

## Cross Connection Advisory Board - MINUTES

June 4, 2026 | Noon - 1:00pm

Portland State Office Building | 800 NE Oregon Street | Portland, OR 97232

---

**Attendance:** Molly Keller, Jed Scheuermann, Daniel Azzato, Matt Bruton, Matt LaForce, Kahlil Howell, Max Butler, Rob Compton, Scott Ruyle, Tommy Laird, Jim Nurmi, Chris MacQuarrie

1. Call to Order – **12:01pm**
2. Introductions – N/A
3. Approval of Minutes – N/A
4. Department Reports:
  - a. ASR data is rolling in, will work with data people in office to display data on the website.
  - b. There is some behind the scenes work being done to make the data entry and follow up for ASRs and Annual Cross Connection fees easier or even possible to follow up.
  - c. Helping out with CEU audit for Operator Certification, only about 80-100 people selected for audit.
  - d. We had talked about opening up the Statutes (ORS) to remove the Cross Connection Annual fees out of there and into OARs. The request was submitted and denied.
  - e. Instructors: Please make sure you are using the current version of the application form. The old forms had email addresses that no longer forward. The correct email address: [cross.connection@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:cross.connection@odhsoha.oregon.gov)

- f. The [New Certification web page](#) was updated recently. Take a look, if you have any suggestions or edits, let me know.
5. Old Business – N/A
  6. New Business – N/A
  7. Correspondence – None
  8. Public Comment –
    - a. **Matt Bruton:** Failure rate seems significant this year, 6-10% range, Febco 805y and Wilkins - 950 series (w/ built in seats). The built in seat wearing out over time, and the manufacuterers replacement parts are not good quality and failing within a year of installation. Will talk with Chuck at USC on the process to remove assemblies from the list. Older assemblies that are no longer manufactured get taken off the list. Would be interesting to see the failure rate over all, maybe send a survey to Water providers and Testers that have the data to see how big the problem is.
      - i. Caleffi not on USC list, but it's a recognized standard so would be allowed per plumbing code, don't see too many of them, but can't find replacement parts. Have been requireing them to be replaced.
      - ii. Clean gauges vs dirty gauges. When you testing for multiple differnet venus, what is being done to "clean" the gauge between testing, for example, a clycol loop on a fire system, and a soda machine. Potential for contamination is there.
    - b. **Danel Azzato:** Coming across assemblies installed in a way that is not approved by USC, but since it's past the meter it's plumbing code, and often times there is another assembly installed per USC isolating the premesis or at least the actual or portentail cross connection.
    - c. **Max Butler:** "Bad" assemblies can still be installed legally per plumbing (as long as it's a recognized standard).

- i. Plumbing code on clearances is basically manufacturer requirements. Plumbing code interpretation is ease and safety of testing and maintenance over freeze protection.
  - 1. Statewide Code Interpretation:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/interp-23-01-backflow-freeze-protection.pdf>
- ii. October Plumbing code updates related to backflow includes:
  - 1. New restriction on prohibited installation.
  - 2. Requirement for plumbers to be certified through OHA.
- d. **Kahlil Howell:** Came across a situation where replacing an old assembly with a new assembly meant there clearances below the assembly and behind the assembly were slightly smaller than the minimum. Suggest some language be added to the installation section for assemblies to include something like: installed with required clearances or alternate clearances may be accepted per approval from the water provider.
- e. **Sample Language for Instructors:** While testing RPs on fire lines or any non-potable line there is a potential for gauge contamination. To “clean” your gauge flush it out #2 shut off is still open.
  - i. Start with education: add to curriculum for testers and specialists, since you are creating a cross connection when testing.
  - ii. It is thought that the ASSE procedures don’t create a cross connection while testing with their gauges.

9. **Adjournment** - 1:07pm

---

## Next Meeting

Thursday, August 6, 2026, Noon-1:00pm