

Meeting Notes
Building Research Committee (BRC)
Wednesday, November 26, 2014, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
The Italian Cultural Centre Society
3075 Slocan Street

In Attendance:

Bill McEwen Masonry Institute of BC (Chair)
Denisa Ionescu HPO
Wilma Leung, HPO
Adam Collinge, HPO (recording)
Remi Charron HPO (recording)
Mercedes Lopez, BC Housing
Andy Chase, Building and Safety Standards Branch
Graham Finch, RDH Building Engineering
Lorne Ricketts, RDH Building Engineering
Mark Lawton, Morrison Hershfield Ltd.
Paul Roppel, Morrison Hershfield Ltd.
Ralph Moore, Travelers
Ajaz Hasan, Kasian Architecture
Glade Schoenfeld, Read Jones Christoffersen
Jieying Wang, FP Innovations

Paul Morris, FP Innovations
Adnan Uzunovic, FPInnovations
Einar Halbig, E3 Eco Group
Mark Gauvin, Gauvin Construction
Rodrigo Mora, BCIT
Fitsum Tariku, BCIT
Gary Hamer, BC Hydro
Murray Frank, Constructive Home Solutions
Ernest Kortschak, Dupont
Les Yard, Dow Building Solutions
Richard Kadulski
Mark Walters, DGBK Architects
Jason Teetaert, SMT Research
Gilbert Larocque, APEGBC

1. Approval of the Agenda/Additional Items

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. B. McEwen welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of BRC. The November 26, 2014 BRC meeting agenda was approved.

2. Approval of March 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 19, 2014 BRC meeting were approved.

3. Morrison Hershfield Attic Ventilation Study

Patrick Roppel, Morrison Hershfield, presented results of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of an attic ventilation study that was conducted for the Homeowner Protection Office. A combined report of both phases of the study is available on the HPO website. The study found that in some wet-coastal climates that mould on sheathing can form even in well-built ventilated attics and presented some possible solutions.

4. RDH Engineering Attic Ventilation Study

Graham Finch, RDH Engineering, presented results of a study that also looked at mould formation on attic sheathing in wet coastal climates that found similar results as the Morrison Hershfield study but following a different approach.

5. Efficacy of products to improve mould resistance of sheathing in ventilated attics

Adnan Uzunovic of FPInnovations presented results on the continuation of the project presented at the November 2013 BRC meeting. Phase 2 and 3 of the study tested the most promising products from Phase 1 along with some commercially available products following a new test protocol that introduced cyclical condensation wetting events followed by drying. Condensation and drying cycles introduced different mould formation characteristics than the constant high relative humidity test used in Phase 1.

6. Building Envelope Contaminants and Indoor Air Quality

Rodrigo Mora of BCIT presented a new research study that he is conducting with a Master's student at BCIT that will look at the indoor migration of contaminants. Part of the study will look at how much mould spores or potential off-gassing from mouldicides can find its way from the attic (or unheated crawlspace) into the living space.

7. Airflow Characterisation in an Attic

Fitsum Tariku of BCIT presented results of a study that utilized CFD simulations to characterise the airflow in attics under various conditions.

8. Adapting to BCBC Code Changes

Murray Frank of Constructive Home Solutions discussed how the BC building industry has adapted to the well over 400 changes to the BCBC in the last few years. Concerted efforts to provide training and guidance to the industry have helped with the transition and other Canadian jurisdictions are looking to BC in preparation to their Code changes. Murray also discussed future code changes and the need to keep Part 9 code requirements simple enough as to not require professional sign-off on design. He sees regulatory reform to even the playing field across jurisdictions, ongoing contractor education and the development of acceptable assemblies as a way to support builders and future code changes.

9. Next BRC Meeting

Meeting scheduled for Spring 2015, Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 8:30am – 12:00pm.