

Trades Advisory Council  
Minutes  
January 28, 2004

Present: Martha Segal, Mary Ellen Jackson, Hal Balthrop, Gary Ragland, Jack Steakley, Andy Ward, Eba Hobbs, Richard Smith, Jim McLean, Chris Remke, Tony Smith, Becky Yablonski, Lance Hornbuckle, Ken Gregory, Mike Gregory

Absent: Kelly Sloan, Eric Holt

Summary of Old Business Discussion

Commercial Split Services

- Can split new or existing services for irrigation
- Request for split services must be on plans for new construction to be reviewed and approved by Plans Review Committee
- The only compound meters that will be approved for split services are Sensus meters. Gary Ragland explained the reasoning . They are not designed to work with splitters. The batteries would drain.
- Pressure loss, consumption or volume may be considered in approval or denial of use of splitter.
- Duplexes must have separate connection and meter for each side

Placement of Backflow and Meter

-Backflow assemblies must be installed immediately behind the meter or property line valve unless an alternate location has been approved by the MWS Plans Review Committee. This alternative location may include the necessity for a signed waiver from the customer "holding the utility harmless" for damages or restoration to property. MWS will only be responsible for repairs from the main to meter.

When alternate locations for backflow devices are approved, the pipe/service line from the meter to the backflow device must be copper or Class-52 DIP. The maximum distance from meter to device will be 100 feet. A variance may be requested utilizing the Plans Review Process.

Existing meters or backflows requiring repairs will not be required to be relocated. Meters or backflows determined to be out of compliance and requiring replacement will be expected to conform to the policy above.

#### Approved Plans

Changes to approved plans must be resubmitted in accordance with the guidelines for plan submittal. It is required that these changes be resubmitted immediately so as not to impact construction, final inspection or issuance of U&O.

Suggestions from group for further improvements in communication and processes

Issue: Plumbers and contractors do not get feedback from plans review process and would prefer first hand information as is given in a precon setting.

Recommended Solution: Allow attendance at Plans Review meetings

Issue: Information concerning MWS policies and procedures are not being communicated to all involved.

Recommended Solution: Provide quarterly mail outs and MWS sponsor semi-annual meetings to assure all information and rules are communicated.

Issue: Plumbers and contractors are not aware of the expectations for initial and final meter and meter box inspections.

Recommended Solution: Effective immediately permits office will provide customer completing set meter application with a copy of the inspection sheet.

Issue: Improve the communication of the backflow and meter testing results. Cannot read forms and often it just states equipment has failed with no reason detailed.

Recommended Solution: MWS considering solution internally including feasibility of new triplicate forms that are white for easier reading.

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Issue: Method needed to alert plumbers initial or final inspection has been completed.

Recommended Solution: MWS considering alternatives

Issue: Drawings and schematics from the Engineering and Permitting divisions are not updated

Recommended Solution: MWS will schedule internal meeting and have solution before the next TAC meeting.

Mary Ellen asked the group for feedback concerning the implementation of fee for service for second trip to complete initial inspection of meter. Group agreed beginning date of April 1, 2004 should provide adequate notice and time for adjustment. This information will be publicized in the permits office immediately utilizing posters and handouts and will be included in the quarterly update.

Mary Ellen suggested changing the meeting date. Everyone agreed we would meet the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 A.M. The next meeting will be February 11 in the Codes Training Room.