

MEETING NOTES
Building Research Committee Meeting
 Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 8:30am to 11:30am
 Italian Cultural Centre
 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver

In Attendance:

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Bill McEwen | Masonry Institute of BC (Chair) | Jieying Wang | FPIInnovations – Forintek Division |
| Denisa Ionescu | HPO | Chris Mattock | Habitat Design and Consulting |
| Liliana Dominguez | HPO (recording) | Bob Sloat | Surety Association of Canada |
| Remi Charron | HPO (recording) | Ali Bahrami | Morningstar Homes |
| David Bruce | Ministry of Energy | Ajaz Hasan | Kasian Architecture |
| Dave Ramslie | City of Vancouver | Fitsum Tariku | BCIT |
| Innes Hood | Stantec | Rodrigo Mora | BCIT |
| Christian Cianfrone | Morrison Hershfield | Gary Hamer | BC Hydro Power Smart |
| Mark Lawton | Morrison Hershfield | Dan Bradley | FortisBC |
| Gilbert Larocque | APEGBC | Fred Tai | Simpson Strong-Tie |
| Patrick Shek | BOABC | Rick Alexander | WBI Home Warranty |
| Graham Finch | RDH Building Engineering | Bernie Hoing | Travelers Canada |
| Susan Hayes | RDH Building Engineering | David McBeath | Aviva Canada |
| Alex McGowan | Levelton Consultants | Bob Thompson | Building and Safety Standards Branch |
| Les Yard | Dow Building Solutions | | |

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 March 20, 2013 BRC meeting agenda was approved.

2. Approval of November 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 28, 2012 BRC meeting were approved.

3. City of Vancouver Energy Codes

D. Ramslie from the City of Vancouver presented a high level presentation on upcoming changes to the City of Vancouver By Law, supportive policies from the City, and future direction for changes for Part 3 and Part 9 buildings.

4. Impact of ASHRAE 90.1-2010 and NECB for both the City of Vancouver and for the Province

I. Hood of Stantec presented findings of a research study that examined the cost of moving from ASHRAE 90.1-2004 to the ASHRAE 90.1-2010 and NECB by analyzing three typical building archetypes in three climates.

5. Redefining the Base Building for Code Compliance in BC

C. Cianfrone of Morrison Hershfield presented a study of the impact of assumptions used for reference buildings in Building Codes. NECB calls for improvements over a reference building based on energy savings whereas ASHRAE uses energy cost savings. These and other differences can lead to big

differences in results, which could potentially be exploited by designers to achieve targeted performance levels with marginal building improvements.

6. Open Forum and Discussion

- P. Shek: From the building official's point of view, the most difficult component of implementing energy efficiency requirement in the code is enforcement. Building officials are not trained to understand all the requirements of ASHRAE 90.1 and are therefore relying on designers.
 - Often times, there is a reliance on consultants to develop a model, but these may not be professionals. In Code compliance there needs to be a professional that signs off. An architect or an engineer cannot simply rely on the consultant's model without some level of involvement in the modelling.
 - B. Thompson informed the group that they were starting a new project regarding compliance to energy Codes. Suggested a similar forum to the BRC to discuss options for compliance.
 - D. Ionescu suggested that a Task Group would be a good start. They can meet to coordinate a forum on compliance.
 - Coordination with other possible forums or meetings is desirable (such as the City of Vancouver)
- In current practice, there is typically no one to do the overall coordination. It would be good if the modeller be a professional role in the building design process that takes on the coordination role.
 - CaGBC is trying to develop a trained designation for a "coordination professional" but there are capacity issues, and a need for more training.
- Are there any specific research needs that the HPO or others should be working on?
 - Determining the right metric to assess performance (reference building). Can be energy, energy cost, GHG or a combination thereof.
 - Suggested that we need to develop a repository of modelling compliance interpretations.
 - Developing a list of items that need interpretation would be a good starting point.
 - Need to examine and study the durability of emerging building envelope designs that are being developed to meet building code requirements.
 - Monitoring is needed to help with this durability research.
- Everyone agreed that the new meeting format seems to have worked well and should be kept for the next meeting
 - G. Finch suggested that the next meeting should focus on existing buildings.
 - Everyone seemed to like this suggestion.

7. Next BRC Meeting

Meeting scheduled for Fall 2013, date to be determined.