look  
12 reconsideration project that's going on, you've received  
13 some additional information about that initial  
14 information. The project has kicked off.

15 On the agenda here we have Carissa Rodriguez, but  
16 actually Brian Hornback as well, my boss, are going to be  
17 discussing the project and giving you kind of a status  
18 update and what's going on right now.

19 MR. HORNBACK: Thank you, Melissa.

20 So Brian Hornback, deputy assistant director for  
21 field services, public safety.

22 So you received several pieces of communication so  
23 far, talking about the fresh look reconsideration  
24 project. Really what this is, is an effort on the part  
25 of the Department to make sure that trainees whose hours

Page 6



1 have been denied have an opportunity, outside of going  
2 through the extent of superior court, to get an appeal or  
3 another look at it.

4 So we've had some instances where someone would  
5 write in and say, "Here is the hours." They submit the  
6 affidavit. The hours get denied. Maybe they submit 400  
7 hours, or 480. We receive 400. What about those 80.  
8 Right?

9 This is so important because we're talking about  
10 people's livelihood, and we know that. I'm not telling  
11 you anything we don't know. It's really about the  
12 decisions that the team here makes to decide, well, when  
13 do you get to test for journeyman plumber. So it's too  
14 important for us to just go, "We got it right the first  
15 time every time."

16 And so the reality is, the design behind this effort  
17 is to make sure that someone feels like they were heard  
18 and that -- you know, maybe it's a piece of information  
19 they communicated inaccurately or maybe it's something  
20 they didn't communicate to us in the first place.

21 So outside of the normal process where they would --  
22 you know, they would send it in. Whitney takes a look at  
23 it, says, "Here is the hours that we're going to accept,"  
24 and they think they did it wrong. They may send another  
25 letter back. Right?





1           Outside of that, their only avenue is with Superior  
2 Court, and we all know that that can cost you a few  
3 dollars. Right? So we wanted to design a method for  
4 them so that we can do it without that expense.

5           And really what that looks like is, we've set up  
6 essentially a mailbox that allows somebody to send in a  
7 request for a reconsideration. And they would send that  
8 to us with the reason why they needed to be reconsidered,  
9 what it is that -- you know, what hours that we denied  
10 that they want reconsidered and the reason why. What's  
11 that fresh piece of information?

12           So we can give you a couple pieces of information  
13 why this is so important. In the last year, so May of  
14 '22 to '23, we had 5.8 million hours sent to us. Right?  
15 If you think about that, nothing in life is -- it's --  
16 human intervention is flawless. Right?

17           So did we make a mistake? Not likely. I like to  
18 think the staff is really doggone good, and we've  
19 approved about 76 percent of those hours. But, again,  
20 we're human. So did we make a mistake or did we not have  
21 a piece of information? Possibility exists. Not  
22 arrogant enough to believe that we're flawless. Right?

23           So with that idea and that 76 percent approval --  
24 and that's based on the first submittal. Right? So they  
25 could submit some additional hours, and that 76 percent



1 may actually be higher based on second submittal.

2 I don't have data to tell you exactly what that is,  
3 but either way, with that in mind, that's why we're  
4 setting up this project and why we're trying to make sure  
5 that anybody whose hours are denied -- were denied this  
6 year after April 1st is when the project started, and  
7 unfortunately we have to draw a line in the sand and say,  
8 we're going to start here. We can't go back to call it  
9 1976 or 2019 and look at those hours.

10 So after April 1st, if your hours have been denied  
11 and they've gone through our normal process and feel like  
12 the Department still doesn't have it right, we have new  
13 information, whatever, they submit it to us. It will go  
14 through -- Steve Reinmuth is currently my boss, and he's  
15 currently working as the reconsideration officer for that  
16 pilot project.

17 The pilot project is going to go for six months.  
18 During that period, anytime somebody sends in those  
19 hours, he'll be the person taking a look. So, again,  
20 with complete confidence that our program staff have  
21 gotten it right in the first place, we'll take another  
22 look, and there may be a conversation where, depending on  
23 what information we get, we'll schedule phone call with  
24 that trainee.

25 So explain why. What do we need to do different?



1       What's your rationale? And basically work through that  
2       process so that, if there's a reason for that -- or that  
3       denial is upheld, then that answer is still good.

4             If the hours were submitted untimely, which is one  
5       of the most common reasons for denial, then that's still  
6       going to be upheld, but when the trainee says, "Here is  
7       the other piece of paper I didn't send in" or "Here is  
8       the -- here's what you're not reading into it." "Here's  
9       why those other 80 hours should have been accepted," if  
10      we look at it and go, "Yeah, that's entirely likely that  
11      we should have that," we'll go back to -- he'll go back  
12      to staff, "Here is what I've seen. Here's what I  
13      believe, and I believe we should reconsider this," or we  
14      accept those hours, and then those hours will be accepted  
15      with a letter going out to the trainee and basically a  
16      letter being held in our file being accepted.

17            So kind of talked a lot, sucked a lot of air out of  
18      the room for just a second, so wanted to make sure I  
19      pause for a second and ask if there's questions or --  
20      Carissa is the mastermind behind this project. She's  
21      been absolutely amazing as a project manager, taking this  
22      from a concept from Joel Sacks to reality.

23            So if there's anything else you'd like to add or got  
24      questions, be happy to answer them.

25                            CHAIR ALLRED: I have a question. You



1 mentioned that it starts April 1st. I'm assuming that's  
2 this year.

3 MR. HORNBACK: Yes, sir.

4 CHAIR ALLRED: They can submit a  
5 second look consideration?

6 MR. HORNBACK: Right.

7 CHAIR ALLRED: How far back are you  
8 looking?

9 MR. HORNBACK: So I probably didn't  
10 explain it very clearly. I'm sorry. We're not looking  
11 back past April 1st. So if the hours were denied  
12 April 1st and beyond, then those are eligible for  
13 reconsideration. So if they were denied prior to  
14 April 1st, they're not eligible for this project.

15 CHAIR ALLRED: Of '24?

16 MR. HORNBACK: Of 24, yes, sir.

17 CHAIR ALLRED: So all of the hours  
18 that were submitted that could potentially be incorrect  
19 for all through COVID, no second look?

20 MR. HORNBACK: At this point, no,  
21 there's no second look. It's -- we had to start a  
22 project on a timeline. So we will be collecting all the  
23 data on submittals, and then any -- any -- call it  
24 overturn or any change in decision, we'll be collecting  
25 those to figure out where we -- maybe it's a training



1 issue. Maybe it's something we need to learn to do  
2 different or better, or maybe it's just a matter of  
3 something the trainees -- we need to provide to the  
4 trainees some education, saying, "Submit this too."  
5 Right?

6 But we don't have the capacity or the ability to go  
7 back to, you know, years past. So this was where the  
8 decision start point is.

9 CHAIR ALLRED: Okay.

10 MR. HORNBACK: And for what it's  
11 worth, we've had -- in the last two weeks, since  
12 April 1st, we've had, I think, six appeals. I believe  
13 most of them were electrical because this is both for  
14 electrical trainees and plumber trainees.

15 Most of them are electrical, but they were all  
16 exactly that, that they were requesting hours from  
17 decisions quite some time back to reconsider. We had to  
18 tell them, "You're not eligible for reconsideration at  
19 this point."

20 CHAIR ALLRED: And you're only -- this  
21 is only taking place for the next six months and then the  
22 program ends?

23 MR. HORNBACK: No. We anticipate it  
24 will go longer. What we're doing is going to take six  
25 months to collect the data on what we have.



1           Again, my boss is doing it, and I'm going to tell  
2           you, he's a pretty busy guy, so if we didn't have an  
3           additional resource, we can't go out and hire somebody on  
4           a "I think this will work."

5           So we want to be able to show that data, and if the  
6           volume and the work indicates or a need for additional  
7           resource, then we'll be able to go potentially to  
8           legislature or other and ask for an additional FTE to do  
9           the work or figure out that it's so important that maybe  
10          we need to cipher one from somebody else to this.

11          So the pilot portion is really just the design to  
12          help us tell us what we need to make this an ongoing  
13          sustainable piece of work.

14                   CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. So once you have  
15          all that data, then you'll be able to craft that?

16                   MR. HORNBACK: That's the intent.

17          And first one to tell you, if we were to go through  
18          this thing for six and eight months and find three people  
19          requested it -- I doubt that. Right? -- then maybe we'd  
20          go, "Is it worth the resource?" We would have to  
21          consider whether that would continue.

22                   CHAIR ALLRED: And hopefully it  
23          confirms that your processes, that you have been  
24          accurate.

25                   MR. HORNBACK: Absolutely.



1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: A learning opportunity  
2 for us.

3 MR. HORNBACK: And have faith that we  
4 do believe -- and doesn't everybody believe -- we're  
5 right. Right? But, you know, we do -- we believe we get  
6 it right the vast majority of the time and are more than  
7 willing to get it right more if we make mistakes  
8 someplace.

9 CHAIR ALLRED: Has a notification gone  
10 out to the industries yet on this?

11 MR. HORNBACK: Yes, it has. And  
12 Carissa has done the majority of the communication or  
13 been involved in that, so if you'd like to speak to  
14 what's going out.

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. So Melissa has  
16 actually been the communicator on this. We sent out --  
17 you should have all received some early communications,  
18 letting you know that we are planning this and it was  
19 coming starting in April.

20 And then more recently -- I don't know exactly what  
21 date Melissa -- but Melissa has been working to prepare a  
22 message to the -- get a message out to the industry.

23 MS. MCBRIDE: Right. And that's  
24 through the help of you as well, and you -- because our  
25 Listserv, we've been having some issues with, so we don't



1 have that Listserv right now to be doing that  
2 communication.

3 And when we did the initial, you would -- very  
4 excited and pushed it out to your members. So we're  
5 going to be relying on you to keep pushing those messages  
6 out to the industry for us.

7 CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. Yeah. That's  
8 great. So I can freely do that now? We can let the  
9 industry know?

10 MR. HORNBACK: Yes.

11 CHAIR ALLRED: Okay.

12 MR. HORNBACK: Appreciate it if you  
13 would.

14 CHAIR ALLRED: So if I could get the  
15 details of that maybe to the board, we could get -- I  
16 haven't seen an email. Maybe I have it. Maybe I --  
17 maybe I breezed over it. I don't know.

18 MS. MCBRIDE: We'll make sure you have  
19 it.

20 CHAIR ALLRED: But if we got the  
21 complete program, that would be great.

22 MS. MCBRIDE: Carissa has everything  
23 drafted or written, and I'll tell you, Brian has been a  
24 huge advocate/supporter of this, trying to figure out how  
25 to make it work.





1           Carissa has been amazing as the project manager,  
2           working with both Whitney and the electrical team as well  
3           on trying to figure out a process and the best way to  
4           make things happen, so they've both been great in this  
5           process and getting this project launched, pilot.

6                       CHAIR ALLRED: Good job. Thank you.

7                       MR. HORNBACK: Thank you.

8                       CHAIR ALLRED: Is there anything else  
9           you'd like to close with?

10                      MR. HORNBACK: Nothing specific to the  
11           project other than, you know, thank you, guys, for being  
12           here. We do appreciate the work and the advice and the  
13           counsel we get from you for being here. So thank you for  
14           that.

15                      CHAIR ALLRED: Thank you. Thank you  
16           for being here.

17                      MR. SCHEUERMANN: If this project is  
18           successful, would there be any consideration for reaching  
19           back farther?

20                      I mean, this board faced a barrage of people  
21           inquiring of what hours that are prior to April 1st of  
22           2024.

23                      Would there be any consideration for looking back  
24           farther if this is deemed to be a success?

25                      MR. HORNBACK: I'm not -- I'm honestly



1 not prepared to give you a yes or no. Obviously I'd be  
2 lying and speculating if I did.

3 I understand the value of the question. I see some  
4 value in the question, but I think we're really going to  
5 have to wait and see what the project entails and then  
6 what we're able to do resource-wise before we could  
7 answer that truthfully.

8 Sorry I can't give you something better than that  
9 right now.

10 CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. Very good.

11

12 Approval of January 16, 2024, Minutes

13

14 CHAIR ALLRED: We'll move on to  
15 approval of our minutes. I'll entertain a motion  
16 whenever someone is ready.

17 MR. CRUZ: So moved.

18 MR. MOORE: Second.

19 CHAIR ALLRED: Any discussion?

20 All in favor?

21 (Chorus of ayes.)

22 CHAIR ALLRED: Opposed?

23 (No audible response.)

24 CHAIR ALLRED: Abstentions?

25 (No audible response.)



1 CHAIR ALLRED: Motion carries. Thank  
2 you.

3 All right. We'll move on to plumbing program  
4 activity overview with Melissa.

5

6 Plumbing Program Activity Overview

7

8 MS. MCBRIDE: Yes. So you've got a  
9 list of infractions that you are used to seeing. I'm  
10 going to take this opportunity to really talk about  
11 what's happening in the office. Usually we focus on the  
12 compliance end of it -- what's happening out in the  
13 field.

14 Along with what Brian and Carissa just presented,  
15 we've been making some changes in the office as well.  
16 I'm going to go ahead and point out Whitney here.

17 As you know, Alicia has left, so Whitney is handling  
18 this all by herself. She is doing the plumbing program  
19 right now. We have some budget issues that are going on,  
20 so we're not hiring at this time. We're holding that  
21 second position.

22 So it's just Whitney, and she's been doing amazing.  
23 I just want to go on record with that.

24 We are current on everything, voicemails, emails,  
25 day -- up-to-date on those. Renewals, plumbing



1 contractors, continuing education, exam applications,  
2 everything is current.

3 We are behind on affidavits and -- seven weeks?  
4 About.

5 WHITNEY: Yeah. About seven.

6 MS. MCBRIDE: About two months behind.  
7 But one of the major changes that we've done is the  
8 communication.

9 And previously I think that the voicemails and the  
10 emails just kind of got put on the back burner while  
11 processing was happening, and so that change has shifted.  
12 I would much rather be called to my boss's office or  
13 answer, "Why are we behind two months in processing  
14 affidavits" than, "Why are we two months behind in  
15 answering a phone call or an email?"

16 So Whitney has done a shift. It's been amazing.  
17 She does the voicemails and emails in the mornings. I  
18 just can't go on about how -- how proud of her I am and  
19 how she's handling all this.

20 So -- and she's also catching up on the affidavits.  
21 So it is a lot, though. It's a lot for one person.  
22 We've -- I've shifted some resources. The plumbing  
23 contractors are now being processed by contractor  
24 registration because it's very comparable to the bond  
25 requirement, the insurance requirement that they're all



1 used to. So we've shifted those resources.

2 Whitney has also made some changes. Previously I  
3 learned that exam applications were processed twice a  
4 month, and she's doing them daily. So people are no  
5 longer waiting to get their "qualified for the exam," so  
6 she's doing those daily and sending out those  
7 notifications.

8 Another change that she came up with on her own is  
9 the pass/fail rates or -- the pass/fail -- the pass/fail  
10 notices on exams. If you didn't pass, you got that by  
11 email. But if you passed, there was a mail process.

12 Jump in and step in if I'm speaking incorrectly too,  
13 please.

14 WHITNEY: The fail notices are  
15 automatically sent. Whereas, the pass notices have to be  
16 manually printed and sent, so that's a longer process for  
17 those to be completed.

18 So we changed it to email on a daily basis to pass  
19 notices only, and the fail notices still get sent out  
20 through our system, but the pass notices will be sent out  
21 through email to the email address we have on file to the  
22 person who took it and passed the exam.

23 MS. MCBRIDE: So they're now getting  
24 an email with a congratulations from the Department right  
25 away, letting them know that they have passed the exam.



1 So that was another change that I'm excited for.

2 The affidavit form -- we had two affidavits. Once  
3 the residential service plumber came in, a separate  
4 affidavit was created for that.

5 We were having some -- it was confusing for some  
6 people because now we've got two affidavits and then  
7 we're hearing, "Oh, well, that's not the right scope of  
8 work. I turned in the wrong affidavit."

9 We really sat back and couldn't explain why we had  
10 the two affidavits, so Whitney created one.

11 Is that live this week?

12 WHITNEY: Yeah. It went live on  
13 Friday.

14 MS. MCBRIDE: On Friday. So that's  
15 now online, that there's just a -- it's a new affidavit,  
16 and it covers all scopes of work. So that should avoid  
17 the confusion of using the wrong form since there's just  
18 the one.

19 CHAIR ALLRED: Nice.

20 MS. MCBRIDE: Yes. I think the last  
21 thing I'm excited for -- again, props to Whitney, and  
22 this is the first -- it's coming to you guys first, but  
23 we're going to start a soft launch on accepting  
24 affidavits by email.

25 We talked about, should we just throw that out



1           there, put it on the website, put it on the forms, but I  
2           think that's a little much to take on right now.

3           So we're just going to do a soft launch for the next  
4           few months, test it out, see how it goes. I'm going to  
5           ask, you know, please share that with people. Let them  
6           know.

7           What is the email address?

8                         WHITNEY: We don't have it yet. The  
9           ticket is still with our IT. They're still creating it.  
10          When we get it, it will be affidavit submittals or hours  
11          of submittals, something like that. So we're still  
12          working on getting the confirmation on it.

13                        MS. MCBRIDE: Okay.

14                        WHITNEY: Once we have it, then we can  
15          send it out, but it will be an automatic-response-type  
16          thing. They send it. They get an automatic reply with  
17          all the information they need, and then it goes into a  
18          completely separate email box.

19                        MS. MCBRIDE: So that will be like  
20          May 1?

21                        WHITNEY: Yeah.

22                        MS. MCBRIDE: So what I'm going to do  
23          is, more information will come since it's not live. I  
24          will send an email out to the board once it's live with  
25          that email address, like, that it's with IT, so hopefully



1 it doesn't take a long time.

2 WHITNEY: Well, the ticket got put in  
3 on April 1st, so it's not -- I mean, it's not too bad for  
4 creating it and putting the automatic response.

5 And then I got an update from our IT last week, and  
6 they requested additional update on the ticket, and they  
7 sent it over that it is in the queue, and it's getting  
8 ready to be created. So it's getting close.

9 MS. MCBRIDE: So it shouldn't be much  
10 longer. So thank you. I'll send the email out, letting  
11 you know when it's live and time to go, but we'll take  
12 those affidavits by email.

13 Like she said, there will be an automatic response,  
14 asking, "You don't send anything else to this email.  
15 Don't send inquiries. Go to the main email for that."  
16 Right?

17 I know -- I've heard several stories of, "I mailed  
18 you the affidavit. You lost it."

19 I can't tell you if we lost it. I can't tell you if  
20 you really put it in the mail. Right? I mean, both have  
21 happened. We have had somebody mail certified and we  
22 tracked the number, and it said, "Picked up in Olympia."

23 I'm like, "What does that mean?" And I learned that  
24 that meant Department of Enterprises picked it up and  
25 delivered it to our mailroom, and our mailroom said,





1 "Well, we delivered it to your mail stop."

2 Okay. So now the mailroom is saying that they gave  
3 it to us, but I don't have it. Did we throw it away?  
4 Like, who knows what happened?

5 So this is going to be a really easy way for people  
6 to track sending us, "Here, I did send it to you," and  
7 also reduce those costs because I know several companies  
8 that are sending all their affidavits in by certified  
9 mail because of this reason.

10 So hopefully that will be less of a burden, less  
11 mail time, less cost to the customer, also easy tracking  
12 system and just some security, knowing that, yes, it's in  
13 that email box.

14 There's a backlog. It may take a while. Right? I  
15 mean, it could still take two months from the time they  
16 email it to us to be processed, but it's in there in the  
17 queue. We're going to get to it.

18 So I think that's it that -- for the changes that's  
19 been going on within staff. I say "staff." Within  
20 Whitney.

21 And Alaina I'd like to say, too, is also going to  
22 start taking some emails and doing some things like that  
23 to distribute some of the workload off of Whitney.

24 And so, Alaina, equally amazing. Thank you both.

25 Are there any questions because I talk fast, so I



1 apologize for that, but are there any questions about  
2 what we've been doing?

3 CHAIR ALLRED: Will the email  
4 submission inbox be a secure -- like a -- I know there's  
5 a different type of email for --

6 WHITNEY: Yes.

7 CHAIR ALLRED: -- secure.

8 WHITNEY: Yeah. It's going to be on  
9 the secure side of it. I don't remember the correct  
10 terminology, but it was a process to have a secure email  
11 address.

12 It will be separate, different from the plumbers  
13 mailbox that can be sent. Whereas, this one is going to  
14 have the more locked-down-type era. Yes. It will be  
15 considered a secure mailbox.

16 CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. Yeah. Because  
17 the affidavits are legal documents; right?

18 WHITNEY: Mm-hm.

19 CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. That's all great  
20 news.

21 Any questions or input? All right. Great.

22 MS. MCBRIDE: Well, a lot of these  
23 changes come from the industry with concerns and  
24 questions and just really talking about how we can make  
25 it easier while still making sure that we're holding up



1           what we're here for on -- making sure the trainings are  
2           supervised, right, and everything is in compliance, but  
3           how do we make it easier while regulating.

4                       CHAIR ALLRED: Yeah. No. That's  
5           good.

6           I have one question. You mentioned Whitney is the  
7           only employee. What -- there was -- you hired -- Dale  
8           was hired and then Bruce is here.

9           Was there --

10                      MS. MCBRIDE: Yep. Dale, Bruce, and  
11           Colter are still there. So I'm sorry.

12           She is the only office staff that's doing the  
13           processing, the phone calls, so that's what -- that's  
14           what I meant. She's the only support administrative side  
15           we've got. We still have Bruce, Colter, and Dale doing  
16           the technical side.

17                      CHAIR ALLRED: Okay.

18                      MS. MCBRIDE: And then the compliance  
19           inspectors that are out in the field as well.

20                      CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. All right.  
21           Great. Thank you for that.

22           Great job. Love hearing all those positive things.

23           All right. We'll move on to revised testing  
24           options.

25           Antonio, floor is yours.



1 MR. CRUZ: All right.

2 CHAIR ALLRED: Oh, wait. I skipped  
3 one. Let's back up a second.

4 MS. MCBRIDE: You missed you.

5 CHAIR ALLRED: I did.

6

7 ESB 5997 Passage Into Law: Announcing the Changes to the  
8 Industry

9

10 CHAIR ALLRED: We missed the --  
11 Engrossed Senate Bill 5997 was passed into law, and that  
12 will be in effect on June 6th of this year. That will  
13 allow remote -- the biggest feature of it is -- the  
14 biggest change is that we'll allow -- it allows remote  
15 supervision on separate job sites.

16 So one certified plumber only in residential and --  
17 only for residential service plumber work, PLO4, can they  
18 supervise remotely one certified plumber. It has to be a  
19 PLO1 or a PLO2 doing the supervision remotely for those  
20 trainees.

21 They can do up to three people on three separate job  
22 sites. The PLO4 is still limited to one person and has  
23 to be 75 percent within sight and sound.

24 We also removed -- the bill also removed a penalty  
25 for trainees not submitting a list at the end of when

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1           they renew. The penalty for them would be that they --  
2           maybe they can't get their trainee card renewed, but  
3           there's no monetary -- monetary penalty was removed.

4           And there was a few other technical changes, cleanup  
5           from the bill that passed in 2020 and was signed into  
6           law.

7           Any questions on any of that?

8           All right. Great. Antonio, revised test options,  
9           floor is yours.

10

11

#### Revised Testing Options

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MR. CRUZ: Yeah. So one of the things  
that I do when I'm not here is, I work with the IAPMO  
chapter out of the Olympic Peninsula, out of Sequim. And  
they have members that go from Port Townsend to Forks.  
And one of the biggest concerns for the people in that  
region is testing options because there is no PSI in that  
area.

20

21

22

23

24

So anybody who's trying to take that plumbing exam  
is taking a day off work and traveling significant  
distance to find an available test. Some of them have  
gone so far as Bellevue to get a test that works for them  
and their schedule.

25

So I know that we adopted a new code. We're working



1 on new testing, new site tests, and I was asked if I  
2 would bring this before the advisory board to make them  
3 aware that they don't have available testing options for  
4 them and see if there was some alternative options that  
5 can take place to give them something.

6 And this isn't unique just to that region. There's  
7 also issues in other Eastern Washington areas as well.

8 CHAIR ALLRED: Where are we  
9 currently -- where are -- where can people currently  
10 test?

11 MS. MCBRIDE: I don't have the list of  
12 the PSI testing centers. I don't know if Bruce or  
13 Whitney knows the location of all the centers. I think  
14 there's 12. I think she's looking it up right now.

15 MR. MOORE: Most of are those in the  
16 tri-county area, like Pierce, King, Snohomish; correct?

17 MS. MCBRIDE: Yes. Yeah. Yes. And  
18 while she's looking that up, I will tell you that our  
19 contract with PSI is coming to an end. There's been  
20 discussion, are we going to renew that contract? Are we  
21 going to look at other providers?

22 WHITNEY: We have 15.

23 MS. MCBRIDE: Fifteen?

24 WHITNEY: Most of them are on the west  
25 side of the mountains.



1 CHAIR ALLRED: How many times are on  
2 the east side?

3 WHITNEY: Two, three.

4 CHAIR ALLRED: Spokane.

5 WHITNEY: There's Spokane and then  
6 Yakima.

7 MR. MOORE: Ellensburg, I think.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tri-Cities  
9 probably.

10 WHITNEY: I think that's it.

11 CHAIR ALLRED: Yakima and Spokane?

12 WHITNEY: Yeah.

13 MR. MOORE: Isn't there an Ellensburg  
14 too?

15 WHITNEY: Yeah. There's Ellensburg.  
16 I missed that one. So I think two, three.

17 MS. MCBRIDE: So one of the things we  
18 are looking at is, should we look at other testing  
19 providers?

20 I think everybody is aware of some issues and  
21 problems we've had with PSI. We've entered -- we've  
22 spoken with PROV, who is another testing provider.  
23 There's still a third one we're going to speak with just  
24 to kind of see what else is out there, what they offer.

25 We've got the Scantron from when we provided our own



1 testing, and they've reached out and want to have a  
2 meeting about something that they can offer. So we are  
3 looking at other things right now of how can we -- who  
4 should we be engaging with as our third-party testing and  
5 should we continue with that.

6 So that's out there. There has been discussion of,  
7 you know, should we go to these places once a quarter,  
8 you know, once a year, twice a year, and offer testing in  
9 these locations like on the Peninsula or in Seattle when  
10 it's so hard to get in there.

11 So those are all discussions that are happening.  
12 Also with the electrical program, I'm not sure about the  
13 issue with the testing on the Peninsula with electrical,  
14 if it's the same. I know that it's been an issue with  
15 plumbers because, you know, we've spoken about that.

16 Another thing too that we're looking at is remote  
17 testing, which I was a little frightened to hear about  
18 that at first, but I spoke with the gentleman with PROV  
19 who was talking about all the securities and measures  
20 that they have in place to do the remote testing.

21 And it was really interesting. You know, they lock  
22 down your Web browser, and they put into your phone, and  
23 there's a camera behind you and a camera in front of you,  
24 and they track your eye movement, and if somebody walks  
25 by, they shut it down.





1           Like, they have a lot of securities in place for the  
2 remote testing. So that's another option we're looking  
3 at to where that could help in that void in the Peninsula  
4 as well.

5           I know it's -- I know it's an issue, though. I know  
6 that there's a concern because there is that lack of  
7 service in that area.

8           And I went by -- just the first week in April, I did  
9 the loop, and I think -- is it the Peninsula College is  
10 right there in Forks?

11                           MR. CRUZ: Mm-hm.

12                           MS. MCBRIDE: And I believe that's  
13 where we have contractor training days once a year is  
14 there, so there's some options.

15                           MR. CRUZ: I just wanted to get it on  
16 the minutes that I did ask on their behalf. And they  
17 have an L&I office right there in Sequim, and they're  
18 like, "Is there any way we can take it at an L&I office?  
19 Is there any way we can do it without having to take the  
20 full day of work off for that?"

21           So I don't know if we could talk about, you know,  
22 minimum standards for travel and time and any of that  
23 sort of stuff or how many we should have in every area,  
24 but I did want to bring it up, and then, you know, as we  
25 think about that, with the new tests, that anything that



1 can be done to help those people would be greatly  
2 appreciated, I'm sure.

3 MS. MCBRIDE: Yeah. Perfect.

4 CHAIR ALLRED: You had mentioned  
5 something about alternative methods for testing.

6 MR. CRUZ: No. Just -- is there  
7 anything written in the standard about the method in  
8 which it must be administered? There's nothing that says  
9 it has to be on a computer or it has to be at a PSI site  
10 or -- because nothing changed when we went to PSI. It  
11 was mostly to help with COVID testing.

12 MS. MCBRIDE: Yeah. COVID and then  
13 we're having some problems with the offices and parking  
14 and staffing, so there was -- there was a big mix of  
15 reasons, but nothing in statute drives that.

16 MR. CRUZ: Got it.

17 MR. SPRINGER: Biggest thing we're  
18 doing is try to get more -- because we were doing it in  
19 in-house, and we'd have to get the test shipped over to  
20 service location. They had to make sure that was checked  
21 so that we didn't lose -- because we had some problems  
22 with losing tests, but we can only do once a month moving  
23 around.

24 So we had Tumwater, Yakima, Spokane. Then we had  
25 Tukwila and Everett, and then we started having problems



1 with that, but then COVID closed down. That shut us down  
2 totally.

3 So we're looking for more options. So PSI was a  
4 good way to get us out faster, and they could test six  
5 days a week, you know, in most locations. So that's what  
6 we're looking for, is trying to get out from under us  
7 because we can only do once a month, and it's very  
8 intensive.

9 MR. CRUZ: And I don't know if we can  
10 talk about a hybrid option where we use PSI for the  
11 availability that they provide in densely populated areas  
12 but also perhaps offer one day a quarter in the further  
13 reaches of Washington State, you know, like Sequim at the  
14 L&I office or, you know, Spokane or one of the places,  
15 just to make it easier on people who aren't performing  
16 work in those areas, so --

17 MS. MCBRIDE: And we've offered --  
18 we've been doing some in-person testing mostly when  
19 there's been really issues with PSI and, you know, error  
20 after or error sending the person away. So hybrid is  
21 definitely an option as well.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So I take it  
23 Lasergrade is no longer around?

24 MS. MCBRIDE: No.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Lasergrade



1       became PSI.

2                   MS. MCBRIDE: Yes. And they've  
3 actually been absorbed again. I'm not sure if they  
4 changed their name. There was just another buyout,  
5 but --

6                   MR. SPRINGER: Another bigger company.  
7 We're looking at some other options. Like I said,  
8 Scantron wants to have a meeting us to talk about a new  
9 way of doing it online. We haven't had that -- a  
10 chance -- I just got it, so I haven't heard anything  
11 about it or we haven't talked about it to see what it  
12 looks like. May be another option.

13                   I mean, we're looking at any way we can to get -- to  
14 free it up so people can get to those testings faster and  
15 easier because we understand it is a long distance. A  
16 lot of the ones for the PSI on this side of the  
17 mountains, especially the Seattle area, get full.

18                   That's why they tell them you got -- they only go  
19 out six months, but they get filled up so they can't get  
20 in like they can.

21                   I know that 32 has been going -- usually goes over  
22 to Ellensburg to test because they can't find anything on  
23 this side of the mountains. So we have been looking at  
24 it, so --

25                   MR. MOORE: Are these other ones



1       you're looking at -- are they nationwide like PSI as  
2       well.

3                   MR. SPRINGER:   Yeah.

4                   MR. MOORE:   Because I helped a few  
5       people that are out of state get their license before  
6       they came here.  That was very convenient for some of our  
7       members.

8                   MS. MCBRIDE:   Yeah, it is.  And, you  
9       know, PSI is so large.  They have -- most of the states  
10      do use PSI.  There are some other testing vendors out  
11      there.

12                  You know, and when I'm with NASCLA, I -- which I'm  
13      sure you know, National Association of State Contractor  
14      Licensing Agencies -- I'm very open about our  
15      frustrations and our challenges we have with PSI.

16                  And I was talking to some of my colleagues, and it  
17      was North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi.  Who else?  
18      South Carolina was there.  And they're all experiencing  
19      the same challenges.  And a lot of it occurred when PSI  
20      shifted their customer service center and took it -- it's  
21      no longer local.

22                  So that's a lot of the things that all the states  
23      are experiencing and trying to figure out.  So at the  
24      last meeting I was at in March, NASCLA offered to  
25      coordinate a multistate conference with PSI where we're



1 all going to get on the phone with PSI and all the states  
2 are going to talk about these challenges and issues that  
3 we're having and seeing if the new leadership with PSI  
4 makes a difference.

5 But still, I think that it's important that we  
6 explore all of our options, not just PSI.

7 CHAIR ALLRED: I personally like the  
8 idea of being -- the trainees being able to test where  
9 they are, whether in Sequim or Forks or Colville or  
10 Othello or --

11 MS. MCBRIDE: Agreed. I like the  
12 hybrid.

13 CHAIR ALLRED: I mean, if they can  
14 work it out so that someone can open up their laptop and  
15 test at home and they can be secure and it can be  
16 supervised in the right way, I think that would be a  
17 great option. Plus, it fits the climate agenda of the  
18 governor because then people aren't driving.

19 MS. MCBRIDE: Antonio?

20 CHAIR ALLRED: Oh, sorry, Antonio.

21 MR. CRUZ: Yeah. Thank you for the  
22 time, and I appreciate the consideration. That's all I  
23 got.

24 MS. MCBRIDE: Discussions will  
25 continue on it too.



1 CHAIR ALLRED: All right. Great.  
2 Thank you, Antonio.

3 Jed, IAPMO update, please, good sir.

4  
5 IAPMO Update

6  
7 MR. SCHEUERMANN: So IAPMO continues  
8 to be busy like crazy. Dates that are important: The  
9 6th and the 10th of May is the technical committee  
10 meeting for the 2027 uniform codes taking place in San  
11 Diego. Some pretty interesting code changes have been  
12 proposed. If you look at the proposals that have  
13 arrived, there's some pretty neat ones in there.

14 14th and 15th of May is our merging water and  
15 technology symposium in Scottsdale, Arizona. That's --  
16 that's a place where you get some really cutting-edge  
17 speakers, talking about different plumbing innovations,  
18 sustainability innovations, efficiency innovations, so  
19 that's always a worthwhile thing.

20 This year the conference is in Las Vegas at Planet  
21 Hollywood the 22nd to the 26th of September. It's a  
22 voting year, so that will be an opportunity for IAPMO  
23 members to have their voices directly heard.

24 In the process of code development, the 7th through  
25 the 12th of October is the annual ASSE meeting in



1 Portland, Maine.

2 And then 7th through the 10th of October is PHCC  
3 Connect, and that's in Birmingham, Alabama, this year.  
4 IAPMO was looking through our IWSH foundation to partner  
5 with the apprenticeship competition there and deploy some  
6 of the materials that are used for the apprenticeship  
7 competition in more home improvements.

8 I just got back Sunday night from an IWSH community  
9 plumbing challenge where we did five more homes in  
10 Alabama, and we're hoping to do several more in  
11 Birmingham in connection with Connect right following  
12 that as well.

13 And then Seattle, King County -- Steve Hart is here  
14 from there -- mandated the use of the water demand  
15 calculator. I want to -- the water demand calculator is  
16 a unique way of sizing water piping systems, and IAPMO is  
17 continuing to put out a lot of seminars and training and  
18 education opportunities on that, that will help with  
19 water sizing and efficiency.

20 That's my report.

21 CHAIR ALLRED: Steve, can I ask you --  
22 so you are mandating the water demand calculator?

23 MR. HART: Well, it is not actually  
24 through our program, but is enforced by our program.  
25 It's actually being enforced through the City of Seattle





1 and their building department through their energy,  
2 advisory, and conservation departments so that those that  
3 are going to have R-2 type of occupancies will be  
4 required to use the water demand calculator.

5 So it's not across the board in every capacity, but  
6 it can be used in different structures other than R-2  
7 where it's multifamily, multistory.

8 And it does have even a further reach because large  
9 projects that are already existing that are re-piped,  
10 when using the water demand calculator versus the current  
11 sizing of the water supply system, it greatly reduces the  
12 size of the water supply system. So it's a significant  
13 carbon footprint reduction, as well as a cost version  
14 reduction.

15 CHAIR ALLRED: Yeah. That's great.  
16 Is the -- question: Is the demand -- the water demand  
17 calculator, is that part of the '21 UPC or is that '24  
18 UPC?

19 MR. SCHEUERMANN: I mean, we first  
20 published it as appendix in 2018, so it's been around for  
21 a long while.

22 And we are in the process right now -- currently  
23 it's only available for residential, and we are looking  
24 to expand that into all types of occupancies based on --  
25 the way it was developed was developed scientifically and



1           mathematically. It wasn't just pulled out of the air.

2           And it was easy to do that for residential and  
3           multifamily applications because they're so similar, but  
4           we are trying to expand that right now through the  
5           commercial industrial sector.

6           And we are -- we're in the process of looking for  
7           buildings that we can actually monitor so that we get  
8           empirical data so that we can expand that to different  
9           facilities as well as athletic complexes, schools,  
10          buildings like this one that we're in right now, and so  
11          forth.

12          So we're doing some pretty extensive monitoring of  
13          those systems to see how water is actually used in those  
14          buildings.

15                   CHAIR ALLRED: That's a great effort.  
16          I think that's great.

17                   MR. SCHEUERMANN: The other thing I'll  
18          throw in is -- you and I had a conversation earlier about  
19          legionella. Every day my Bloomberg feed blows up with  
20          PFAPA and legionella.

21          Correct sizing of water piping systems I think is  
22          the right way to go because it minimizes the risk for  
23          legionella pathogens to get into the system and become  
24          viable and thereby create health or life issues.

25                   CHAIR ALLRED: Yes. Increasing



1 velocity reduces the risk of legionella growth in the  
2 lining.

3 MR. SCHEUERMANN: Reducing the size of  
4 piping reduces the volume of water that's there for  
5 harboring legionella pathogens.

6 CHAIR ALLRED: Right. Right. Very  
7 good.

8 MR. SCHEUERMANN: It's a win-win  
9 proposition, I think.

10 CHAIR ALLRED: Yeah. I -- anybody  
11 disagree with that? I think it's a great thing, Steve.

12 I'd like to -- I was going to address this under new  
13 business or, I mean, old business -- new business.

14 So if we could step forward to new business just for  
15 a minute to continue that conversation.

16

17 New Business

18

19 CHAIR ALLRED: There is a conversation  
20 happening in the industry at the beginning of 2023,  
21 January 1, 2023, the CTA-2045-A port became required on  
22 all electronic water heaters, and it's a port that --  
23 does everybody know what that is?

24 Okay. So it's a port that's now required on water  
25 heaters. Washington was the first state in the nation to

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1 require it. Oregon adopted it, I believe, July 1st of  
2 '23.

3 MR. SCHEUERMANN: I don't know the  
4 dates.

5 CHAIR ALLRED: And it's a port that  
6 allows the -- you connect it -- connect your water heater  
7 to the utility to give the utility the opportunity to  
8 operate what they call demand response programs.

9 With the electrification effort in the state,  
10 there's a couple of perspectives about what's going on  
11 with that. One is that the demand response programs  
12 would reduce the costs for contractors to develop --  
13 develop land because then they don't have to upgrade  
14 infrastructure coming in because then the utility can  
15 then tell you when you're -- it can tell you when your  
16 water heater is going to be heated and when it isn't  
17 based on the demand of the electrical grid.

18 So -- and then -- so the other portion of that would  
19 be -- flip side would be to reduce the number of  
20 brownouts or blackouts that may occur from increased  
21 electrification.

22 So with the -- the concern is that, with the  
23 CTA-2545-A [sic] port, if your water heater -- because  
24 there is more demand on the system on the electrical  
25 grid, your water heater might be shut off by utility,



1       that the temperature could drop it enough that legionella  
2       bacteria could start to grow inside of there.

3               So there's a conversation that's started between  
4       IAPMO and PHCC. Maybe the WSA needs to be included in  
5       that and kind of understand the science behind that, and  
6       it's going to create a public health situation where  
7       people are exposed to legionella bacteria.

8               In case you -- this is my rough understanding.  
9       Legionella bacteria is not harmful to us. It's in the  
10      environment everywhere. I believe that somebody told me  
11      there's 126 different strains of legionella. Is that  
12      correct?

13              MR. SCHEUERMANN: I don't know that  
14      it's that high. It's -- it's dozens for sure.

15              CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. And --

16              MR. SCHEUERMANN: I want to say it's  
17      somewhere around 60, but --

18              CHAIR ALLRED: And there's a few that  
19      are harmful to the human being. Not if you touch it or  
20      eat it, but if you -- or ingest it. You can -- all that,  
21      but if you breathe it, you inhale it, and you -- because  
22      it's been aerated and you're in the shower. Your water  
23      heater has legionella bacteria in it. You're taking a  
24      shower. It comes through. You're breathing that steam.  
25      Next thing you know, you get sick.



1           And so there's concern. We want to understand that  
2 process. So just throwing that out there, that this  
3 conversation has started.

4           So come back to -- any questions on that before I go  
5 back to old business?

6           All right. Great.

7                       MR. SCHEUERMANN: 50 species and 70  
8 subgroups, if this source is reliable.

9                       CHAIR ALLRED: Say that again.

10                      MR. SCHEUERMANN: 50 species, 70  
11 subgroups, according to this source.

12                      CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. Thank you for  
13 that, Jed.

14           Actually, there is one more new business item I'd  
15 like to bring up -- and we'll go back to old business --  
16 is that we -- I spoke with Melissa about this yesterday,  
17 asking questions.

18           I'm just going to inform the board of the  
19 conversation that's happening so we can gather the  
20 information and understand. We'd like to maybe  
21 understand it by the July meeting.

22           So there are people -- and maybe this isn't the  
23 situation that you were in, but there are folks that are  
24 coming that are trying to come here from other states  
25 that are certified, and they're being denied the



1 opportunity to test because they already have trainee  
2 hours in Washington.

3 So you have a trainee. They gather 500 hours. Move  
4 to Texas, wherever. Stay there for a number of years,  
5 get certified, and then -- and then turn around and want  
6 to come back to the state. They're being denied the  
7 opportunity to test because they've already had hours in  
8 the state.

9 We'd like to -- I'd like to understand why Labor and  
10 Industries is making that choice.

11 MS. MCBRIDE: Yeah. And Bruce and I  
12 had a good conversation about that yesterday. So I think  
13 we will be prepared to report out on that in July at the  
14 next board meeting.

15 I think that there's some things that need to be  
16 clarified, and there's some confusion in actually what's  
17 happening and when it's being denied and when it's  
18 accepted.

19 So we're continuing those conversations, and we'll  
20 be able to give a report out.

21 CHAIR ALLRED: Okay. Great. So we'll  
22 look forward to that being on the agenda.

23 Who is the agenda creator now? You?

24 MS. MCBRIDE: Alaina.

25 CHAIR ALLRED: Very good. Any other



1 new business before we move on to old business?

2 All right. Go to old business. Any old business?

3 MS. MCBRIDE: I think I have some.

4 CHAIR ALLRED: Sure.

5

6 Old Business

7

8 MS. MCBRIDE: Just came to me. At the  
9 last meeting, there was a gentleman who was talking about  
10 the continuing education, and so maybe this is new  
11 business and old business.

12 CHAIR ALLRED: It's okay.

13 MS. MCBRIDE: So as far as our  
14 website -- and it's confusing and we're asking for things  
15 we don't need, so that is on our list of something to go  
16 through and identify.

17 Alicia was the content editor for the website.  
18 We're getting Whitney or Alaina or/and Alaina trained.  
19 We learned that -- I learned that now, in order to be our  
20 Web content updater, it requires a LinkedIn account with  
21 training, and there's a lot of training and courses that  
22 need to occur before we can get access.

23 So we currently don't have the ability to update our  
24 website temporarily, but we have identified that the  
25 continuing education portion of the website does need to





1 be updated and clarified.

2 We've done an initial look through and kind of  
3 identified what areas. There's been some changes. We're  
4 working on changes.

5 She's looking at me like stop talking, Melissa.

6 WHITNEY: We're working on updating  
7 the plumber training renewal form. And then on the --  
8 it's going to go hand in hand with the continuing  
9 education side on the website since we're trying to make  
10 it simpler and easier to understand and --

11 CHAIR ALLRED: Would that also include  
12 information for trainees to know what continuing  
13 education they need?

14 WHITNEY: We're working on that. I  
15 have -- we're trying to decide how we can get it to show  
16 that they've taken -- even if it's been consumed for the  
17 renewal because it doesn't show anything right now.

18 Once they've used it for the renewal, the system  
19 consumes it, and it no longer shows on the L&I website.  
20 So we're working to see if that's a possibility, just to  
21 keep all of their continuing education history on the  
22 website so that they can see what they took last year and  
23 not have to keep track of it via certificates or anything  
24 like that.

25 So we're trying to figure out how we can get our IT



1 to do so, but right now the only way is still to contact  
2 me or send us an email, but we're working to see how we  
3 can get all data available on the website.

4 CHAIR ALLRED: Make your job easier,  
5 huh?

6 MS. MCBRIDE: Right? And to keep that  
7 as -- kind of circling back with the old business, that  
8 was a concern that was brought up, so we recognize that  
9 there are some updates very much needed on the website so  
10 that we'll be in the works, coming.

11 And Whitney -- we've gone to Perry Tech twice now  
12 and spoke to the graduating class, kind of new, set them  
13 on the path for success as they go out there into the  
14 world a trainee.

15 And Whitney has a PowerPoint that she's created and  
16 presents to the class, and it's gotten really good  
17 feedback, and it breaks down the continuing education.  
18 So as we update the website, that can be something we'll  
19 discuss too, about getting that on the website as a tool  
20 for them as well.

21 CHAIR ALLRED: Any -- yeah. That will  
22 be really fantastic.

23 Can you distribute that before it's placed on the  
24 website?

25 MS. MCBRIDE: Yeah. Yeah.



1 CHAIR ALLRED: I would love to have  
2 that.

3 MS. MCBRIDE: We can send it out to  
4 the board today.

5 WHITNEY: Yeah. It's a PowerPoint,  
6 and it has -- it starts how they get a training card. It  
7 breaks down pretty much everything that they should know,  
8 a simplified version for the industry at least, on  
9 certifying and getting a trainee continuing education,  
10 all that stuff.

11 CHAIR ALLRED: When trainee either  
12 renews or creates a brand-new card, do they get that  
13 PowerPoint?

14 WHITNEY: No. I mean, they could --  
15 we could send it out, but as of right now, it's only  
16 within me. Right now, I'm the only one that has it.

17 CHAIR ALLRED: That might be a really  
18 great way to make sure that the trainees are educated  
19 about the process.

20 WHITNEY: Yeah. And I think we're --  
21 there was talk about possibly posting it once we get it  
22 confirmed and everything looks good, providing it on the  
23 website at some point.

24 MS. MCBRIDE: Yeah. And I think, you  
25 know, getting it out to employers as well for them to



1 help their trainees.

2 CHAIR ALLRED: Yep. Everybody would  
3 love to have that information. There's a lot of  
4 confusion out there.

5 Is that all -- was that --

6 MS. MCBRIDE: Yes. That's it, sir.

7 CHAIR ALLRED: All right. I have one  
8 item of old business.

9 In the October meeting in Spokane, Jed made a  
10 motion, and the board passed a motion encouraging the  
11 Department to bring testing -- to test up to the current  
12 adopted code.

13 Can you guys update us on that effort?

14 MS. MCBRIDE: The code has been  
15 adopted.

16 CHAIR ALLRED: Yeah.

17 MS. MCBRIDE: There's my update.

18 Yes. We don't have much to report out on right now,  
19 but we are going to move forward obviously in updating it  
20 to that the current code. Also figuring out -- I think  
21 we spoke about it the last meeting -- on getting a  
22 Spanish version as well since there is a Spanish version  
23 of UPC.

24 So I don't have -- I don't have a good update for  
25 you right now, other than I recognize the need for it and



1 we need to get on it and get thing moving, so --

2 CHAIR ALLRED: So just for  
3 clarification purposes, we're still testing 2015 code?

4 MS. MCBRIDE: For clarification, yes.  
5 Yes. Yes.

6 MR. SPRINGER: Actually, 2015/2018 is  
7 the same, so it's been -- I've already withdrew that  
8 thing. So it doesn't really make any difference if you  
9 went to 2018 and tested or looked at that book or the  
10 2015 because it's all the same test, same -- 2021 we  
11 haven't done yet. I can't -- I'm limited on what I can  
12 do because I'm dealing with my eyes, but -- so --

13 MS. MCBRIDE: And that -- yes. And  
14 that's not preventing us from looking at options and  
15 moving forward. I don't want you to think that we have a  
16 delay on that. We don't.

17 CHAIR ALLRED: No. I don't propose to  
18 know your processes inside the Department to figure that  
19 out, so yeah, I mean -- so if a trainee is studying the  
20 2018 code, they're still likely to pass the test?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yep. Because  
22 it's the same -- the code didn't change for the -- per  
23 the test, whether it was '18 or '15. And that's -- we  
24 sent the '15 over to --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think the



1 water sizing is different between the '18 and the '15, so  
2 if you study the '18 water sizing, you're probably going  
3 to fail the water on the '15.

4 Do you know, Steve?

5 MR. HART: I'm Steve Hart. There's a  
6 significant change between the 2015/'18 to the 2021, and  
7 I would encourage a slow go to make a change from  
8 reaching out away from the 2015, which was very similar  
9 to the 2018, in adopting a 2021 code cycle version of the  
10 test.

11 There is significant changes in the 2021 code that  
12 would -- this consideration, somebody who fell across the  
13 line with hours would be testing on a 2021 code, and the  
14 changes between the 2018 and the 2021 are significant  
15 enough to cause somebody to be very unfamiliar with the  
16 code as written from a 2018 to a 2021, having little  
17 viewing of it and implementing what is in that code.

18 So I would encourage there be an alternate option,  
19 saying if you have studied and performed under a certain  
20 code cycle for a duration of time, as an example,  
21 75 percent of your hours, then you should be allowed to  
22 test under the 2018.

23 Whereas, if you are in the majority of your hours in  
24 a later version of 2021 code cycle, then test under that  
25 version because there is a significant leap between the



1 2018 and the 2021.

2 And that's just a recommendation.

3 CHAIR ALLRED: You're suggesting that  
4 for a transition?

5 MR. HART: Pardon me?

6 CHAIR ALLRED: You're suggesting that  
7 for the transition from the current test to the 2021?

8 MR. HART: I am. As an option.

9 CHAIR ALLRED: That's a good idea.

10 MR. SCHEUERMANN: Technical question.  
11 I don't know if you know the answer to this, Bruce. The  
12 water sizing in this exam, because I've never seen it, is  
13 it -- what's it based on? Is it based on Chapter 6? Is  
14 it based on Appendix A?

15 MR. SPRINGER: Based on Chapter 6.

16 MR. SCHEUERMANN: So then to Jason,  
17 Chapter 6, methodology, has not changed at all even in  
18 the 2024.

19 MR. SWITZER: Okay.

20 MR. SCHEUERMANN: The methodology  
21 changes with your other more exacting methods of sizing  
22 water, but if it's Chapter 6, nothing has changed there.  
23 So that should hopefully give --

24 MR. SPRINGER: And to be honest with  
25 you, the pass rate on the water sizing for most of --



1 most the trainees to take, it is quite high.

2 So it's the waste and vent that they have problems  
3 with, but the water size, it's always been up there  
4 with -- you know, most of them pass unless they're new,  
5 real new.

6 CHAIR ALLRED: What is the main --  
7 what's the main reason people fail the EWB? Do you know?

8 MR. SPRINGER: When I talk to them, a  
9 lot of people have problems with the pumps and  
10 understanding those. Cross-sectional, that's the biggest  
11 issues the guys have.

12 CHAIR ALLRED: Yeah. That would be my  
13 suspicion as well.

14 MS. MCBRIDE: And I need to -- I still  
15 don't have a good grasp on how we write the exam. I know  
16 it's not historically been one individual that does it,  
17 but it's kind of fallen on one; right?

18 So I -- there's a workgroup that gets together. I'm  
19 not quite clear on it. Does IAPMO? Can we hire somebody  
20 else to write the exam for us?

21 I know there's certain steps on doing exams about  
22 making sure that it's legally defensible and making sure  
23 that you've got a diversion group in there and you've got  
24 somebody representing from various sides.

25 And I don't know that historically we've followed





1 all those steps. So that's been a concern for me, and  
2 I'm really looking at like, "Where do I start?"

3 CHAIR ALLRED: So one of the -- I was  
4 reading the bylaws for the board this morning, right  
5 before the meeting, and there is -- there is a mechanism  
6 in there for us to create a subcommittee.

7 So we could potentially name some folks, not  
8 necessarily from the board, maybe a couple board --  
9 people from the board, maybe a couple industry  
10 professionals, and we can -- we can -- we can figure out  
11 who those entities are that should be represented. And  
12 we can, you know, reach out and see if someone wants to  
13 be on a task force to -- a committee to help with that  
14 test creation.

15 MR. SPRINGER: Normally what I do is  
16 bring in the -- I reach out for educators that know how  
17 to do it. I did bring in a bunch of plumbers that came  
18 in one time, and that was a nightmare because they  
19 couldn't remember how to do any of it.

20 So I do notice a lot of guys --

21 CHAIR ALLRED: So why are we testing  
22 then?

23 MR. SPRINGER: I usually go to the  
24 educators. You know, if you got somebody like that, that  
25 understands how to do tests or how to build tests or how



1 to -- understands how to teach it, I should say, that's  
2 what you're looking for because they're dealing with it  
3 every day, and they're looking at it.

4 I guess if they're a good estimator and that's -- if  
5 that's what they know how to do, then that's what you're  
6 going to have come in there.

7 So -- otherwise, like I said, I brought a bunch in,  
8 and they all go, "Well, I don't remember how to do this  
9 anymore."

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, that -- I  
11 sit on the national groundwater board where we write the  
12 test for the certification for the national groundwater.

13 There's certain ways you've got to phrase a  
14 question. You can't have negatives in it. You can't  
15 have "all the above's." There's a whole list of things  
16 that -- true/false. All those things disappear.

17 And so getting everything certified, it is a whole  
18 bunch of steps than just a bunch of guys going around,  
19 "Well, if you've got a four-inch waterline, what grade  
20 can you have down here?"

21 MS. MCBRIDE: Yeah. That's where I've  
22 kind of been hung up, is I don't know that all of those  
23 steps have been followed and then like the  
24 psychometrician, at what point do they come in and scrub  
25 the questions? And are we rotating them?



1           So that's something that I'm still trying to figure  
2           out. Did I read something -- did you -- does IAPMO offer  
3           an exam or write exams or --

4                   MR. SCHEUERMANN: IAPMO has done this.  
5           We've done it for the state of Montana, for example.  
6           We've done it for a couple of other states, so I can  
7           connect you with somebody who does that because I'm sure  
8           ours are all psychometrically analyzed and all that other  
9           good stuff. That's way above my pay grade.

10                   MS. MCBRIDE: Yeah. And I would  
11           appreciate it, just to get more research and make sure we  
12           are following all those steps through NASCLA.

13           You know, we have -- NASCLA has created a national  
14           exam for contractors and a national exam for electrical  
15           and go through all those thing steps; right?

16           We've got a psychometrician on staff, and so they've  
17           really helped educate me on it. It's not as simple as a  
18           bunch of people getting together and coming up with  
19           questions.

20                   MR. SCHEUERMANN: I will put you in  
21           touch with somebody.

22                   MS. MCBRIDE: Okay. Great.

23                   MR. SPRINGER: Okay. That's not the  
24           only problem you got going on. We do have other tests.  
25           You got --



1 MS. MCBRIDE: Correct.

2 MR. SPRINGER: So we got the well  
3 guys. We have the 03s, 02s. You also have to have  
4 backflow. You also have to have medical gases. We got  
5 to get updated too.

6 So there's a whole bunch of tests that fall under  
7 that, you're going to have to deal with also. So IAPMO  
8 I'm sure can do the 01s, 02s, but they're not going to be  
9 able to do the rest of them because they're separated.

10 And that's some of the stuff we also need to bring  
11 in again and get more questions for, you know, the 04s  
12 and that type of stuff, because they're totally different  
13 than needing to know the -- you know, the waste and water  
14 drawings.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So when I --  
16 back in the '90s, on the electrical side, I sat down and  
17 they had a bunch of us electricians together and they  
18 pulled up a question and they read the question in the  
19 group, and we decide what category that went into.

20 And so, like, a lot of 01 and 02 electricians, you  
21 know, "Oh, I know that's an 03 too," and they all go,  
22 "No. No. No."

23 And I -- then the head electrical inspector looked  
24 over and said, "Yeah. I guess that is because they can  
25 do all that stuff too."





1 MR. HART: It's only two minutes,  
2 Todd. That's an introduction.

3 CHAIR ALLRED: Yeah.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I do have one  
5 question.

6 With the EPA just coming down the new ruling on  
7 PFAS, how is that going to affect the plumbing industry?  
8 Because of all the plastics, Teflons, all that good  
9 stuff, all got PFAS in it.

10 I know how it's affecting the groundwater stuff  
11 right now, but how is it going to affect the rest of the  
12 industry? Are we all going to end up going back to  
13 straight copper? Can't use galvanized, too much lead.

14 MR. HART: Okay. I have a comment  
15 now.

16 CHAIR ALLRED: The board will  
17 recognize Steve Hart.

18 MR. HART: So thank you for the public  
19 comment offer. Regarding the PFAS and PFOS, the 2021  
20 code is very specific about point of entry and point of  
21 use filtration entrapment of contaminant to water supply  
22 system or from a water supply system.

23 And I believe that, you know, how it would affect  
24 the current, you know, versions of how we're enforcing is  
25 that those that are going to fall into and the



1 requirement of inspecting in a final capacity, like that  
2 of a building inspector and not just specifically a  
3 plumbing inspector who does maybe just the plumbing.

4 And then, after the fact, a point of view filtration  
5 was placed on for the elimination of a PFAS or PFOS.

6 Then in that consideration, there should probably be, you  
7 know, at this point, you know, some really focal toward  
8 building officials and the building official industry to  
9 identify and recognize that these requirements out of the  
10 plumbing code in the 2021 code which do require point of  
11 use and new ASSE requirements as well as point of entry  
12 to capture and contain pollutants.

13 So I think that's one of the considerations that  
14 will eventually, you know, come to light as we keep  
15 moving forward with the 2021 code, but it really has to  
16 be introduced into the building official industry in  
17 order to have that really captured in that capacity.

18 CHAIR ALLRED: Kept it under two  
19 minutes.

20 Yeah. I don't know how -- I have no way of -- idea  
21 how to answer your question.

22 MR. FOWLER: Yeah. I mean, I have --  
23 yeah. Well, because of groundwater, we deal with PFOS,  
24 not all the time, but certain areas, and I have friends  
25 of mine that they got to treat their drinking water, the



1 water they use for production, the whole nine yards.

2 And it's a -- whole stretches of Minnesota,  
3 everybody has filtration on their houses now because  
4 PFAS, but it's -- you know, it's 30-plus-thousand  
5 different elements, and so it's in your body right now.

6 So, yeah, it's going to come down. It's going to  
7 affect the industry one way or another. Might not happen  
8 in the next few years, but it's coming.

9 CHAIR ALLRED: So what I hear you  
10 saying -- what I hear you guys saying is that filtration  
11 is going huge.

12 MR. FOWLER: Filtration can become  
13 huge, yep.

14 CHAIR ALLRED: We've been watching  
15 the -- this is a side comment, but we've been watching  
16 the filtration industry for, what, 30 years, and it's  
17 almost -- there's so many people that are involved in it.  
18 Like, there's been no -- that will probably create a  
19 consolidation. I don't know. Help them start sorting  
20 out who's got the best products.

21 MR. FOWLER: GE just bought out the  
22 second largest water filtration company in the United  
23 States two years ago, so that will give you an idea what  
24 they're thinking, so --

25 CHAIR ALLRED: Yeah. Well thanks for





1 bringing that up, Scott.

2 All right. Any more public comment?

3 All right. Very good. We'll entertain a motion to  
4 adjourn.

5 MR. CRUZ: So moved.

6 CHAIR ALLRED: Antonio, thank you.

7 MR. MOORE: Second.

8 CHAIR ALLRED: Thank you, Brad. All  
9 in favor?

10 (Chorus of ayes.)

11 CHAIR ALLRED: Thank you, gentlemen.

12 Thank you, everybody, for being here, ladies and  
13 gentlemen, everybody. Have a great day.

14 (Meeting concluded at  
15 11:08 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E


I, ANDREA L. CLEVINGER, a Certified Stenographic Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, residing at Olympia, authorized to administer oaths and affirmations pursuant to RCW 5.28.010, do hereby certify;

That the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically before me and thereafter reduced to a typed format under my direction; that the transcript is a full, true and complete transcript of said proceedings consisting of Pages 1 through 65;

That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any party to this action, or relative or employee of any such attorney or counsel, and I am not financially interested in the said action or the outcome thereof;

That upon completion of signature, if required, the original transcript will be securely sealed and the same served upon the appropriate party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of April, 2024.

  
Andrea L. Clevenger, CCR No. 3041  
(Certified Stenographic Court Reporter)



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