

Alabama Energy and Residential Codes Board
September 17, 2015
Alabama Center for Commerce, Room 342

Board Members and ADECA Staff in Attendance:

- **Alan Boswell, Vice-Chairman - International Code Council**
- **Matthew Danner - County Commissions**
- **Sam Davis - Heating & A/C Board**
- **Cory Ellis - Rural Electric Cooperatives**
- **Greg Gilchrist – Alabama Joint Fire Council**
- Heather Goggin - ADECA Energy Division/Administrator, AERC Board
- Kathy Hornsby – ADECA Energy Division
- **Mark Nelson - LP Gas Board**
- **Jack Reid - Home Builders Licensure Board**
- **Shon Richey, Chairman – Private, Investor Owned Electric Utility Industry**
- **Steve Roberson - Natural Gas Industry**
- **Jimmy Rutland - Home Builders Association**
- **Joseph Rogers - Board of General Contractors**
- Ashley Toole – ADECA Legal Division
- **Randall Whorton - Licensed Professional Engineers**

Board Members Not in Attendance:

- Terri Adams – ADECA Energy Division/Ex Officio Secretary of the Board
- Representative Alan Boothe – House Member, Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy
- Beth Chancey - Property and Casualty Insurance Industry
- Linda Snapp - American Institute of Architects
- Sen. Cam Ward - Senate Member of the PJLCOE

Also in Attendance:

- Jeffrey Becraft – HACR Board
- Phillip Crunk – Shelby County
- Donny Cook – Shelby County
- Eric Lacey – Responsible Energy Codes Alliance
- Gene Necklaus – Alabama Fire Chiefs
- Ron Rumanek – City of Tuscaloosa
- Jason Reid – Home Builders Association of Alabama
- Mark Roberts – International Codes Council
- Bret Warren – Home Builders Association of Alabama

Chairman Shon Richey called the board meeting to order at 1:06 pm. Chairman Richey stated that the meeting was an open meeting, but not a public meeting, and that public comment would be limited to those called on or on the agenda. He then moved on to the approval of the

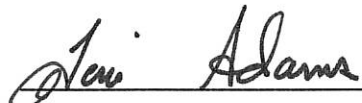

minutes from the July meeting. Greg Gilchrist moved to adopt the minutes as written, and Jack Reid seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Chairman Richey moved to Old Business, starting with an update from Jack Reid, Energy Subcommittee Chairman. Mr. Reid asked Heather Goggin to read the recommendation from the Energy Subcommittee, which was to recommend that the Alabama Residential Energy Code be adopted as published, with forthcoming amendments, as well as to recommend the adoption of the Alabama Commercial Energy Code, with a forthcoming amendment to include the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as a pathway for compliance. Mr. Reid made a motion to adopt of the Alabama Residential Energy Code as published, with forthcoming amendments, which was seconded by Cory Ellis. The motion passed unanimously. Alan Boswell then made a motion to adopt the Alabama Commercial Energy Code, with a forthcoming amendment to include the 2015 IECC as a pathway for compliance, which was seconded by Jimmy Rutland. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Richey then called on Jimmy Rutland, Building Subcommittee Chairman, for an update from that subcommittee. Mr. Rutland stated that the Building Subcommittee met that morning and voted to recommend the proposed code and amendments not be adopted as published, and to instead vote to republish the proposed Alabama Residential Building Code with revised amendments. Mr. Rutland asked Chairman Richey to provide an explanation of those amendments, which included: R302.5.1 - changes language on self-closing devices back to reflect what the board adopted in the 2009 code; R313.1 and R313.2 - clarifies fire sprinkler language; R322.3.5.1 - deletes the need for reinforced doors on the interior upper levels of houses constructed on piers in coastal and high wind zones; R324.7.2.2 - quantifies live load and access requirements for hip roofs with solar panels; G2412.9 - removes the language "and fittings"; R3401.1 - clarifies the board's intent to leave existing language adopted in the 2009 IRC. Ms. Goggin pointed out that the Building Subcommittee declined to discuss Chapter 11, which would be modified for consistency with the Alabama Residential Energy Code as future amendments are made. Randall Whorton asked to clarify if the amendment to R3401.1 would retain the requirement for arc fault breakers, and Chairman Richey stated that yes, it would. Mr. Boswell asked for clarification regarding the process, and Mark Nelson stated that the Building Subcommittee was recommending that the Board vote to restart the rulemaking process. Steve Roberson asked if the amendments reflected public comments, and Ms. Goggin said that while they did reflect public comments, they did not reflect all of the public comments, only the ones that the Building Subcommittee had voted to include. Chairman Richey said that Section G2412.10 needed to be brought up for discussion, because the Subcommittee voted to defer that to the full Board meeting when Mr. Roberson would be present to speak about the comment. Mr. Roberson stated that the comment was requesting a clarification which would strike the requirement of third-party testing or certification for fittings. Following discussion, Mr. Rutland made a motion to initiate the rulemaking process with the revised proposed Alabama Residential Building Code. Mr. Reid seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Richey moved on to New Business, asking Ms. Goggin to review the timeline for adoption. She stated that the Energy Subcommittee has scheduled a meeting for October 9, 2015, to discuss and review some potential amendments, and asked that the Board look at scheduling the next meeting in November. The Building Subcommittee scheduled a meeting for November 19, 2015, with a Board meeting scheduled for December 4, 2015. Ms. Goggin provided an update on the Department of Energy's Energy Code Field Study project; Alabama was the first state to have their field study data submitted, and the based on the preliminary results, Alabama is showing more than 90% compliance with the currently adopted 2009 Alabama Energy and Residential Code. ADECA and IMT have requested for DOE to do a second cost analysis based on the newly adopted 2015 Alabama Residential Energy Code to determine if there is justification to move forward.

Chairman Richey asked for any other business, and with none presented, said he had one final comment. He thanked everyone for their involvement and participation up to this point, and said that the involvement has proven that the process works, and that it has been a joint effort of both the Board and the public. He then asked for a motion to adjourn, which was offered by Mr. Reid and seconded by Mr. Nelson. The Alabama Energy and Residential Codes Board adjourned at 1:57 pm.

 
Signature _____ Date