

**CODE ADMINISTRATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONCURRENT WITH THE
SPECIAL OCCUPANCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TELECONFERENCE MEETING FROM TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

WEB UR: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/153020461>

AUDIO: DIAL-IN NUMBER 1 877-309-2073

CONFERENCE CODE: 153-020-461

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

10:00 AM

Minutes

CODE ADMINISTRATION TAC PRESENT:

Jay Carlson, Chairman
Bob Boyer
Shane Gerwig
Michael Guerasio
John O'Connor

Don Brown
David Gilson
Richard Goff
Diana Worrall

CODE ADMINISTRATION TAC NOT PRESENT:

Hamid Bahadori

STAFF PRESENT:

Mo Madani
Justin Vogel
Jim Hammers

Thomas Campbell
Chris Howell
Marlita Peters

Welcome:

Time: 10:00 am

Mr. Peters welcomed everyone to the concurrent teleconference call of the Code Administration Technical Advisory Committee and Special Occupancy Technical Advisory Committee.

Roll Call:

Ms. Peters performed roll call for the Code Administration Technical Advisory Committee. A quorum was determined with 8 of 10 members present.

Agenda Approval:

Mr. O'Connor entered a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting as posted. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8 to 0.

Approval of the Minutes from February 28, 2017

Mr. O'Connor entered a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2017 meetings as posted. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8 to 0.

Ms. Worrall joined the meeting bringing the total number of members present to 9.

To review and accept final draft report for research project titled "Evaluation of the Cost Impact of Florida's Specific Changes to 2015 I-Code Changes (Prescriptive Code Changes)":

Mr. Madani provided a brief background of this project and stated this was limited to the prescriptive provisions. He then asked Dr. Issa to provide the information on the final draft report.

Dr. Issa provided the detail of this project to include the cost impact with a power point presentation.

Mr. Guerasio asked that the insurance discount and rebate information and stated it should be removed and stay with construction costs.

Mr. Brown stated he assumed the estimates could be in other parts of the state and also asked if this report is being presented to the Legislature.

Mr. Madani stated this was a study for general information and not for presentation to the Legislature.

To review and accept final draft report for research project titled “Evaluation of the Cost Impact of Florida’s Specific Changes to 2015 I-Code Changes (Prescriptive Code Changes)” (cont.):

Mr. Gerwig entered a motion to accept the report with an amendment to remove any reference to insurance or insurance rebates and add a statement of statewide applicability. Mr. Guerasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommend and discuss potential research topics for consideration by the Building Commission:

Mr. Madani provided a summary of the requirements for new projects to be considered. He then asked if there were any proposed research topics.

Mr. Gerwig proposed a study for building departments, contractors, owners, etc. to offer a resolution of outdated or expired permits to avoid time issues.

Mr. O’Connor entered a motion to recommend the project. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 9 to 0.

Mr. Madani asked that the presenters to provide a clear definition and scope of work for the research topics by the end of June for presentation at the August meeting.

To provide update and status on the survey for the project titled “Uniform Implementation of the Florida Building Code”:

Mr. Madani provided a brief background of this project.

He then asked Dr. Issa to provide his report.

Dr. Issa provided the detail of this project to include the cost impact with a power point presentation.

Comments or Questions from the TAC:

Mr. Carlson stated this was an overall good report with needed criteria. He stated he was concerned over lack of response from the jurisdictions. Mr. Carlson said that he feels this study needs to be extended to try and reach more areas. He asked how many attempts were made to contact the jurisdictions.

Dr. Issa stated this survey was open for 90 days to gather response and there were 2 emails sent from the researchers and 2 attempts from BOAF.

To provide update and status on the survey for the project titled “Uniform Implementation of the Florida Building Code”:

Comments or Questions from the TAC:

Mr. O’Connor stated he had serious concerns over the value of this report based on several factors. He stated the group did an admirable job trying to collect data and analyzing the data; however, due to lack of response it is no valid or useful information. Mr. O’Connor stated personally he would not be in support of publishing this report because he did not feel it was valid or useful. He said he does support the process but we need to find a better way to define the information we are requesting. Mr. O’Connor stated he did not feel this would be conclusive due to the special district types and that small groups are just not useful for statistical conclusions. He said this report needed to be shelved and a new method of questioning and gaining responses from the jurisdictions be developed.

Ms. Worrall stated she would like to know the goal of the survey.

Dr. Issa stated it was to find out local demographic data, the local code enforcement process, how the code is implemented, to find out local permitting requirements, associated fees, the make-up of the building departments, general jurisdictional data, training efforts for the code, and interpretation in each jurisdiction.

Ms. Worrall then asked what the information was to be used for.

Dr. Issa stated this report was developed from the Florida Building Code Implementation and Evaluation Workgroup. He said they looked at all of these and noticed the disparities with no consistency in any jurisdiction. Dr. Issa said based on that they wanted to have a more in depth analysis of what each jurisdiction was doing in each of these areas and develop a more uniform system in the future.

Ms. Worrall stated so to what end is this necessary if we do not have anything but quantitative information what can we do to get qualitative information that would be useful. She said if everyone charges the same and works the same how is that going to help.

Mr. Madani said to be able to answer your questions; we would need to complete the next phase of this study. He said this study was specific to a statutory mandate. The study is funded by BASF and is a continuation of a workgroup on uniformity.

Ms. Worrall stated better uniformity does not necessarily make a better code. This survey does not provide for a better code.

To provide update and status on the survey for the project titled “Uniform Implementation of the Florida Building Code”:

Comments or Questions from the TAC (cont.):

Mr. Madani stated this is in the report and he quoted the sections on this issue. He continued by providing examples of questions being received from contractors and people in the field.

Ms. Worrall stated overall this is concerning showing the counties that did not respond which are some of the bigger counties. She said we need to get to these counties.

Mr. Carlson stated there have been some good points, but this is a starting point to collect data to look at in total not individually. He said he never felt the goal was to set fees the same state wide. Mr. Carlson said there needs to be a correlation of implementation of the code. He said it is troubling with lack of participation, but we need to continue this project using this report as a starting point.

Ms. Worrall asked for the next step to expand on this survey.

Dr. Issa stated to meet with the TAC and work on those jurisdictions that are not participating to allow further inventory to gain a better perspective on the overall picture on uniformity in the Code.

Mr. O’Connor entered a motion to conclude the report and close out this contract as it is a waste of money and have a discussion within the TAC before another recommendation is completed. Mr. Gerwig seconded the motion.

Mr. Madani stated the report is published. He is asking if they want the study continued, this report could be used as Phase I.

Mr. Carlson stated he disagrees with Mr. O’Connor and this should be in draft form and move forward. He said as a General Contractor there is a problem with uniform code implementation.

Mr. Gilson stated he supports Mr. Carlson’s opinion on the project.

To provide update and status on the survey for the project titled “Uniform Implementation of the Florida Building Code”:

Comments or Questions from the TAC (cont.):

A roll call vote was administered.

Mr. Carlson – No	Mr. Boyer – No
Mr. Brown – No	Mr. Guerasio – No
Mr. Gilson – No	Mr. Goff – No
Mr. O’Connor – Yes	Ms. Worrall – Yes
Mr. Gerwig – Yes	

The motion failed with a vote of 3 in favor and 5 against.

Mr. Brown spoke on the uniformity and lack of inspections is a growing issue. He stated he supports Mr. Carlson to expand this project.

Mr. Brown entered a motion to accept the report. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 8 in favor and 1 against.

Mr. Carlson thanked Dr. Issa for the report.

Mr. Gilson stated he wants to see better response from the jurisdictions in phase II.

Final Roll Call:

Ms. Peters performed a final roll call 9 members were remaining on the line.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.