

FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

2009 EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents (16): Raul Rodriguez (Chair), Bob Boyer, Ed Carson, Kiko Franco, Herminio Gonzalez, Jim Goodloe, Ken Gregory, Dale Greiner, Jeff Gross, Jon Hamrick, Bill Norkunas, Rafael Palacios, Jim Schock, Chris Schulte, Tim Tolbert, and Randall Vann.

Commissioners were asked to circle the number that best describes how the Commission functions on each of the following scales: Scale Range 10 - 1 (10 highest rating to 1 lowest rating)

Decision Making Process

Average: 9.7

Commission uses process to effectively build a broad-based consensus.

Commission uses process to make a majority decision without a consensus of members.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
11	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Comments:

- Facilitator has always worked very diligently to assure a level playing field. Consensus is always the goal.
- Everyone is allowed an opportunity to ask questions and express opinions. The discussion/debate is very informative and productive.
- The Commission uses all available data and goes out of its way to gather data. The decisions are made on the most informed basis at the time.
- I believe this is one of the things we do best.
- This works however sometimes achieving 75% agreement can have a tendency to water-down otherwise strong requirements. 66% may be better.
- Not perfect but pretty darn close.
- Yes, our mandate is consensus building. But there does come a time when it would be better if the Commission could act aggressively when life safety is an issue.

Participation and Communication

Average 9.4

Communications are respectful, balanced and points are clearly understood.

Some members dominate. Limited listening and understanding.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Comments:

- The Chair is always gracious and welcomes open discussion.
- I believe that all commissioners, DCA staff members and our facilitator could not possibly be more accommodating and respectful. This all provides the grounds for achieving great results.
- The use of workgroups allows time to evaluate the technical issues and get full understanding.
- Extremely professional and always cordial...always respectful.
- I believe that the Commissioners are respected for their expertise and knowledge. Their input is vital to the process and participation may be varied based on specific topics. While participation may be varied...understanding the communication is more important.
- For the most part we don't have meeting monopolizers, fortunately!
- My rating on this subject has risen since the last Survey. Communication is more balanced then in previous years.

Commission Relationship to Agency (DCA) Average 9.0

Commission has developed effective working relationship and communication with Agency.

Commission has not developed effective working relationship and communication with Agency.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
10	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

Comments:

- DCA staff is very professional and very well informed. Their support to the FBC is essential.
- DCA staff are true professionals
- I think the relationship with staff is more important than the relationship with the agency. Staff IS the agency for all practical purposes.
- DCA staff is always extremely helpful.
- I don't know about this so I think that answers itself.
- Good relationship—Great effort by Staff to bridge relationship between Agency and Commission. Opinions differ on some subjects, not unexpectedly.

Commission Relationship to Staff Average 9.6

Commission has developed effective working relationship and communication with staff.

Commission has not developed effective working relationship and communication with staff.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
12	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Comments:

- Excellent!
- This is excellent. I am concerned that institutional knowledge will be lost if they don't bring in some younger staff.
- Commissioners are well taken care of.
- The relationship with staff is vital. It must be respectful and informative with the attention on staff providing competent understandable data and communicating in a way that breeds confidence.
- DCA staff support is wonderful.
- Staff puts forth tremendous effort and results are evidenced by the volume and accuracy of the work the Commission produces. Only continuing concern is for information that is presented to Commission late where by Commissioners are unable to research information prior to making a decision.

Time for Consideration

Average 8.9

Adequate time for presentation, generating options, analysis and decision making.

Snap decisions are made or decisions are deferred because of lack of time.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
7	5	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0

Comments:

- I have not perceived any time where the Commissioners, staff or the public have been rushed. The decisions are made after the appropriate time is dedicated to everyone.
- Effectively uses workgroups.
- It doesn't always look like the time was allotted and spent judiciously in some cases. However, there are statutory time constraints and conditions that create the illusion of a poor decision making process. It is important that the Commission is sure they have received all relevant data and that data has been reviewed and considered as part of the process.
- For the most part we get time. This all changes when outside forces jamb issues down our throats.
- The recent appearance of two lawyers and the request for us to investigate a matter was not timely communicated to all Commissioners.
- Timely for the most part. Concerned for items delivered to the Commission late. Understandably, some items come to staff and the Commission late and has to be decided quickly.

Information and Analysis

Average 9.1

Critical background and assessment of options yield politically and practically feasible decisions.

Too little or too much, or hard to use information on the situation, options & impacts yield hard to implement decisions.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Comments:

- I believe that the results speak for themselves.
- We do a pretty good job.
- While we would like to keep the 'political' out of the process, the reality is that is part of the process. The Commission has to focus on the public need and blend that with the political ramifications.
- Sometimes I don't feel like options are presented.
- I don't believe there can be too much information provided, but there can certainly be too little provided.
- Staff does a commendable job of providing enough information and analysis. Staff is very knowledgeable and their opinions are appreciated.

Process/Meeting Facilitation

Average 9.8

Facilitation provides a positive impact on meeting efficiency, and consensus-building for the Commission and its committees.

Facilitation obstructs the efficiency of the meeting process, and negatively impacts consensus-building for the Commission and its committees.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Comments:

- Our Facilitator is the best I've witnessed in my 30+ years business experience.
- The Facilitator is a key player in the FBC's processing of its required tasks. I perceive the Facilitator as a mediator that provides for all the angles to be studied, every voice to be heard and every point to be covered. The Facilitator never takes a position and acts with complete impartiality.
- This is particularly effective in pulling together ideas in the workgroups.
- Mr. Blair does an excellent job keeping us on point and the meetings on schedule.
- Facilitator has the toughest job of all staff.
- Without facilitation the process would take much longer, have less focus, if not grind to a halt altogether. It is absolutely imperative that facilitation occurs with a group this large. Without facilitation we have chaos.
- Jeff's the "bomb." He is able to keep the meetings on point and get things done in a timely fashion.
- Jeff does a great job of helping to keep us on track.
- Can't say enough good things about this service. Commission would be severely impacted (negatively) without the services provided.

WHAT ARE THE KEY TASKS AND/OR UNRESOLVED SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE COMMISSION DURING 2009?

Energy Issues

- Improvements on renewable and sustainable energy use should be an important goal of the FBC.
- I believe the Commission needs to keep close watch and have a clear understanding of the Energy initiatives being brought forward. While I am a proponent of energy conservation, it needs to be weighed against the fiscal impact on Floridians and our industry.
- Consider and adopt recognized energy standards in the FBC.

Code Issues

- Getting code updates started so the effective date of a code isn't 2 years later than the date of the code.
- Implementation and education regarding the new 2007 code.
- Start the process for implementing the 2010 codes.
- Continue to coordinate the various codes.
- Update and approve the 2010 FBC.
- Evaluate and consider ASCE 7-10 in the update to the 2010 FBC.
- Start the process for the 2010 edition of the FBC.
- We need to solve the problem with older pools and when they should be required to comply with the current code. When a contractor does a repair to an older pool does he or she take on added liability for items of safety that they did not address.
- Declaratory statement, accessibility waivers, product approval, and public input in code process.
- Continue the process for the adoption of the 2004 ADAAG Standard.
- Need to carefully consider the net effect of the economy on the Code we have been appointed to administer. Careful consideration must be taken when deciding upon code changes to analyze what the net cost/benefit effects are prior to making decisions. The health and welfare of the citizens of the State of Florida should always be the primary consideration, but the economic impact of our decisions must now, more than ever, be carefully scrutinized.

Enforcement Issues

- The Florida Existing Building Code is very ambiguous in several sections. One example is section 909.1 which states "The intent of the Florida Building Code Mechanical provisions shall be complied with for new construction". This rather nebulous statement is open to a wide range of interpretations. There is simply no consistency in enforcement from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Administrative/Logistical Issues

- Get the new Subcommittee/Workgroup, Pool and Green and Energy Efficient Roofs, up and running.
- What is in the workplan (is what should be addressed).
- Finding funding and grants to help everyone to administer, train and enforce the codes.
- The short-term is going to be governed by the economy. No need to delve into the specifics other than the obvious. Construction activity is at an all time low and there is no apparent hope for change in 2009. Obviously, budget constraints will be a concern for at least a couple of years.
- I would guess that the Commission will utilize teleconference meetings as an alternative to travel costs for the next couple of years. It is my opinion that a written procedure/protocol should be

developed for facilitating these meetings. Currently, teleconference meetings can become difficult with background noise, bad connections, multiple speakers at one time, and general difficulties associated with conducting faceless meetings. Although a procedure may not resolve all issues, it may assist with the melding of Robert's Rules decorum and teleconference meetings.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE COMMISSION TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE (5) TO TEN (10) YEARS?

Consensus-Building Role and Collaboration

- The Commission's most important role, in my opinion, is to provide a forum where stakeholders from industry, professions and building officials can bring technical issues for vetting in an open process where consensus can be achieved. To accomplish this on a continuing basis is the Commission's greatest accomplishment.
- An understanding by the Legislature of the established code process.

Energy Efficiency and Green Building

- Continue to improve the quality of our buildings in all aspects of (safety and) energy conservation.
- A real simplified approach to energy and green building.
- Energy conservation and Green construction appear to be the two big topics looking forward. I would look for the Commission to provide guidance to industries as to direction and assist by sharing expertise and inviting new technology to be displayed at plenary sessions. The Commission must begin to plan for these new technologies by commencing the framework for new code language that may be required to utilize innovative products and systems in Florida while still protecting the citizens of Florida.

Code Development and Code Provisions

- I would like to see the FBC get a methodology (or suggest a methodology to the legislature), where improvements to existing building to meet more restrictive current code requirements be made financially attractive to the owners. One thought is to have the Legislature give tax credits to the building owners that upgrade their buildings.
- The unification of the FBC HVHZ with the FBC Non-HVHZ. Our code should be unified into a single pressure based, or wind-speed based, code utilizing the best construction practices available. The wind's effects do not change from Broward to Palm Beach so the basis of the code should not vary either. Let's pick the best practices, best testing criteria for products and systems, and best technologies available to create a single code. We have bridged the gap with product approvals (State vs. NOA's) so let's continue to work toward a single code. I believe the code cycle and glitch changes would become easier to understand for all involved parties leading to lower maintenance costs, allowing for consistent enforcement, and would allow for uniform building practices throughout the State. These benefits have always been goals for the Florida Building Commission.
- I think we lead the nation with our codes. I would like to see us continue to be the shining star of all 50 States in building codes and energy efficiencies. We should be the model other States aspire to be.
- A smooth transition process to the three year code cycle.

- I believe the Commission needs to be aware of the growing mountains of volumes of codes, standards and the likes that are being created. At the rate we are going, the building codes are going to look like the tax codes in sheer volume before too long. I suppose this does keep a lot of folks employed, however!
- To get an increase in our budget and then an increase in DCA staff support, then to timely update the FBC every three years as the Legislature intended us to do.
- Improvements to permit a consistent effective Code implementation date at three year intervals.
- I would like to have both residential and commercial pools under one TAC. At the very least have a residential swimming pool TAC. We should get 6E-E in line with 424, and they should say the same things. I would also like to see that the building departments take on the sticks and bricks and leave the sanitation issues to the DOH.
- 2010 edition of the FBC.
- Adoption of the 2004 ADAAG Standard.
- Putting all Florida specific issues into the body of the national base codes.

Code Enforcement and Compliance

- To make code compliance less complicated for the building industry.
- Simplify the code compliance process.
- More unified permitting and code interpretation throughout the state.

Emergency Response and Public Safety

- Develop guidelines for emergency response by the building industry and standardize procedures for recovery. This would allow for a coordinated mutual aid response without training being required to cover local methodology.
- Continue to improve the quality of our buildings in all aspects of safety (and energy conservation).

Building Code Information System (BCIS)

- Enhance the BCIS' Manufactured Buildings Program's search fields to allow custom searches of tabulated data (i.e., use in HVHZ, exposure category, wind speed, etc.).