

MPMIA Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2015

Location: **A.A. County Offices, Chesapeake Meeting Room**

Attendees:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| John Heldmyer – VP | Bruce Henkel -Webmaster | Chick Michaels |
| Tom Buckley – Sec. | Paul Buckley | Keith Cross |
| Bill Funk | Steve Fox | |
| Joe Krasnodemski | Bob Radford | |

Next Meeting: **Saturday, April 25, 2015 @ 8:00 A.M.**

Howard Johnson, Meeting Room

Ocean City, MD

Agenda Items and Status:

1. Trade Information and Table Top Presentation: **Status – Always On-going**

6/4/2014: Bob Radford, of Viega, presented the new press fitting, MegaPressG, for steel gas piping systems. Bob let us know that ANSI revised the standard for press fittings LC-4 in 2012 to include the steel press; it previously only included press fittings for copper tube piping systems. Viega has had their product evaluated by several testing organizations including IAPMO & ICC-ES.

9/30/2014: Ed Reynolds, of Field Controls, presented key technical information about make-up/ventilation air solutions. Are you aware of the do's or don't's regarding fresh air requirements? How about make-up air to replace exhausted air (bathrooms & kitchens)? How about how all of these issues compromise combustion air requirements/availability. Ed's presentation was quite engaging and enlightening. The attendees ask some great questions and judging by total interaction, there is still a great deal for us to learn and hopefully consistently enforce. Visit www.fieldcontrols.com or we are certain that Ed would love to talk with you and the inspectors in your jurisdiction, give him a call, 610-220-5079 or email: ereynolds@fieldcontrols.com

12/10/2014: As typical for our December meeting, the DLLR and State Boards were scheduled as our guests and graciously agreed to be our "presenters." Michael Vorgetts, DLLR Acting Commission, provided an update on various DLLR changes and accomplishments: Raquel Meyer is now the administrative assistant to the State Board of Plumbing, replacing Brenda Clark. Robin Bailey, Executive Director for the Mechanical Board, was unable to attend due to a Board meeting, a regretful scheduling conflict. Both Boards have made significant progress in cutting the backlog of complaint investigations.

Joe Radtka, State Board of Plumbing, was up next: Joe also spoke of the Plumbing Boards progress with investigations; he added information about the endorsement of training hours (such as the O.C. training); and spoke about a couple of legislative proposals. The latter will be covered as a stand-alone - (see # 2 below).

2/10/2015: Leroy Squires, of N.H. Yates, presented information and a table-top demonstration of a newish water piping product, Aquatherm. Leroy provided background on how this polypropylene based material has its roots in Germany and it already has extensive uses throughout Europe. In sizes, ½" through 4", the pipe is joined by heat fusion creating a chemical continuous bond; essentially the pipe and fitting become one. Leroy and Bruce made a couple of joints and passed them around for everyone to enjoy. Yeap, now you are paying attention... Leroy further explained the manufacturer has the product "insured" for 10 years – parts, damage & labor. The pipe has low burn and smoke ratings; it is touted as a "green" product and bacteria resistant; has tough, thick walls yet resist becoming brittle with age.

Added note about 2/10/15: Overall, attendance was low, most likely due to weather. But our esteemed president, claimed to be under the weather; he says what should have stayed in Punta Cana - didn't! It hitched a ride home in his digestive track. Again, showing the ever important need for superior plumbing technologies.

2. Legislative Matters: **Status – Always On-going**

6/4/2014: Joe Radtka reported that the State Board of Plumbing is not likely to re-introduce (in 2015), the proposal requiring continuing trade education for licensed Master Plumbers.

9/30/2014: Tom Buckley reported that the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority (Miss Utility) is planning to sponsor a 2015 proposal to require the installation of tracer wire with new building sewer

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installs or full replacements. The proposal is meant to provide trenchless utility installation contractors with a means to pre-locate on-property sewers before they engage in trenchless installation of gas, electric or other utility lines and potentially “cross-bore” through a sewer. The negative outcome can be a new gas or high voltage electric line impeding the sewer’s flow-way leading to a stoppage; then an unsuspecting plumber will attempt to relief the sewer with mechanized drain cleaning equipment which is capable of cutting into the gas line or through the high voltage casing.

12/10/2014: Tom Buckley reported that the Tracer Wire proposal was still moving forward; that the sponsor had met with WSSC staff and further vetted the proposed language. Joe Radtka said the sponsor had also been in contact with the Plumbing Board seeking comment/suggestions. Joe also verified that the Board was not sponsoring the “continuing education for master plumbers” Bill.

2/10/2015: Tom Buckley reported that Tracer Wire proposal was introduced as House Bill – HB341. Bill Funk let us know that it was also “cross-filed” in the Senate as Senate Bill – SB401. Tom also noted that the bill to unify Maryland under one plumbing code was re-introduced again this session; it is HB169 and cross-filed as SB211.

3. Spring Training – Ocean City: Status – In Progress

9/30/2014 new: The association is need of help on two fronts: First, anyone wishing to help organize this special event, please step forward. Annually, this event has netted great results because of great organizers; we do not want to lose that momentum. So, if you can help, and you know you can, please contact a board member. Second, our presenters are what makes-the-day, both interesting and worthwhile. Mike does an excellent job of filling the Bill; but he cannot do it alone and he shouldn’t have to! Do you know someone that can present? Do you have an idea or subject that needs covering? Contact a board member.

12/10/2014: Darrell Smith solicited attendees for suggestions for training topics and/or presenters. Suggested Ideas included: the changing water heater efficiency requirements coming Spring 2015; gas equipment venting; backflow; various product training.

2/10/2015: It was discussed that it is getting very close to the event and folks are wondering about registration forms and the itinerary. Tom Buckley said he would work with the rest of the officers to get the information finalized and posted asap.

4. Change By-Laws to require election of officers at the annual December meeting: Status: In Progress

6/4/2014 new: Discussion was introduced to move the election of officers to the annual December meeting. The reason giving was: typically the June meeting is one of the least attended. Case-in-point, this year we barely had the quorum needed to pull off the election.

9/30/2014: More discussion with a Motion and a second to introduce this change in the by-laws at our December meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of. The change is shown in a word document with “track changes” turned-on so the new language will be easily recognizable. The proposed By-Laws will be distributed via email along with these minutes prior to the December meeting.

12/10/2014: Proposed language was provided for viewing and discussion introduced by Darrell Smith. Proper motions were made and visual vote conducted; the result was unanimous - in favor of.

2/10/2015: Tom Buckley committed to having the final documentation updated on the web page soon.

5. Membership Dues: Status: In Progress

9/30/2014 new: There was discussion about the membership dues. We were reminded that the dues for August 2012 through July 2014 were waived due to the economy and the association’s adequate balance on-hand. Looking forward, Dave reported that the association balance was holding steady and that full membership dues would not be needed through 2016. It was suggested, that we charge a nominal amount for dues in order to facilitate an updating of the association’s membership roster. See next item, # 4. This motion was approved by unanimous vote. The dues for August 2014 through July 2016 will be \$5.00 for all active and associate members. Please remit payment along with a current [application/renewal form](#) to Tom Buckley or Dave Herwig.

12/10/2014: Question was raised about new member fees. It was decided through interpretation (an inspector’s best tool), that new members would still pay the \$50 amount. New member, Paul Buckley, already had his check made out in the full amount, making the decision easier and so being, a precedent was established.

2/10/2015: No update

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6. Membership Directory: Status – In Progress

6/4/2014 new: A suggestion was made that the membership directory is in need of an update. Darrell followed-up with a general email shortly after the meeting, which included an appeal for updating. This first pass did not net a good response.

9/30/2014: Discussion continued. It was suggested that someone from each jurisdiction take the lead and compile a list of current (interested) members. It was also suggested that we capture the needed information when we renew every member via payment of dues (per item 3 above). Therefore, please remit payment along with a current [application/renewal form](#) to Tom Buckley or Dave Herwig. Be sure to fill out an application/renewal form for each member.

12/10/2014: On the heels of discussion for number 5 above, there was a run on Dave, by folks wishing to pay their dues (maybe there was a concern, we'd come to our senses, and raise 'em back up). Some folks also updated their membership info. Now we need our non-attending members to answer the call for current membership information and remit your monies.

2/10/2015: A simple plea for *everyone's* attention to this effort.

7. Water Heaters – DOE Mandates Increased Efficiencies: Status – In Progress

12/10/2014 new: Conversation broke out regarding upcoming changes to water heater production and sales. U.S. Department of Energy has mandated the water heater manufactures introduce more efficient *residential* products across the board; Effective April 16, all residential water heaters produced shall meet the new efficiency requirements. The result will be much larger models due to the added insulation or in some cases, heat pumps. Other changes will affect baffling and venting of some gas models which likely will change venting rules and practices.

2/10/2015: Leroy Squires, of N.H. Yates, was gracious enough to also share his thoughts on this subject; he validated that the changes are very much a reality and the industry and consumers are in for quite a shock.

Housekeeping Notes:

- 1.) New Business will simply appear in the *Agenda Items and Status* section with “new” following the date to indicate the introduction date.
- 1.) Items with a status of “Completed” will be removed after appearing in two consecutive minutes/agendas.
- 2.) Running history of individual items may be presented for only the (5) most recent meetings, see past minutes for complete history as needed.