

Trades Advisory Council  
Minutes  
October 22, 2003

Present: Chris Remke, Richard Smith, Jack Steakley, Jim McLean, Mike Morris, Elizabeth Stumph, Lance Hornbuckle, Martha Segal, Gloria Adams, Eric Holt, Mike Nash, Hal Balthrop and Bill Hawkins.

Martha Segal gave an overview of the Trades Advisory Council and introduced the new members.

The first agenda item was a review and update concerning the October 1, 2003 changes in policy and procedures. Summary is as follows:

Residential Irrigation Meters-Lance Hornbuckle stated that MWS not issuing the irrigation meter had basically "killed" his business in this area. He has found most customers do not want to pay for this meter. He also felt the commercial irrigation meters and main line backflow should be addressed in the design phase of planning.

Distributor wiring of commercial meters-This is working well for the plumbers.

Automatic scheduling of meter inspection-Mary Ellen discussed the problems that have been faced to date including several customers not installing the meters within ten days. This results in the need for a second trip that is automatically scheduled five days later. MWS is considering charging a service fee for this second inspection. Mary Ellen also said she is working with some companies individually to transition to this schedule.

Fire Service Metering-This implementation has been delayed a minimum of thirty days. The policy will not be effective until MWS can review all proposals and materials submitted by ABC have been considered. Littlejohn Engineering representative reported they had received a lot of calls expressing concerns. The DDCV solution was devised when many businesses couldn't control pressure loss. It was stated the small business owner would incur a 7% increase if meters were required. The change in the 12 year old policy is not an issue of cost to the contractor but to the developer. It was perceived this could impact the entire county's future development. Richard Smith had some statistics concerning amount of flow used in testing etc. including an average cost of \$345 for water used on one flow test. It was also suggested that perhaps a difference could be made between a large and small customer due to amount of flow required. This would help alleviate cost to smaller businesses. MWS restated the emphasis is on new facilities with a purpose of accounting for all water used. This emphasis is necessary to assure MWS offers competitive rates.

The group brought up the placement of the backflow device and asked if it would be necessary to move devices already installed. The issue of backflow's and service line from meter to backflow will be revisited by MWS. MWS restated the preferred location is behind the meter with exceptions on a case by case basis based on circumstance. It was noted that exceptions weaken our overall policy. Plumbers and contractors need to know where placement is acceptable prior to quoting a price to a customer.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 19, 2003.