

**South Central Regional Construction Code Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 22, 2008**  
**Time: 10:00AM**

Location: St. John the Baptist  
Percy Hebert Building  
St. John Council Chambers  
1801 W. Airline Highway, Laplace La. 70068

Members in attendance were:

Pat Gordon ( Terrebonne)  
Jody Chenier (St. James)  
Kevin Belanger (SCPDC)  
Debbie Moore ( Lafourche)  
Lou Vaughn (St. John)

Members absent were:

John Boudreaux (Assumption)

**Meeting Minutes**

At approximately 10:00am the meeting began with Mr. Kevin Belanger leading the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with roll call. All members were present with the exception of Mr. John Boudreaux.

Mr. Rob Hamilton with the Homebuilders Association had a few comments. He addressed an issue that has been a problem concerning unlicensed contractors and remodelers. On remodeling there's a threshold of 7,500 up to 75,000 and they need to be registered with the state. If over 75,000 you must have a state contractor's license. HBA would like to see enforcement on a regional level. HBA propose that the parishes require everyone to put a sign in their yard showing they are a licensed builder or a homeowner building their own home. Another option is two different color permits. Licensed contractors and homebuilders each have a certain color. HBA feel this will help to keep unlicensed contractors from building and selling houses.

HBA would also like the parishes to require contractors show a contract for their part a let when applying for a permit. They feel every contractor should have one as this is unfair they take it upon themselves to use others. Discussion ensued.

HBA also informed the board on the State Level there is a Bill 662 they are trying to pass. This is a Home Improvement Fraud Law that provides criminal penalties for remodelers and contractors that doesn't do the work the way they should. This could mean jail time as long as 5 years, fines up to 10, 000 or you could be fined \$500.00 per day. It has not passed yet but a lot of people are pushing for it.

HBA would like to see education to the public. Builders are responsible for 5 years and some individual homeowners do not realize they are responsible for 5 years as well. There is a video they can watch before they pull a permit. HBA would like to see the permit offices use this video before issuing them a permit. Mrs. Deborah Moore feels a poster board would be a better solution.

It was moved by Mr. Jody Chenier, for Mr. Wich to put a sign together for the permit offices and bring to the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Kevin Belanger. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Deborah Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lou Vaughn to approve and adopt the minutes of the April 24, 2008 meeting. Motion Carried.

Ms. Dawn Allemand presented the council with a financial analysis. Discussion ensued. It was moved by Mr. Kevin Belanger, to adopt the financial report, seconded by Mr. Jody Chenier. Motion Carried.

Mr. Wich made a request to the parish permit offices asking everyone to be on the same page in reference to Fire Code on Commercial Permits. He would like to get the Fire Marshal letter if they have it at the time they apply for the permit. If they haven't received a building code review then the Fire Marshal stamped plans are fine. If they have a Third Party doing the building code review at the same time they were at the Fire Marshal and they received two sets of plans, SCP really needs both sets. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wich informed the board of recommended fee changes to commercial renovations. The fee committee feels it should be changed to \$3.00 per \$1000 of the value of the project with a minimum of \$200. This would benefit all concerned as it would be handled like a new construction with only one permit to keep track of. Discussion ensued.

Institutions should be .60 per sq. ft. He would like to see that changed to \$3.00 for every \$1000.00 of value with a minimum of \$200.00.

Residential Storage Buildings recommended change is .23 per sq ft. with a minimum of \$75.00. Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mrs. Deborah Moore, to reduce residential fees to .44 per sq. ft., seconded by Mr. Jody Chenier. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Deborah Moore retracted her previous motion and changed it to .45 per sq. ft. In Favor were: Mrs. Moore, Mr. Chenier and Mr. Gordon. Against were: Mr. Belanger and Mrs. Vaughn. Discussion ensued. It was agreed to wait for changes to be put together in one document for final approval.

Mr. Belanger requested Mr. Curt McCarty to speak in reference to the soil mappings. Mr. McCarty explained he pursued going back to the state in reference to the Hazard Mitigation program in addition to other programs some of the parishes requested. He did ask for soil mapping state wide. Initially it didn't look like a problem. Going over each item individually, the process involves a benefit cost analyst. FEMA will not save money therefore he recommends not returning the money. Mr. McCarty needs to find out how the monies left will be allocated.

It was moved by Mr. Kevin Belanger, to resend his motion from the April meeting to return funds and move forward on the project, seconded by Mr. Jody Chenier. Motion carried. Mr. Chenier asked Mr. Wich to get procurement approval in writing before moving forward.

The next SCRCCC meeting will be held, June 26, 2008 in Lafourche Parish at the Barrios Center, 1612 Highway 182, Raceland La. 70394 @ 10:00AM.

Mr. Gordon informed the board there will be a State Code Council meeting July 8, 2008 in Terrebonne parish @ 10:00AM, second floor of the Government Towers Building.

Ms. Karen Dillard addressed the board and suggested getting education for the public as well as the contractors. She would like to see an application class that puts emphasis on the codes.

Mr. Rob Hamilton invited everyone to the HBA general membership meeting June 4, 2008 at 6:00pm, located at 147 Capital Blvd. Houma, La. 70360. HBA feels educating the designers would solve a lot of the problems ahead of time. They would like to see more classes tailored to Southern Building and Hurricane Building. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Lea Rutter requested a point of clarification in reference to complaints. Mr. Wich advised there is no set policy in place. SCPDC investigates anything that is brought to their attention. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Randy Noel advised there are complaint forms on the State's Website if needed. Mr. Belanger questioned Mr. Noel on the status of setting up satellite offices with the Fire Marshal. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wich wanted to advise the board of a problem that occurred twice this week. There were two homes that called for a temp pole inspection and never called back for another inspection until they were ready for power. He does not see an easy solution to these problems. Mr. Wich wanted to call it to the board's attention and asked that the permit offices please stress to customers to read the documents and call for their inspections. Discussion ensued.

There being no further information to be discussed, it was moved by Mrs. Deborah Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lou Vaughn to adjourn. Motion Carried.