**Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes**

**Department of Public Safety**

**Office of State Fire Marshal**

**December19 , 2019 9:00 a.m.**

**Board members present**: Marc Veilleux, Steve Wintle , Dave Matero, Steve Martel, Mike Stoddard , Jeremy Martin ,Michael Pullen

**Excused**: Eric Dube, Ben Breadmore, Randy Poulton

**Staff present**: Rich McCarthy

**Review of November 14th, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to accept minutes – Marc Veilleux

Second- Steve Martel

6-0 vote one abstention

**Financial Report**: $636,114

Rich explained the funding source for the CEO training and certification program and also the MUBEC training and support positions. This funding is derived from a surcharge on plans submitted for review to our office. The fee is .04 cents / square foot for space under review. Rich explained the budget process and how the budget for the new positions would work. The funding from the surcharge and the use of some of the cash balance will allow for approximately a $50,000 training budget each year. A request has been put in for a copy of the Budget. There is interest in the State continuing to purchase codes for municipalities. A question was also posed on whether or not we are permitting all projects subject to our review. Marc Veilleux explained what he is doing to reach out to local CEO’s to make sure projects are steered to the SFMO. A PDF to aide municipalities was created by SFMO . Comments were made that builders really want to do the right thing and get permits. A question was asked whether there is follow up after permits are issued there is no required inspection by the SFMO on permitted projects.

**Report from Board Chair – Richard McCarthy**

Rich explained we still do not have a retail lumber representative on the Board they have been notified but have not seen any movement in a nomination. Rich explained where we are in the database rebuilding project, and the issues that we are having with the existing database. Rich provided an overview of what LD 1509 did to what codes are currently enforced by local building officials.

**Legislative update**

Rich explained the new DPS policy on monitoring of Bills and that there will possibly be more involvement at the Legislative hearings this session

**Unfinished Business**

There was a discussion in reference to the Boards request to change some of the CEO testing requirements that currently exist in the online test site. Those requests included requiring a person to retake the entire test instead of just the questions that were wrong and also allowing each test to be taken once a day. We are currently waiting for those updates to take place. Questions were asked about how many tests are given and what percentage of tests are passed. Currently the requirement is to attain a grade of 86 to pass the open book tests there was a general consensus that this is a good benchmark to reach due to the test being open book. There was discussion around what we were trying to fix with the changes made, and also discussion in reference to requiring apprenticeships for code officials and acceptance of this by the legislation. At this time neither the rules or the statute have any allowance for such a program. There were comments made that there should be prerequisites before being allowed to take tests.

**New Business**

Discussion surrounding a Board meeting and tour of the wood composite facility in Orono. It was requested that we ask for 4/16/2020 for a date for this meeting and Tour.

The Board then went into TAGS groups and what they were and what was their purpose. TAG groups are advisory groups to provide the Board with Technical information to assist the Board in their decision process. The question came up in reference to the Boards decision tree and is was debated whether this was an appropriate use of the decision tree since there was no conflict in the codes . The previous process of IECC rulemaking was brought up and what happened in that process and why did we end up in an old code version. Rich provided information on the new Rulemaking process which removes the Governor’s office approval as a requirement to move forward with rulemaking. Several Board members asked what the major issues were with the previous attempts to update the IECC. The major issues during that process was the Blower door test and the continuous insulation requirement in the 2015 IECC. The TAG chairs were asked to send out information on what they saw as issues before the TAG meetings. The TAG meeting were set for Jan 16th 2020 at DPS in Augusta.

**Public Comment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich McCarthy, Chair