

**Monterey Bay Chapter of the International Code Council  
Meeting Minutes for May 21, 2009, Marina Library,  
190 Seaside Circle, Marina, CA**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Chapter secretary Mark McClain called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

**1.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.02 Self Introductions**

Member's present provided self-introductions.

John Ancic, City of Santa Cruz  
Douglas Rick, City of Soledad  
Jennifer Hutchinson, County of Santa Cruz  
John Kuehl, City of Monterey  
Lisa Feliciano, City of Monterey  
Mark McClain, City of Seaside  
Craig Oliver, City of Marina  
Gwen Wells, Builders Exchange of the Central Coast  
Mike Stone, City of Salinas  
Mike Snowden, City of Greenfield  
Dave Chantler, City of Salinas/CSG  
Mike Baldwin, City of Santa Cruz

**2.0 CHAPTER BUSINESS**

**2.01 Approval of minutes**

Motion to approve the April 2009 minutes by John Kuehl, second by Craig Oliver.  
All in favor, motion carried.

**2.02 Old business:**

John Kuehl recommended the chapter determine the meeting locations for next year. Craig Oliver reported that the Marina library is available for next year and asked the chapter whether to have the meetings in Marina for a six month period and Watsonville for the other six month period. John K. stated that it would be best to have only one location. John Ancic asked where the majority of the membership traveled from and felt that if the majority is closer to Marina, that Marina should be the single location from an energy consumption point of view. John Kuehl introduced a motion to have all of the meetings in Marina, second by Mike Stone. All in favor, motion carried.

John Kuehl reported on the CALBO ABM party. Craig Oliver submitted a request to spend up to \$4,000 for the event. Those attending would be the chapter members and spouses who assisted in the ABM as well as the contractors who assisted in the CALBO Foundation project in Seaside. Up to 50-60 people could attend. The proposed event will also include raffling of prizes and other activities and entertainment. Craig motioned for the approval of up to \$4,000.00 for the event, second by Mike Stone. Further discussion continued about authorizing more funds due to the anticipated size of the event. John K. recommended an amount of \$5,500.00. Craig O. agreed to amend the motion to approve \$5,500.00, seconded by Mike Stone. All in favor, motion carried.

Lisa Feliciano reported on the location of the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting celebrating the chapter's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The cost for securing the meeting room at the Bay Park Hotel is \$500.00 minimum with options to add to the lunch menu. John Kuehl motioned to subsidize the additional cost for the meeting, second by Dave Chantler. All in favor, motion carried.

Craig Oliver reminded the chapter of the Tri Chapter meeting of June 5<sup>th</sup> and to e-mail him as soon as possible if anyone intended to go. Craig indicated that the attendance appears to be much lower this year.

### **2.03 New Business:**

John Kuehl reported on the Monterey County Grey Water Working Group. The Monterey County Health Department will be regulating and permitting the grey water systems within Monterey County. The California Department of Water Resources has jurisdiction of Chapter 16 "Grey Water Systems" in the Plumbing Code and have passed the responsibilities of enforcement to the local health departments. The working group has defined grey water systems with the definition used in the Plumbing Code. With grey water systems jurisdiction resolved, the working group is now focusing on rain water catchment systems. The group has divided into several smaller groups including a regulatory group which consists of health department representation and John Kuehl and Mark McClain. This group is trying to determine whether or not to require any permits for catchment systems at this time. There are no standards to refer to at this time. The current consensus is to not require a permit, but to offer education and information to the public regarding grey water systems and rain water catchment systems. John indicated that he will continue to report any future progress to the chapter.

John Kuehl announced that the City of Monterey will officially take over the building department in Pacific Grove on September 1, 2009.

There was general discussion regarding how the various jurisdictions are handling planning approval and building permit expirations, deferred development fees, abandoned projects and foreclosures.

#### **2.04 Treasurers report.**

Lisa Feliciano gave the treasure's report for April. There is a combined balance of \$34,800.00. It was also reported that the code enforcement seminar brought in \$4,100.00.

### **3.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **3.01 Code change:**

Dave Chantler handed out copies of the proposed code change recommendations from the Tri Chapter Code Change Committee. The committee is asking for sponsorship support from all three chapters to share in the expense of sending 6 representatives to the code change hearings in Baltimore this November. The cost to each chapter is \$2,500.00. A motion to approve allocating \$2,500.00 to send representation to the code hearings in November was made by Dave Chantler, seconded by Gwenn Wells. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **3.02 Legislation:**

No report.

#### **3.03 Special Inspection:**

No report.

#### **3.04 Education:**

Craig Oliver reported that the chapter will be hosting two seminars before the end of the year that will most likely be given at in Marina. A list of available seminars was passed around for the purpose of indicating which seminars are desired most. Craig announced that John Kuehl and Mark McClain will start taking the lead with the education committee.

John Ancic announced that AMBAG will be hosting two Title 24 Energy training in Santa Cruz on July 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. The training is free.

#### **3.05 Membership and Honors**

Mark McClain reminded the chapter that the perpetuity placards of the Building Official of the Year and Industry Person of the Year will be presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting.

#### **3.06 IAEI:**

Craig Oliver announced a half day electrical grounding seminar. Craig will send out flyers

#### **3.07 CEC & Green Building:**

No report (John Kuehl addressed grey water and rain water catchment under new business).

## **4.0 OTHER REPORTS**

### **4.01 I.C.C.**

No report.

### **4.02 CALBO**

Craig Oliver reported that April 27<sup>th</sup> was his first CALBO Board meeting and he was officially appointed as the CALBO liaison for MBCICC.

Craig reported on proposed by-law changes for the modification of the annual audit requirements and the adoption of the 09/10 budget. Also; CALBO is proposing to assist DSA with the implementation of the CASP certification.

AIACC approached CALBO about potentially allowing DSA to certify building departments, upon the building department's request, to conduct plan check of public schools. Although elements of this proposal were thought to be favorable by the CALBO Board, it was agreed that CALBO would remain formally neutral on the issue should AIACC pursue it with DSA.

CALBO's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is in 2012. Although three years away, the CALBO Board is already making plans to appropriately celebrate

### **4.03 Code Discussion**

Craig Oliver asked the chapter about testing the pipe burst method for replacing sewer laterals. Discussion included input from members regarding video cam inspection, water holding test and visual inspection at the saddle connection in the sewer main.

## **5.0 LUNCH BREAK**

## **6.0 PROGRAM**

Brian Samuelson from the California Energy Commission gave an overview presentation of the 2008 Energy Efficiency Standards

## **Adjournment**

## Tracer Wires

THHN wire should not be used as a tracer (locating) wire for underground (wet) installations. It is not listed for such use and will deteriorate and become useless within 5 years or less depending on a number of factors.

The 2006 UPC, Section 1211.1.1 and NFPA 54, 7.1.7.3 require “an electrically continuous corrosion-resistant tracer wire (minimum AWG 14) or tape buried with the plastic pipe to facilitate locating. One end shall be brought aboveground at a building wall or riser.”

Tracer wire (also known as locating wire) is without question an underrated and underused product. Used mainly by gas, water, fiber-optic, and sanitation companies, its main use is for locating buried plastic pipes and fiber optics. Many contractors will mistakenly use THHN for this function, although this is a poor choice for many reasons.

Many times plastic pipes or fiber optics are buried underground, leading to houses and buildings due to their strong flexibility under adverse conditions such as excess heat or cold, rainstorms, etc. When one of these are used underground, you must have a wire that is durable, flexible, and has strong insulation side-by-side with the plastic pipe or fiber optics in case you ever need to locate them (hence the name locating wire).

Potential problems: Imagine there is a gas leak of some kind. The gas company will have to dig up the pipe in order to find the exact location of the problem. Here is where THHN is potentially problematic.

THHN does not have the insulation necessary to hold up over time. Typical underground installations are expected to last up to 30 years. Nylon, the main covering of THHN, is very susceptible to water and moisture, causing additional breakdowns in the wiring under adverse conditions. All of these will cause THHN to wear down and erode, rendering itself useless over the course of several years. In all likelihood, THHN will often need to be replaced once or even twice over the course of a building project's life span.

This is where tracer wire comes into play. With 30 to 45 MIL of Polyethylene, tracer wire has all the flexibility of THHN, but with far better insulation and protection against underground conditions. Polyethylene offers a very strong insulation, often double or even triple that of THHN, meaning it can withstand even the toughest of underground conditions. Just as important, companies will save thousands of dollars and hundreds of valuable labor hours because they will not have to dig up and replace tracer/locating wire the way they will with THHN.

The only real case for using THHN for direct burial (even though it is not rated for it) is that it is inexpensive. However, when you consider future costs to repair and replace THHN, over the long haul costs often end up skyrocketing. In addition, tracer wire/locating wire is much more affordable than you may have been led to believe. Even with all the added benefits, tracer wire costs a mere fraction more than THHN, with a tremendous upside in terms of increased insulation, heat-resistance, and durability.

For example #14 THHN may run around \$25/MFT. Tracer wire/locating wire would likely run only in the \$28 to \$30/MFT range, a terrific investment given its substantial benefits. Tracer wire can save fiber-optic, gas, water, and sanitation companies thousands of dollars in not only the replacement of wire, but also valuable time and energy in the form of labor hours and wasted material. With tracer wire's increased durability over 30-plus years in an underground setting, it is by far the better choice over the long haul for any underground wiring project