



Los Angeles Basin Chapter

International Code Council

Established 1957

www.icbolabc.org

Minutes of June 8, 2006 Monthly Business Meeting

Location: L.A. County Building, Alhambra Room, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra

Call to Order: The ICC Los Angeles Basin Chapter monthly business meeting was called to order at approximately 12:15 p.m. by Chapter Vice President Tim McCormick.

Welcome and roll call of board members in attendance: The welcome to the LA Basin Chapter meeting was extended to the members by Chapter Vice President Tim McCormick. He took roll call of board members; present were: Vice President Tim McCormick, City of Santa Monica, Treasurer Craig Johnson, City of Culver City and Chapter Secretary Steve Ikkanda, City of Los Angeles. President Felipe Segovia, City of Torrance, and Past President Stuart Tom, City of Glendale, were not present at the meeting.

Self-introductions: Self-introduction of approximately 37 members and guests who were in attendance.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of May 11, 2006 were unanimously approved.

Communications: The California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) announced today (May 19, 2006) that a new Executive Director, E. David Walls has been chosen to replace retiring Executive Director Stan Nishimura. David Walls, 53, of Yuba City, has served as state housing program manager for the Department of Housing and Community Development since 2002. David Walls served as a district representative in the state housing law program from 2001 to 2002.

Prior to joining the Department of Housing and Community Development, David Walls served as a building inspector for the County of Sutter from 1995 to 2001, and for the City of Galt from 1992 to 1995. Previous to that, he was a general contractor for Ayers Construction. David Walls has certifications in building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical inspection, and in code enforcement, and is an instructor of the California Building Standards Code at the University of California, Davis. Go to the California Building Standards Commission website (www.bsc.ca.gov) to see the announcement.

Report from Officers and Committees: Tim McCormick announced the re-organizing of the committees and that the Board of Directors is asking for volunteers to work in the committees.

Status Report from CALBO, ICC and SFM Core Group: None were given.

New Business:

California Code Adoption: BCSC will be accelerating the code adoption process and will try to publish the next set of California Codes by July 1, 2007. One hundred and eighty days later (January 1, 2008), the new California Codes will become effective.

UL receives report of counterfeit UL Mark on Fire Retardant Treated Lumber: AAO Chemical has notified UL that fire retardant treated lumber is being sold bearing AAO Chemical's name and a counterfeit UL Classification Mark. This marking is not authorized by UL or by AAO Chemical. AAO Chemical is currently not classified by UL for fire retardant treated lumber. If any new fire retardant treated lumber bearing the name of AAO Chemical and the UL Classification Mark is found in the field, please provide John Taecker, UL senior staff engineer, with the jobsite location and contact information. John Taecker may be reached via email at John.K.Taecker@us.ul.com or by phone at (800) 595-9844, ext. 56658.

Selection of the Chapter Logo: It was pointed out that there were three different Chapter Logos on the Chapter Website, so, to clean this up the Chapter membership participated in selection of the Chapter Logo. The three Chapter Logos found on the website are:



The vote was 3:13:16, respectively, to keep the third logo, except that the logo will be updated by placing ICC in lieu of ICBO.

Program: Special (Deputy) Inspection Program,

Panelists: Robert Ryan of Twining Laboratories of Southern California,
Sandi McCracken of International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS),
Dave Breiholz of Breiholz Qazi Engineering, Inc.,
Ron Skarin of City of Los Angeles, Dept of Bldg & Safety (LADBS),
Akber Khan of City of Los Angeles, Dept of Bldg & Safety (LADBS),
Min Zavarella of Webcor Builders.

Tim McCormick, the moderator for the discussion, introduced and asked each of the panel members to briefly state their role in the Special (Deputy) Inspection Program. After each of the panel members described their roles, Tim opened the discussion by providing several general questions to each of the panel members, then allowing the Basin Chapter members to ask their questions. This discussion lasted to end of the meeting. Each of the panel members gave a brief answer to the question, "What would be the one thing you would like to change that would improve the Special (Deputy) Inspection Program?"

Robert Ryan is a principal of Twining Laboratories of Southern California for many years. He is an expert in many areas; including welding ... He has worked very closely with many inspectors in the Los Angeles Basin, including the City of Santa Monica... Robert Ryan would like to change

Sandi McCracken was a last minute addition to the panel of experts. She is the Accreditation Officer for International Accreditation Service, Inc. Fabricator Inspection Programs for Structural Steel and Prestressed Precast Concrete Panels. Sandi has been in the industry for nearly 30 years and is currently working with the City of Las Vegas to implement the IAS Special Inspection Agency program to ensure inspection agencies are competent to bid on inspection services within the jurisdiction. Sandi McCracken would like to change the process in which fabricators and inspection agencies are approved by the City of Los Angeles. Much like most jurisdictions within the U.S. lack of personnel and the infrastructure caused by budget cuts affect the ability to proactively manage an approval process for structural steel fabricators and inspection agencies. A reactive approach to finding errors is costly to everyone involved in the project with delays, as well as, funds, but more importantly is the safety of the public. In this regard, Ms. McCracken would embrace the opportunity to work with the City of Los Angeles to help improve their current program.

Dave Breiholz, Breiholz Qazi Engineering, is a highly respected Structural Engineer in the LA Basin Area for many years. He is a member of the Quality Assurance Committee of Structural Engineers Association of Southern California (SEAOSC). SEAOSC has published a document titled, "Inspection and Observation Program," which is a guideline to enhance the integrity of Structural Systems by improving the standard of care in construction documents, material control, workmanship and inspection practices. Dave stated that the committee has developed this guideline which could be helpful to the construction industry, but also to local building inspectors. He also mentioned that they have created a set of notes which could be added to any set of plans which provides a complete set of relevant notes that should be part of every project required to have special (deputy) inspection or structural observation. A copy of which may be obtained from SEAOSC by contacting them at (562) 908-6131. Dave Breiholz would like to change the practice of the general contractor hiring the Special Inspector and change the Special Inspection Certification agencies to include wood frame in their certification/licensing program.

Ron Skarin, Principal Inspector and Director of the Material Control Section of LADBS and a member of the Quality Assurance Committee of SEAOSC with Dave Breiholz, has been with the LADBS for over 30 years. Ron has managed the Material Control Section for the past year. Ron Skarin would like to:

1. Improve the level of communication between the Special (Deputy) Inspectors, the Engineer of Record, the Building Owners and the Contractors.
2. Remove the inappropriate influence between the contractor and the Special Inspector.
3. Provide a higher level of quality and more accountability of the Special Inspector for the work they perform in the field.

Akber Khan, Senior Building Inspector, is in charge of the Deputy Inspection Program for LADBS for the past 5 years. He has been with the LADBS for over 28 years and has worked as a Supervisor in the Major Structures Section, General Inspection Section, Code Enforcement Inspection, and of course, the Deputy Inspection Program. The Deputy Inspection Program is one of many programs in the Material Control Section. Akber Khan would like to change Special (Deputy) Inspection Program by requiring the Special Inspectors to attend all available technical seminars related to their license classifications to improve the quality of their work.

Min Zavarella, Senior Project Manager of Webcor Builders was willing to participate as a member of the Special (Deputy) Inspection Program panel to give us a perspective from a contractors view. Min has worked in the construction industry for many years and has worked very closely with many Special (Deputy) Inspectors and local Building Inspectors on many construction projects. Currently, he is working on a large project in Culver City. One of the most important things he wanted to get across was the importance of working harmoniously with the Special Inspectors and with the local Building Inspectors, "we are all working to build a

monument.” Min Zavarella would like to change the inspector / contractor relationship to a more cooperative level. He wants to change the old traditional inspector’s view of contractors as “wanting to get away with things” and contractor’s view of inspectors as “making thing impossible to build.” The construction process should be a collaborative effort from planning through design development and construction. Building officials and contractors both have a vested interest in a successful project.

Announcements:

The July monthly business meeting will be a joint meeting with Orange Empire. It will be held on the third Thursday of the month, Thursday, July 20, 2006 in Long Beach. The program will be about the California Building Standards Commission and the speaker will be CBSC Vice-Chair Isam Hasenin.

There will be a meeting August 10, 2006 at the LA County Building in Alhambra, but the program has not been determined.

In September, prior to the ICC Annual Conference in Orlando Florida, there will be a joint meeting with Southern California Fire Prevention Officers. The program will be about the ICC Code Development Process.

Adjournment: Approximately at 2:00 p.m.

[Last Revised: June 28, 2006]