Alabama Energy and Residential Codes Board
July 28, 2016
Alabama Center for Commerce, Room 342

Board Members and ADECA Staff in Attendance:
- Beth Chancey - Property and Casualty Insurance Industry
- Bill DeLoney - Home Builders Licensure Board
- Greg Gilchrist – Alabama Joint Fire Council
- Heather Goggin - ADECA Energy Division/Administrator, AERC Board
- Kathy Hornsby – ADECA Energy Division
- Glen Nuby – Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Board
- Scott Pilgreen - LP Gas Board
- Shon Richey, Chairman – Private, Investor Owned Electric Utility Industry
- Jerry Russell – Municipalities
- Jimmy Rutland - Home Builders Association
- Lannie Smith – International Code Council
- Linda Snapp - American Institute of Architects

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
- Matthew Danner - County Commissions
- Sam Davis - Licensed Professional Engineers Cory Ellis - Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Cory Ellis - Rural Electric Coopes
- Steve Roberson - Natural Gas Industry
- Joseph Rogers - Board of General Contractors
- Sen. Cam Ward - Senate Member of the PJLCOE

Also in Attendance:
- Jon Broadway
- Eric Lacey – Responsible Energy Codes Alliance
- Peter Oliver – Mobile County
- Jason Reid – Home Builders Association of Alabama
- Sonny Richardson
- Mark Roberts – International Codes Council
- Bret Warren – Home Builders Association of Alabama

Chairman Shon Richey called the board meeting to order at 10:00 am. Chairman Richey asked everyone to take time to review the minutes from the May 4 meeting. Bill DeLoney moved to adopt the minutes as written, and Jimmy Rutland seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously.
Chairman Richey called for a Building Subcommittee update from Mr. Rutland, Building Subcommittee Chairman. Mr. Rutland stated that the Building Subcommittee recommends the adoption of the 2015 Alabama Residential Building as published, and moved that the Board vote to do so. Lannie Smith seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the adoption of the proposed 2015 Alabama Residential Building Code.

Chairman Richey then called on Heather Goggin to provide an update from the July 14 Energy Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Goggin first asked to address a concern brought up by Mr. Sonny Richardson during the Building Subcommittee meeting regarding stud requirements, letting the Board know that Mr. Richardson’s concerns will be addressed by the Building Subcommittee at a later time. She then shared that the Energy Subcommittee was recommending a few amendments to the 2015 Alabama Residential Energy Code, including cleaning up some unnecessary amendments as well as some changes. Changes include simplifying the definition of “semi-conditioned space”, adding a section making mandatory requirements mandatory regardless of tradeoffs, and a couple of other clarification issues. The biggest changes are updating some of the values on tables R402.1.2 and 402.1.4, which were updated in accordance with previous conversations and the Department of Energy Field Study results. She recommended that the Board take action to begin the rulemaking process in regard to these amendments. Mr. Rutland moved to begin the process, and Mr. DeLoney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Richey then asked Ms. Goggin for an update on the 2015 Alabama Commercial Energy Code. She shared that there was one comment received in favor of the proposed change to include the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code as a compliance pathway. Greg Gilchrist moved to adopt the proposed amendment, and Mr. DeLoney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next order of business was a local amendment request from Mobile County to be able to amend section C402.4.2 of the 2015 Alabama Commercial Energy Code to not require skylights. Mr. Peter Olivero from Mobile County explained that because Mobile County is subject to high wind code requirements, the skylight requirement adds a significant cost to building commercial buildings. After discussion, Mr. Smith asked that Baldwin County be included in the amendment request. Ms. Linda Snapp made a motion to allow Mobile County, Baldwin County, and all local jurisdictions within those counties to locally amend Section C402.4.2 of the 2015 Alabama Commercial Energy Code to not require skylights. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Richey called for an Administrative Update from Ms. Goggin. She stated that the Code Adoption Packages, which include draft ordinances as well as press releases, are ready to be distributed as requested. She also shared that she and Chairman Richey attended the Home Builders Association of Alabama’s Summer Meeting and presented the code changes along with some future initiatives that the ADECA Energy Division will be working on with HBAA, and that these things were positively received. She then shared that she has begun discussions with ICC
about the possibility of having an Alabama Energy and Residential Code book published through ICC, and that the initial conversations have been positive. She reviewed that all at or above Energy Code programs will have to be re-submitted and re-approved based on the newly effective Energy Code. Finally, Chairman Richey said that one of the final tools being developed is a consistent labeling or certificate tool, which Ms. Goggin is working on. There was additional discussion regarding how to enforce or manage the codes in non-jurisdictional areas, and while there are no easy answers, the consensus was that this is something that has to be considered going forward to avoid the codes becoming a disadvantage to builders in jurisdictional areas.

The Board scheduled their next meeting for October 7, 2016, at 10:00 am, with an Energy Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 9:00 am the same day. With no further discussion, Chairman Richey adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.