

AMBO Board Meeting Minutes

2:00 p.m. Wednesday 15 June 2022



The AMBO Board of Directors met on Wednesday 15 June 2022 via Zoom. AMBO Board Chair, Jerry Backlund, called the business meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Jerry Backlund (Chair), Michele Engberg (Vice Chair), Jesse Szykulski (Treasurer [2:56]), Matt Munter (Arrowhead Representative [2:10]), Sid Fossan (Northwest Representative), Dan Hauck (10K Representative [2:53]) Brian Hoffman (Director-at-Large [2:14]), Gil Rossmiller (Director-at-Large). Liz Riel (Director-at-Large)

Board Members Absent: Silvia Gonzalez (Secretary), Jim Williamette (Past Chair), James Coyle (Southeast Representative), Doug Fortune (Southwest Representative)

Others in Attendance: Nick McNeely (Legislative Consultant [left at 2:41]), Rick Hauffe (ICC Regional Representative)

Roll Call. Engberg called the roll.

Agenda. The agenda was accepted as distributed. Motion by Fossan; second by Engberg.

Minutes. Minutes of the May meeting were approved as distributed. Motion by Fossan; second by Rossmiller.

Legislative Report. At 2:10 p.m., Legislative Consultant McNeely addressed the meeting relative to Legislative activities. There was scant activity the final weeks of the session as well as after the session ended. Although there was bipartisan agreement on multiple issues, few bills were signed. The Front-Line-Worker Pay Bill did pass and is a potential benefit for some folks working in Code administration and inspections. The proposed bonding bill was not approved nor was the square-foot-permit-fee formula. Omnibus bills were left unsigned.

There is little expectation that a special session will be called.

Current Legislators are retiring in the greatest number since 1972. Consequently, there will be a great influx of new legislators. Discussion ensued.

Treasurer's Report. Without discussion, Treasurer Szykulski's report was accepted as distributed. Motion by Rossmiller; second by Hoffman.

ICC Update. At 2:43 p.m., ICC Representative Hauffe spoke to the Board regarding ICC highlights. Legislative activity in Iowa is trending towards bypassing construction-industry boards and placing control of construction codes with the Legislature, potentially also bypassing public input and transparency. South Dakota and Wisconsin appear to be eyeing this as well. This could be a precursor of what could happen in Minnesota if single-party control and special-interest concerns drive Legislative discussion and activity.

ICC Update Continued. Projections show that over the coming years there will be a serious loss of code officials, institutional memory, and participation by code professionals in code development processes. This does not bode well for the construction-inspection industry.

ICC is focused on the Annual Business Meeting, Conference, and Hearings scheduled for September in Louisville. There is an early-bird registration discount and special memberships options for new delegates. Folks are encouraged to attend in September, to use cdpACCESS, and to join a membership council.

Budget Update. Treasurer Szykulski spoke to the budget and current finances. Discussion ensued on strengthening the financials of the organization.

Membership Report. Rossmiller provided the on-line membership list. Additional membership information will be provided to him (Szykulski & Riel) so he can update a membership spreadsheet. The Board needs to put more effort into memberships and marketing the organization.

Region III Education. Engberg provided an update on the planning for the February 2023 Institute. There was discussion of the length of the Marriott contract and the 2024 dates. With day-package cost and room rates seeming to be reasonable, and with AV details yet to be worked-out, the Board approved continuing negotiations and signing a two-year contract for the later of the 2024 dates (February 12 – 16, 2024). Motion offered by Rossmiller; second by Hoffman:

“Authorize the Region III education committee to move forward with a two-year contract with the Marriott and to set the dates for mid-February for 2023 and 2024. Also, to finalize the fees with the Marriott.”

Front-Line Worker Pay. The bill for front-line worker pay was approved and jurisdictions can provide information to employees.

New Item. Backlund reported that DLI contacted him regarding a new, heavily-illustrated, condensed IRC publication and asked for permission to place the AMBO logo on it. The AMBO logo would join BAM and Housing First logos. The Board supports this initiative.

July Meeting. There will be no Board Meeting in July. The next meeting will be in August.

Website. Backlund reported that the Website is functioning.

February Trade Show. Riel stated that she will soon be reaching out to construction-industry vendors regarding participation in the February Trade Show. She asked Board members to please provide her with contact information for potential Trade Show participants.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. Motion by Riel.

Submitted by Michele Engberg