

**Building Codes Structures Board**  
**Additional meeting draft minutes**  
**February 24, 2016**

**Members present:** Dan Carlson, building official  
Stephen Forster, fire protection agency representative  
Gregory Nelson, energy supplier  
Bill Kisselburgh, building trade representative  
Eric Sandoval, architect  
Thomas Sjostrom, owner/manager of commercial office building

**Members absent:** Rene Gonzalez, three-plus stories general contractor  
Ted Wenk, disabilities commission representative  
Vacancy - Heavy industry construction contractor

**Staff present:** Mark Long, Administrator of Building Codes Division  
Brett Salmon, manager, Policy and Technical Services  
Richard Rogers, chief building official, Policy and Technical Services  
Rex Turner, structural program chief, Policy and Technical Services  
Mark Heizer, P.E., mechanical code specialist, Policy and Technical Services  
Steve Judson, facilities engineer, Policy and Technical Services  
Tony Rocco, code specialist, Policy and Technical Services  
Todd Smith, policy analyst, Policy and Technical Services  
Debi Barnes-Woods, boards administrator, Policy and Technical Services

**Guests Present:** Carl Redman, Bear Electric, President  
Jeff Bond, Bend Fire Department  
John Patterson, Oregon Fire Marshals Association  
Kylie Kelly, Hillsboro Fire  
Nate Takara, Portland Fire & Rescue

**I. Board business**

**A. Call to order**

Rex Turner, structural program chief, called the Building Codes Structures Board meeting of February 24, 2016, to order at 9:32 a.m. The meeting was held at Building Codes Division in Conference Room A, 1535 Edgewater Street NW, Salem, Oregon.

**B. Roll call**

Rene Gonzalez and Ted Wenk were both absent excused.

This board has one vacancy for the following position: A contractor specializing in construction for heavy industry.

**C. Approval of agenda and order of business**

The agenda and order of business was **RULED** approved by unanimous consent.

**D. Approval of the November 4, 2015, board meeting minutes**

The following corrections were made to the November 4, 2015, draft meeting minutes:

- Ted Wenk was absent from the November 4, 2015, board meeting
- Correction was made to board member Bill Kisselburgh's name
- Eric Sandoval, architect, was added to the members present list

The amended board meeting minutes of November 4, 2015, were ruled final by unanimous consent.

**E. Date of the next regularly scheduled meeting:** May 4, 2016.

**F. Welcome new board member:** Stephen Forster, representative of a fire protection agency.

**II. Public comment**

John Patterson, OFMA, requested that the board consider rescinding the removal of the Emergency Responder Radio Coverage requirements from OSSC Sections 403.5 and 915. The association said that removal could cause significant impact to the fire service, developers and contractors, law enforcement and the public at large.

Carl Redman, Bear Electric, President, said that the electrical contracting industry fully supports the Emergency Responder Radio Coverage requirement, but said there are concerns in the industry that code changes are occurring during projects. He requested that contractors and electrical contractors know when a project is being bid, what the code requirements are going to be for the specific project from start to finish.

Nate Takara, Portland Fire & Rescue, fire marshal, said that the Emergency Responder Radio Coverage is a critical component for all emergency first responders and having clear radio transmission is essential.

**III. Reports**

**A. Building Codes Division report**

Brett Salmon, manager, Policy and Technical Services, said that during the 35-day legislation session, there were no building code related issues for the division.

**B. Program update**

Rex Turner, structural program chief, Policy and Technical Services, informed the board that staff member Steve Judson, facilities engineer, is now semi-retired and moving back home to California.

**Code adoption discussion:**

- The division first started communicating a change in the code adoption process in the Local Building Department Newsletter of [March 20, 2014](#).

In this article the division discussed modifying the code adoption

schedule, within statutory authority, to be more flexible than continuing on a three-year rigid code-cycle to adopt model codes. The model code would be adopted every six years and the division would go through its own internal update every three years.

- The anticipated time to begin accepting code proposals for changes to the 2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code is October 2016.
- The 2018 International Building Code adoption process will begin in early 2017.

Mark Long, administrator, Building Codes Division, discussed the Emergency Responder Radio Coverage requirements that were brought up during the public comment period and also discussed the alternate method, agenda item VII, under new business. He said that the division reexamined Sections 403.4.5 and 915 of the 2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code and found that inclusion of requirements for emergency responder radio communication systems is outside the mandatory statutory scope of the State Building Code. Due to that issue, a notice of code section repeal was posted to the division website.

Administrator Long explained that new construction falls under the authority of the building code and maintenance and firefighting fall under the authority of the fire code. He also stated that if a solution can be found, the division would add the repealed sections back into the code.

Administrator Long said that the Statewide Alternate Method provides the 2015 International Building Code as a voluntary standard and includes the 2015 International Energy Efficiency Code. If the board votes to approve the technical and scientific facts of the alternate method, customers will get to design and build using an additional choice and will be able to select one of the following:

- The 2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code
- The 2015 International Building Code, including all reference documents

Stephen Forster said that a state fire code sub-committee is currently addressing the issue of Emergency Responder Radio Coverage requirements. He asked that the repealed code sections be either placed back into the building code or a document be published explaining that Emergency Responder Radio Coverage be treated just like access and water where Emergency Responder Radio Coverage is not under the building code authority.

Eric Sandoval suggested that the fire industry use a standardized template or “checklist” for upfront predictability for jurisdictions to fill in the specific local requirements.

Administrator Long asked that the fire industry work with stakeholders outside this board to develop a “checklist” detailing technical specifications for Emergency Responder Radio Coverage systems.

Stephen Forster said the repeal is causing confusion. He said that he will coordinate a group consisting of representatives from the fire industry and private sector, building officials, and dispatchers to meet and develop a proposal for Administrator Long.

**IV. Communications** - None

**V. Appeals** - None

**VI. Unfinished business** – None

**VII. New business**

**Board review and provide a recommendation to the division on the technical and scientific facts of approving the 2015 International Building Code as an alternate method to the provisions of the 2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

Chief Turner reviewed the use of Statewide Alternate Method No. ORSC 16-01 as a code alternative. He said that this alternate method will provide designers the option of designing to the latest edition of the model codes ahead of the statewide implementation date. The 2018 ORSC is anticipated to become effective October 1, 2018.

**Motion by Stephen Forster** to approve the technical and scientific facts of the Statewide Alternate Method No. 16-01 with an amendment to reinstate Section 916.

**Motion carried unanimously**

**VIII. Announcements** - None

**IX. Adjournment**

Mr. Turner adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.  
Respectfully submitted by Debi Barnes-Woods  
Division Boards Administrator/Coordinator