

# CROSS CONNECTION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday November 28, 2007

10:00 am to 12:20 pm

Portland State Office Building  
800 NE Oregon Street Room 612

## In Attendance

Monica Anderson*	Balzhisord & Hubbard Engineers [Engineers]
Mike Briesemeister	EWEB (Eugene Water & Electric Board)
Ronald Hall	DHS Drinking Water Program Unit Manager
Ray Johnson*	City of The Dalles [Water Suppliers]
Arlo Langford	City of The Dalles
Kate Mattimore	BMI (Backflow Management Inc)
Joe McNelly*	City of Hillsboro [OR Plumbing Inspectors]
Hung Nguyen	City of Tigard
J. Michael Perry	DHS Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention Coordinator
Ronald G. Robertson*	Port of Portland - UA Local 290 [OR Licensed Plumbers]
Rich Sattler	City of Hillsboro
Becky Ternan	Wilkins
Jerry Thomas*	United Pipe & Supply [Assy. Mfg./Authorized Reps.]
Stephen West*	EWEB [Certified Instructors]

\*Board Members

Board Members not in attendance:

\*Elmer Ostling [DHS Backflow Assembly Testers]

\*Mary Howell BMI [DHS Cross Connection Specialists]

\*Vacant [General Public]

## 1. Call to Order / Welcome

Chair Stephen West called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Introductions – Board and Attendees

The above attendees introduced themselves, including Michael Perry who is the new Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Coordinator for the DHS Drinking Water Program. The six Board members present formed a quorum.

## 3. Additions to the Agenda

There were no formal additions.

#### 4. Approval of the previous meetings

The minutes from the March 9, 2007 meeting were approved. The minutes from the June 20, 2007 subcommittee meeting were approved.

#### 5. DHS Reports

##### a. Staff Introductions

Ron Hall introduced Ray Johnson as our newest Board member. Ray works for the city of The Dalles. He is representing the Water Purveyors.

##### b. 2007 Annual Summary Reports

DHS reported they have received 70% of required 2006 ASRs, which is up from 62% for 2005. The 2007 ASRs will go out in early January.

##### c. Recertification and New Testers and Specialists

As of November 26<sup>th</sup>, DHS reports they have 938 active Certified Testers, 431 active Certified Specialists and 138 persons who have both the active Tester and active Specialist Certifications. There was a discussion about Plumbers recertifying through DHS even though the 2005 legislature allowed plumbers to have training through the Plumbers organization. Ron Hall noted that there was no way to determine how many plumbers had dropped out. Ron Robertson said he has recommended to the plumbers to recertify through DHS. Often smaller water districts still require the DHS certification, which they are allowed to do. This is also required on some new projects by architects or contractors. Ron Robertson felt an overwhelming majority are recertifying. In order to quantify the number of plumbers who certify, it was suggested that DHS add a box to the all the certification applications that says "Are you a licensed Plumber?".

##### d. New Board Members

With Ray Johnson replacing Pat Dorning as PWS representative, we still have an opening on the Board. This position is to represent the General Public. If you have any ideas for an appropriate person to fill this position, please call Ron Hall at 971-673-0409.

#### 6. Old Business – Committee Reports: In order to re-establish continuity of issues the CCAB had been working on, and for the benefit of all members, Ron Hall asked for an update of subcommittee issues from the March 2007 meeting.

##### a. Repairs

Ron Hall initiated a continuation of the ongoing discussion on the repairing of backflow assemblies and devices. Ron Robertson distributed copies of some of the appropriate Oregon Plumbing Codes. ( ORS 447.010 thru 447.020 and OAR 918-780-0030 thru 918-780-0035.) He then explained them and answered questions. A brief summary of his report includes:

-Definitions of common plumbing terms.

-A discussion of “exempt ordinary minor repairs”. Exempt here refers to not needing a permit or an inspection. There are no exemptions for repairing backflow devices, which implies the need for a licensed plumber.

A question was asked: "who can repair these exempt ordinary repairs?" Ron Robertson reported that a home owner, a licensed plumber, and some special area repair persons like water heater installers or some landscapers who can work on residential irrigation. Commercial or industrial work will be done by a licensed Oregon plumber. This is just a brief overview. There are many qualifying elements to this. Every plumbing situation must be examined individually.

There was some discussion as to the difficulty in getting plumbers and testers to remote Oregon areas. There was also a discussion regarding the need for legislative action for further clarifications and to allow testers to do more repairs. The consensus of the Advisory Board was that it is not their role to attempt to push this thru the legislature. Jerry Thomas, Ron Robertson and Ray Johnson agreed to form a sub-committee on some recommendations for clarifying repair issues.

b. ASRs for 2007

Some Board Members have worked on revamping the ASRs for 2007. There was a discussion about some of the proposed changes. Michael Perry said that he would try to get some of the proposed changes into the 2007 form and perhaps make further refinements in 2008. He will put this review as a high priority for 2008. Mike wanted to thank those people who worked on this project, especially Mary Howell.

c. Guidance Document

Steve West explained that the original idea was to assemble the lessons learned from the backflow community into a document that could be shared with all PWSs. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea but the issue was tabled for now.

d. Statewide Guidelines

Steve West said the idea was for DHS to host a bulletin board so that industry elements could exchange ideas and best practices. Ron Hall said he like that idea and will look into it further.

e. Gauge Calibration

The Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research [USC] uses a water column method or basis for

calibrating “Differential Pressure Gauges” which are used for testing Backflow Prevention Assemblies and Devices in Oregon. No one could say with certainty that all the companies and individuals in Oregon that recertify gauges use this method. At this time there is no list of people and companies who do these certifications and what their methodology is based on. It was reported that in the past, the factories tested and certified new gauges. No one is certain of this today. In addition there is concern for damage in shipment and it seems to be the feeling of the Board that there should be a calibration of new testing devices before they are used in the field. These areas will be addressed in the future. Since NIST [National Institute of Standards and Technology] covers almost every phase and type of testing, some wanted to know if they had standards for cross connections and how they matched USC. The long awaited 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Manual of Cross-Connection Control by the Foundation should be out on the first half of 2008. This issue needs more research in order to make further recommendations.

f. Sanitary Survey

It was suggested that additional cross connection emphasis be added to the Sanitary Survey. Ron Hall noted that the current survey form address whether a PWS has an ordinance and active cross connection program, but not much beyond that.

## 7. New Business

a. Plumbing Board Meeting (Code Revisions)

Kate Mattimore mentioned that there is to be a change back to RPs on carbonators. Michael Perry has been recommended to the governor and is going through the process of being appointed as the DHS representative to Oregon Plumber’s Board.

b. DCBS Tester Certification Update

Kate Mattimore reported that she had discussed concerns around DCBS rules for plumbers. She said Terry Swisher acknowledged that they weren't perfect but that's what they had to work with for now.

c. Board Election/Schedule

The CCAB elects a new chair annually. Monica Anderson will begin as the Board Chairperson starting in with the first meeting in 2008. Ray

Johnson will be the chair elect. Ron mentioned that several Board members are nearing the end of their 3 year terms. These people can be appointed again under terms of the bylaws.

d. Others

Ron Hall mentioned he had proposed to make a change in the rules to “Backflow assembly tester reports shall be made available to the DHS upon request”. This is designed to facilitate access to records for enforcement purposes. Board members agreed that this was a good idea.

**8. Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**9. Public Comment.**

Public comments were allowed during discussions and there were no addition ones.

**10. Next Meeting & Adjourn**

Monica Anderson offered to host the next meeting of the CCAB. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> in Eugene. It will be at the offices of Balzhiser & Hubbard located at 100 W 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Eugene. There will be addition information on our web site. There was also a reminder about the ABPA Conference February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Salem Convention Center. The meeting was adjourned at 12.20 pm.