

North Carolina Code Officials Qualification Board Education and Research Committee Minutes



June 27, 2023, 1:30-3:30 P.M.

This meeting was held via WebEx.

1. Introduction Welcome/Roll Call

Chairman Danny Couch called the meeting to order. Couch asked Jennifer Hollyfield to call the roll. Couch read the Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder. Couch asked the committee members if any of them have any known conflict of interest or the potential of conflict with respect to matters on the agenda coming before the Research and Education Committee today. None was noted.

Committee members present by roll call vote:

- 1) Danny Couch, Chairman
- 2) Stephen Terry, PhD, PE
- 3) Jeff Griffin, Code Official
- 4) Montrena Hadley, Elected Official
- 5) Kenny Weatherington, NC Community College System
- 6) Joshua Robbins, NCAT Engineering Faculty

Attendees:

Todd Neal, Board legal counsel, NCDOJ
Mike Hejduk
Sam Whittington
Jennifer Hollyfield
Beth Williams
Lori Degre, Sandhills Community College

2. Board Course instructors to discuss changes to update courses from 2018 to 2024 Codes.

Couch asked Mike Hejduk to go over the Board Course updates 2018 to 2024 Code slide.

- 1) Scope of work, cost estimates, funding Thunberg 3/13/23 memo
- 2) ICC® Codes, NFPA® NEC®, Law and Administration
- 3) Pages: 4,000
- 4) Hours: 480
- 5) Slides: 1,000's
- 6) Worksheets
- 7) End -of-Course and State Exam Test Items
- 8) Engineering Division staff – Staff Dev. Coord. position
- 9) NC Community College System sponsors/instructors
- 10) Guidelines 2006
- 11) Stakeholder Surveys

12) Code Enforcement Officials – Standards of Practice?

The Engineering Division has Beth William's old position, which is a staff development coordinator position, which is unfilled now. This position would be the person in house to update all those courses. Hejduk stated that there is a Bill in the Senate and in the House, that talks about creating an apprentice program for entry level applicants. Hejduk stated that there are also some guidelines from 2006, that were never put into the Board rules about the Board courses, which predates the online application program in 2012. Hejduk said that the guidelines need to be updated, and he is reaching out to all the instructors at the community colleges. Hejduk suggested monthly meetings between staff and the instructors. Couch suggested that the committee reach out to the Department of Insurance legislative liaison to find out about the funding for the project.

Kenny Weatherington stated he was still getting up to speed but asked two questions:
1) is the apprenticeship program affiliated with East Carolina University (ECU)?
2) has OSFM had any discussion with ApprenticeshipNC, housed under the NC Community Colleges System?

Hejduk responded by noting two separate legislative bills H850 and S463 address an apprenticeship program and explained the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency as providing funding for DOI. Hejduk stated that ECU may be representative of construction management program curriculum.

3. NC General Assembly updates.

Hejduk went over the N.C. General Assembly updates:

- 1) H850 Licensing Board/Contractors & Inspectors
- 2) G.S. 143-151.13 Architects, Engineers, Licensed Contractors: General, Plumbing, Heating, Electrical pass state exam, no Board short course required.
- 3) G.S. 143-151.13 voluntary apprenticeship program
- 4) G.S. 143-151.16 Professional development program course fees
- 5) S463 Home Inspectors Lic. Mods./Code Qual. Bd.
- 6) G.S. 143-151.13 Architects, Engineers, Licensed Contractors: General, Plumbing, Heating, Electrical pass state exam, no Board short course required.
- 7) G.S. 143-151.13A Professional development program course fees
- 8) G.S. 143-138.1 DOI may develop an apprenticeship program and fees
- 9) H320 = S712 Create Bldg. Code Permit Tech Cert.
- 10) H893 Private Commercial Inspections
- 11) G.S. 143-151.12 and G.S. 143-15.14A, 14B, 19A

Hejduk stated that G.S. 143-151.13 may develop an apprenticeship program and fees. The term apprenticeship is used relative to the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency has a special program with the Department of Insurance and signed agreement. This was to have 7 trainers and 15 field people to properties being rebuilt from prior flooding due to hurricanes. Those 15 trainees were apprentices. That is where it started. That may be a good way to let other jurisdictions send their people

to some of the training. Hejduk stated Beth Williams and he did an outline for the ApprenticeshipNC program that was with the community college system specifically. Department of Insurance would need to have partnered with a specific community college to be part of that. Couch stated that the committee would have to wait and see if the bills pass the House and Senate. Hejduk went over House Bill 488 that is about the reorganization of the Building Code Council and creation of a new Residential Code Council and H893 private commercial inspections.

Hejduk stated that he checked with Carl Martin regarding the status of the code changes adopted by the Building Code Council.

Status of 2024 Code:

- 1) NCAC&P adopted
- 2) NCBC adopted
- 3) NCFC adopted
- 4) NCEBC adopted
- 5) NCECC not yet adopted / waiting for a fiscal note
- 6) NCPC is open for public comment / will be voted on in September
- 7) NCRC Chapters 1-10, 25-33, 45, 46 and Appendices are open for public comment / will be voted on in September
- 8) NCMC not yet approved
- 9) NCFGC not yet approved
- 10) NEC not yet approved
- 11) NCRC Chapters 11, 12-23 and 24 are not yet approved

Hejduk stated that if you took one subject matter expert and dedicated them to a year's long project, how many people would you need, and this just compares if you pay them \$30.00 an hour. This is typically what a course instructor gets maybe through the community college system.

ESTIMATED COST TO UPDATE 2018 TO 2024 BOARD COURSES	Count	\$Rate/hr	Hrs	Cost
(1) Subject Matter Expert per Board Course (all levels)?	7	\$30	2,000	\$420,000
(1) Subject Matter Expert for Energy Code?	1	\$30	2,000	\$60,000
(1) Subject Matter Expert for Existing Building Code?	1	\$30	2,000	\$60,000
(1) Subject Matter Expert for Residential Code?	1	\$30	2,000	\$60,000
TOTAL SME'S	10	\$30	2,000	\$600,000
ESTIMATED COST TO UPDATE 2018 TO 2024 BOARD COURSES	Count	\$Rate/hr	Hrs	Cost
(1) Subject Matter Expert per Board Course (all levels)?	7	\$50	2,000	\$700,000
(1) Subject Matter Expert for Energy Code?	1	\$50	2,000	\$100,000
(1) Subject Matter Expert for Existing Building Code?	1	\$50	2,000	\$100,000
(1) Subject Matter Expert for Residential Code?	1	\$50	2,000	\$100,000
TOTAL SME'S	10	\$50	2,000	\$1,000,000

4. Third party educational updates.

Hejduk went over the third party educational/certification updates slide.

- 1) NC Community Colleges
- 2) UNC School of Government
- 3) East Carolina University
- 4) ICC Online Learning /Certification
- 5) NFPA

Hejduk stated that the community colleges are already in the Board rule. UNC School of Government has returned to teaching a Law and Administrative course. They are accredited and they are allowed to do that. East Carolina University is the way they see trying to hook up with their construction management program.

Hejduk stated that the new codes will become effective January 1, 2025. All the changes need to be done probably 6 months before you need to have the new test questions 6 months before 3 months before anyway, which is October 2023. Couch asked Hejduk if the ICC Online Learning need to be an agenda item for the full board discussion. NFPA may need to be an agenda item as well.

5. CE Completion

Hejduk asked Jennifer Hollyfield to go over the CE completion – 6 hours by 6/30/2023.

Total number of Standard Certificates – 6,992

Total number of inspectors who have met CE requirement – 6,683 (96%)

6. Adjournment

Kenny Weatherington made the motion to adjourn. Montrena Hadley seconded.
Motion passed.



Rob Roegner
Secretary, N.C. Code Officials Qualification Board