

**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.