



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today.

MINUTES

Grassroots Government Advocacy Committee Conference Call
Friday, October 30, 2015

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Grassroots Government Advocacy Committee Conference Call

October 30, 2015

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GRASSROOTS GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

9:00 – 11:00 AM ET (US)

MEMBERS PRESENT: William Bahnfleth, Chair
Thomas Phoenix, First Vice Chair
Rob Craddock, Second Vice Chair
William McQuade
Erich Binder
David Conover
Stephen Kennedy
Cesar Lim
Ross Montgomery
Richard Vehlow
Ronald Gagnon
Jeffrey Vestal
Chad Powell
Chad Moore
Jeff Hurd
Vorasen Leewattanakit
Ahmed Alaa Eldin Mohamed
Keith Reihl
Tim Wentz

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Wolfe
Michael Witkowski
Sonya Pouncy
Daniel Merkel
Brian Lynch
Mark Bender
Nathaniel Boyd
Vikram Murthy
Bjarne Olesen

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Scarborough, Staff Liaison
Mark Ames, Staff Liaison
Lilas Pratt
Kevin Donnelly

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bahnfleth at 9:03 am EDT (USA). Mr. Scarborough conducted a roll call and a quorum was declared. Mr. Bahnfleth welcomed all the members present.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chair Bahnfleth asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were requested and the agenda was accepted as distributed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 26-27, 2015 GGAC MEETING

Chair Bahnfleth asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the June 26-27, 2015 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. There were no changes and the minutes were adopted as written.

REVIEW OF GGAC ACTION ITEMS LIST

There is only one item on the GGAC Action Item List. This has been assigned to the Responsive Engagement Subcommittee. This item is closed for the full Committee. (**Attachment A**)

CO REPORT

a. Capitol Hill visits

President-Elect Wentz, Coordinating Officer for GGAC, reported on his visits to Capitol Hill, where he visited with both of his US Senators and the staff of his US House Representative. He felt this was quite a productive set of meetings and was impressed by all of his elected officials and their interest in ASHRAE. Mr. Ames asked President-Elect Wentz about the follow up meeting he had with Senator Fisher's staff in the local office. Senatorial staff visited President-Elect Wentz in his office at University of Nebraska.

b. Fall Senior Leadership Meetings

President-Elect Wentz reported on the meetings the ASHRAE Senior Officers had with several groups two weeks ago in Washington, DC. Chair Bahnfleth wondered if the concept of meeting with legislators can be transported outside the US and Canada. President-Elect Wentz again noted how impressed he was with his Members of Congress. Mr. Phoenix commented on how much he was impressed last year when he met with his Members of Congress.

ExO REPORT

There was no ExO Report as Dr. Olesen was unable to join the call today.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Scarborough and Mr. Ames gave their staff reports. Mr. Scarborough noted that most of the state legislatures are out of session until after January 1, so there is not much new in the way of state legislation. However, state regulations are being reviewed regularly and forwarded when appropriate. Mr. Scarborough also commented on the report he sent out earlier in the week regarding Utah and the work underway there in planning for the state's future.

Mr. Ames stated that Congress is continuing to work on its energy bills. The House is expected to take up its energy bill shortly after Thanksgiving. The House bill contains the building energy codes language that ASHRAE and many other organizations oppose. The Senate is expected to take up its comprehensive energy bill (which ASHRAE supports) sometime in January.

Mr. Ames explained that 11 cities have approached the US Department of Energy (DOE), seeking their assistance in developing model net zero energy stretch codes. Mr. Ames is working with these cities and other stakeholder representatives to better understand what the cities would specifically like to accomplish. Mr. Ames stated that approximately 100 other cities are expected to announce goals for achieving net zero energy and/or large buildings-related emissions reductions at the COP21 event in Paris. Both the 11 cities and the 100 others will likely provide significant opportunities for ASHRAE members to engage with their local policymakers.

IAQA UPDATE

There was no IAQA report as Mr. Stanton was unable to join the call today.

RVC/CHAPTER REPORTS

Mr. Vehlow reported on Region I. He has been in contact with all of his GGAC Chairs in the Chapters. He is going to Connecticut to meet with the Chapter there shortly.

Mr. Gagnon reported on Region II. He has met with government officials within the past two weeks as the provincial energy code is being revised. They are trying to keep 90.1 as an alternate path. He also reported that bEQ information was provided to the provincial government. Mr. Binder noted that the Prime Minister's home is being refurbished and there might be some opportunity to help it become a net zero structure. bEQ might be a possibility in this renovation as well.

Mr. Vestal reported on Region IV. He has been in contact with his Chapter Chairs. Mr. Vestal lost his connection to the call and there was no further report.

Mr. Powell reported on Region VI. He has visited a Chapter in Wisconsin and presented on GGAC. The LaCrosse Chapter compiled a list of local government officials for PAOE points. He also has heard from an Iowa Chapter where the President is meeting with local officials regarding the state's adoption of IECC 2015.

Mr. Reihl reported on Region VIII in the absence of Mr. Merkel who was unable to join the call today. In Texas, the state energy code is being moved to ASHRAE 90.1 next year. Also, the City of Houston is working on building disclosure and this will likely be approved by the City Council in November. ASHRAE Standards are included as alternatives.

Mr. Hurd reported on Region XI. He has several meetings upcoming both with Chapters and with government officials in western Canada. He has also been following up on a Washington State Code Change proposal. He has been in touch with Chapter officials there and will report back when he obtains additional information.

Mr. Montgomery reported on Region XII in the absence of Mr. Boyd who was unable to attend today's call. Much is going on in the Region, particularly with regard to BERDO in Orlando. The Chapters in South America (Argentina and Colombia) are very active. There are some conferences planned in South America, one on refrigerants. There are big issues with indoor air quality in hospitals in Argentina and the ASHRAE Chapter is working to help with that issue. President Underwood has been to South America recently.

Mr. Leewattanakit reported on Region XIII. He has been in touch with all his Chapters. He is waiting for feedback from those Chapters on issues they face as part of the work with Mr. Boyd's Ad Hoc Committee.

Chair Bahnfleth reported on the Region At Large as he attended the CRC for the Region. Dr. Mohamed had joined the call by this time and explained that he has been to Greece, Turkey, Cairo and other locations for Chapter visits. He is working on Memoranda of Understanding with some government entities in the Region.

Unable to join today's calls, in addition to those noted above, were the RVCs from Regions III, V, VII, IX and X.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND MBO AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Active Outreach Subcommittee and MBO # 3

Mr. Phoenix reported his subcommittees have not met yet but there is a Doodle Poll out to select a time to meet.

b. Response Engagement Subcommittee and MBO # 5

Mr. Craddock reported on the Responsive Engagement Subcommittee. This subcommittee has met once. He thanked Mr. Conover for writing out the subcommittee's thoughts for the next Executive Subcommittee conference call.

c. MBO # 1 Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Craddock reported that a conversation has been held with Certification. Their website has been updated but still waiting on some other materials.

d. MBO # 2 Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Phoenix reported that some conversations have occurred though the Ad Hoc Committee has not yet met.

e. MBO # 4 Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Reihl reported that he and Mr. Murthy are reviewing what is already available on the website and are seeking additional input on other communications methods. Also an email has gone out to RVCs on the CRC materials online for feedback and suggestions for changes and additions.

f. MBO # 6 Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Scarborough made a brief report for Mr. Boyd, who could not be on the call today. Mr. Boyd has held one conference call of this Ad Hoc Committee and has asked the members to report back to him on issues in their Regions and then another conference call will be held just prior to Thanksgiving.

g. MBO # 7 Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Bahnfleth reported on this Ad Hoc Committee. This is ongoing work.

COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

Mr. Murthy was not present for today's call so there was no additional information beyond what Mr. Reihl reported earlier.

NEW BUSINESS

a. PAOE Points

Mr. Craddock reported that the first PAOE conference call was held yesterday for updating the PAOEs for the coming Society Year. There will be some points added regarding the Presidential Theme.

b. Legislative Connections Tool

Mr. Donnelly, the Public Policy Intern, reported on his project. He is creating a legislative information database on both US federal and state legislators to create a clearinghouse that ASHRAE members will be able to access. Chair Bahnfleth thanked Mr. Donnelly for his work thus far.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

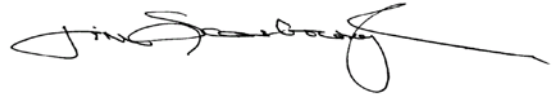
The next meeting will be at the Winter Meeting in Orlando in January 2016. At this point, Mr. McQuade and Dr. Mohamed noted they had joined the call. Dr. Mohamed reported briefly at this point on the Region At Large, which is noted above in the RVC/Chapter Reports section.

GGAC Executive Subcommittee Meeting
October 30, 2015

ADJOURN

Chair Bahnfleth adjourned the meeting at 10:23 am EDT (USA).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Scarborough", written over a thin horizontal line.

Jim Scarborough, Staff Liaison

Distribution: Grassroots Government Advocacy Committee
Staff Liaisons

Attachments: GGAC Action Item List