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**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING  
BUSINESS MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Date:** December 15, 2022  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Held Virtually via Google Meet  
**Joining Info:** By Video Conference  
[meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo](https://meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo)  
By Phone via Teleconference  
1-414-909-7588 (PIN: 385820141)

**Members Present:**

Joseph Radtka, Chair  
Gregory Schott, Industry Member  
Michael Bowersox, Industry Member  
Roland Mann Jr., Industry Member  
Richard Small, Industry Member

**Absent:** Keith Horton, Industry Member  
Richard Bowers, Consumer Member

**LABOR Officials & Staff Present:**

John Bull, Executive Director  
Gregory Morgan, Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing  
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General  
LaKissha Thornton, Administrative Officer I  
Danielle Anderson, Web Coordinator and Outreach, Dept. of Labor

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Wayne Fishpaw, Pipe Trades Technology

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joseph Radtka called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to order, virtually, at 10:33 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Radtka asked that a Board member move to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2022 Board meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2022 meeting by Mr. Schott, seconded by Mr. Mann, and by roll call, carried unanimously by the Board.

Counsel brought to the Board’s attention that members Board should vote on the minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting. Chairman Radtka identified an error on the December meeting agenda, referring to approval of the October meeting minutes, which had been approved during the Board’s November 17, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Schott moved to approve the November 17, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Mann. By a roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously to approve the November 17, 2022 meeting minutes.

**PLUMBING COMPLAINTS**

The Complaint Committee was cancelled due to inclement weather; there was no report offered. However, Director Bull did report that Investigator, Andy Klausing, was going through the /board’s backlog of cases and new Complaints Manager, Sharon Harris-Friend, would be present at the next Compliant Committee meeting.

**REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summaries for November 2022:

<b>Plumber</b>	<b>Candidates Tested</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Pass %</b>
Journey Natural Gas Fitter	2	1	1	50%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	25	9	16	36%
Master Natural Gas Fitter	5	2	3	40%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	8	3	5	38%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38%</b>

Director Bull also reported that since January 2022, 609 candidates were tested, 230 candidates passed, 379 failed, for a pass rate of 38%. Since the inception of the test, 10323 candidates were tested, 3726 candidates passed, 6597 failed, for a pass rate of 36%. There are currently 12,899 active licensees.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to be considered.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Bull stated that the Complaint Committee was unable to meet due to a weather closure earlier that morning. He stated that four cases would have been presented to the Complaint Committee for review.

Director Bull informed the Board that the 2023 meeting calendar and Board roster was almost complete. He stated that there would be new information to connect remotely for meetings in 2023 and that information would be posted to the site and distributed to the Board for review.

Director Bull reminded the Board that members were encouraged to attend the February 2023 meeting in person and explained that members of the public and Board members who could not attend the meeting in person would be able to join the meeting remotely. He asked that all Board members who intended to attend the meeting in person to please notify him in advance so that he could ensure that parking was available for them. Director Bull asked that if there were any matters that any Board member would like to discuss at the February meeting to please send him those items or send them to the Board Administrator, Ms. LaKissha Thornton, to be placed on the agenda in advance of the meeting.

## **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

Counsel did not offer a report.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairman Radtka addressed a delay in adopting the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code, the 2021 International Plumbing Code (IPC) and the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). He stated that the local jurisdictions typically follow the State Building codes.

Chairman Radtka stated that he attended the December 7, 2022 MPMI Conference. He stated that at the conference he provided updates on legislation from the 2021 Maryland legislative session, including Senate Bills 259 and 528 and House Bill 1052. He stated that Chris Imhof from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission ("WSSC") also spoke on House Bill 1052 and the steps that WSSC will use to implement the bill. Chairman Radtka also reported that the PMG report for the International Code Council was given by Lisa Rinehold. Regional Manager of Zern, Brian Gillespie, presented training on Green Turtle Interceptors and Smart Pro Wireless RF Ultrasonic Grease-pool sediment alarms.

Chairman Radtka requested that the list of the following attendees of the December 7, 2022 MPMI annual training be given credit for two hours of continuing education:

Joe Radtka, MD State Plumbing Board

1. Bill Funk
2. Drew Stirling
3. John Scott Horn
4. Sam Scott
5. Tom Bunker
6. Ken Misal
7. Darrel Smith
8. Bryant Knapp

9. Carroll Matthews
10. John Geisler
11. Bob Kapfer
12. Tom Buckley
13. Robert Ridge
14. Adam Knight
15. George Wilkerson
16. Roy Wood
17. David Owens
18. Steve Thomas
19. Brent Garner
20. Roger Parks
21. Joe Krasnodemski
22. George Hughes
23. Joe Hanna
24. Chip Bromwell
25. Jim White
26. Damon Johnson
27. Chris Imhof
28. Larry Willard
29. Charles Michael
30. Larry Schuyler
31. J.R. Heldmyer

Chairman Radtka stated that on December 14, 2022, he attended the Anne Arundel County Plumber's Association ("Association") meeting. He stated that there were discussions of the Plumbing Code at the meeting. It was brought up by the Association that when the Codes are changed, it creates a burden on the Association to obtain new code books and materials. It was pointed out that several other states have not adopted that 2021 IPG and IFGC codes. Chairman Radtka asked Mr. Schott if his local jurisdiction used the latest IPC and IFGC Code versions that had been adopted by the state or if they had moved on to newer versions of the Codes. Mr. Schott confirmed that his jurisdiction was using the last version of the Codes that had been adopted by the State. Chairman Radtka stated that he had spoken to the Baltimore County Plumbing Board, and learned that they are currently using the National Standard Plumbing Code, and intended to adopt the 2023 edition.

Chairman Radtka expressed the need for uniformity in the adoption of the plumbing codes across the state. Mr. Schott agreed. He stated that the need for Code uniformity has also been raised by several others in the industry.

Counsel Kinstler offered that several other DOL licensing boards and commissions that are required to adopt or update codes on a cyclical basis have added to their regulation language identifying the specific code(s) or publication(s) adopted "as it may be amended from time to time," which incorporates cyclical changes to the code without the requirement of repeated regulatory proposals and the otherwise required incorporation by reference process ("IBR"), which can be costly and burdensome for the agency. Counsel explained that the Board has, in the past, been able to avoid the IBR process by adopting its code publications after they have been adopted by the Division of Labor and Industry, but that DLI does not adopt all parts or each of the codes that the Board adopts. Counsel suggested this modification to the Board's regulation, COMAR 09.20.01.01 would eliminate a formal adoption may provide a solution for

the Board and relief to its staff. Counsel cautioned that doing so could require the Board to adopt the codes as published without the several modifications it has adopted in the past as set forth in COMAR 09.20.01.02-.05.

Chairman Radtka acknowledged that O&P Commissioner Morgan had joined the meeting and stated that Counsel's suggestion warranted further discussion by the Board.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the Board for the members' continued participation and their time serving. Director Bull stated that the Code adoption process would be placed on the agenda for the February Board meeting. He stated that several of the Boards within the mechanical licensing unit were dealing with similar code adoption issues and thanked Counsel Kinstler for her suggestion. Commissioner Morgan agreed that simplifying the adoption process would be the best solution for all parties involved and suggested that Director Bull consult the Division of Labor and Industry regarding Code adoption before the February Meeting. Director Bull stated that he would reach out to Commissioner Helminiak of Labor and Industry and try to ensure that he would attend the February Meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Three items were listed on the Agenda under new business. Board staff advised that those items were discussed during the November 17, 2022 meeting and were repeated on the December agenda in error. No new business was considered.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board did not convene in a closed session.

**APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF CLOSED SESSION**

None necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon Mr. Schott's Motion, and Mr. Bowersox's second, and by a roll call vote, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn meeting at 11:03 a.m.

**Signature on file**

**January 19, 2023**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Bull**  
**Executive Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved on January 19, 2023**