

MEETING NOTES
Building Research Committee Meeting
 Wednesday, July 23, 2008, 9:00am to 11:00am
 British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)
 SE40-120A, Royal Oak Boardroom,
 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bob Sloat	Cement Association of Canada (Chair)	Douglas Watts	Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd.
Silvio Plescia	CMHC	John Ruddick	UBC Department of Wood Science
Bob Thompson	BC Building and Safety Policy Branch	Jim Waston	RCABC
Mary Kenny	RCITO	Gary Brown	WDMA
Hua Ge	BCIT	Jieying Wang	FPInnovations - Forintek Division
Denisa Ionescu	HPO	Les Yard	Dow Chemical Canada Inc.
Liliana Dominguez	HPO (recording)	Jimmy Bishop	Dow Chemical Canada Inc.
Hamid Ghanbari	HPO	JP LeBerg	Masonry Institute of BC
Bonnie Abbot	Detec Systems	Ralph Moore	Lombard General
Don Hazleden	Morrison Hershfield Ltd.	Taj Sandhu	Pacific Home Warranty Insurance
Eric Burnett	RDH Building Engineering	Karen Liu	Xero Flor International

REGRETS:

MJ Whitemarsh	CHBA-BC	Innes Hood	The Sheltair Group
George Humphrey	Building Official's Association of BC	David Bruce	WDMA
Mark Gauvin	GVHBA	Bill McEwen	Masonry Institute of BC
Richard Kadulski	AIBC	Brian Delbrueck	Canadian Institute of Treated Wood
David Ricketts	APEG BC	Kimberly Tompkins	Tec-Agencies Ltd
Mark Lawton	Morrison Hershfield Ltd.	Darren Van Wart	Pacific Home Warranty Insurance
Brennan Vollering	Halsall Associates Limited	Jan Rasilainen	Travelers Guarantee

1. Approval of the Agenda/Additional Items

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. B. Sloat welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of BCBECC. The July 23, 2008 BRC meeting agenda was approved.

2. Approval of November 27, 2007 Meeting Minutes and Agenda

The minutes from the November 27, 2007 BRC meeting were approved.

3. Greening of the BC Building Code

B. Thompson provided highlights of the new changes to the BC Building Code effective September 5, 2008:

- A new Part 10 with two new objectives: energy efficiency and water efficiency.
- Part 9 thermal insulation table has been relocated to Part 10 and its scope expanded to include four storey buildings.

- An alternative of complying with insulation requirements is through the use of energy modeling of the home or EnerGuide rating system.
- Non-residential Part 9 buildings must meet ASHRAE 90.1 (2004).
- Section 10.3 deals with water conservation.
- Building and Safety Policy Branch (BSPB) and BOABC giving seminars on new code.
- Energy efficiency more active at the provincial level than national level. Measures being taken towards conformity between the National Building Code and the BC Building Code.
- Task Group looking into letters of assurance.

4. Six-storey Wood-framed Construction

An update was provided by B. Thompson on the status of the proposal for six-storey wood-framed construction in BC:

- BSPB consulting with the industry.
- Seeking national participation and PTPACC support.
- BSPB interested in a pilot project looking at various technical issues (e.g., fire safety, structural, seismic, and shrinkage). BSPB seeking location and funding partners.

B. Thompson said that there is support for this proposal with reservations that the industry be involved and a public review be available. AIBC and APEGBC sent a letter in support, but identified reservations. BRC asked if the letter would be available for distribution to BRC members.

J. Wang noted that FPInnovations - Forintek Division has done some research on wood-framed buildings of more than four storeys and similar initiatives have also been taking place around the globe (e.g., Oregon, California, Washington, UK and Japan) and in Quebec (which is in the design stage).

5. Building Envelope Technician Program – RCITO

Following the recognition of a need for skilled building envelope technicians and subsequent approval of the Industry Training authority (ITA), the Building Envelope Technician (BET) course pilot program was developed in early 2007 with funding provided by the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and the HPO. The program was later evaluated by an independent consultant. So far, RCITO has approached BCIT for the delivery of the course and would like to contact other organizations.

Currently, RCITO has retained a consultant, Human Capital Strategies, to obtain further input from BET employers, industry representatives and training providers on any necessary changes to the BET program and to confirm employer labour demand and support for this initiative.

BRC members suggested that the consultant review the Builder's Tool Box Building Envelope Solutions – Theory and Practice course put together a few years ago by the HPO. Moreover, BRC members raised concerns about instructor availability for the program.

M. Kenny provided handouts, and invited BRC members to provide input on necessary changes to the program and support this initiative.

6. Update on Recently Completed or Current Research Projects

CMHC Report

S. Plescia provided an update of current CMHC projects, including:

- Windows Best Practice Guide: Developed in collaboration with the HPO and NRCan, to be published by fall 2008, and
- Equilibrium Project: Phase I is ongoing, teams of builders have been selected to build twelve demonstration homes across Canada, ready for public tours by this fall; Phase II plans to build six houses in BC and the North, construction of two of them to be awarded by September 2008.

HPO Report

D. Ionescu provided an update of current HPO research and education projects (handouts), including:

- Technical Bulletins - “Greening the BC Building Code: First Steps”, with BSPB; and “Rainscreen Walls: Field Monitoring and Performance in Coastal British Columbia”, with CMHC, BC Housing and RDH Engineering; both bulletins to be completed early Fall 2008.
- Space Conditioning Energy Conservation in Non-Combustible Multi-unit Residential Buildings, with CHMC, City of Vancouver, BC Hydro, Terasen Gas, RDH Engineering; in progress, Phase I to be completed end of 2008.
- Building Envelope Guide for Houses – Part 9 Residential Construction: a new chapter on the ICF technology will be developed.
- Phase II - Research on the Application of Alkaline Copper Treated Wood and Use of Metal Fasteners and Connectors in Residential Construction: refining proposal and confirming funding partners.

J. Ruddick provided research proposal details. Moreover, he noted there are new types of treated wood currently available on the BC market: copper azole, micronized copper, and ACQ carbonate.

BCIT Report

H. Ge provided an update of BCIT’s building science projects:

- Wind-driven Rain Study in the Coastal Climate of British Columbia: research has been extended to include an additional building and collection of data to one year. Final report intended for fall 2008.
- Impact of Venting Configuration on Building Performance (cement-based and panelized cladding systems).
- Future research plans for Building Envelope Test Hut Facility (BETH) facility: Modeling air movement in cavities, and impact of different insulation strategies on moisture management;
- Masters program in Building Science.

The Chair suggested the web address of BETH be distributed to BRC members. He noted that this facility took years to come to fruition and represents one of BRC’s goals a number of years ago - and so industry should be made aware of it and encourage to take advantage of the opportunities it represents.

7. Open Forum & Discussion

BRC members discussed the following research issues.

- Shrinkage of Floor Assemblies:
J.P LeBerg reminded BRC members of B. McEwen's research proposal to address the shrinkage of floor assemblies in conjunction with masonry materials for wood frame construction.
- D. Hazleden raised concerns on implementation issues of ASHRAE 90.1 and effective R-value.

8. Next BRC meeting

Meeting scheduled for November 26, 2008.