

Trades Advisory Council Minutes
February 2005

Present were Lance Hornbuckle, Eba Hobbs, Mike Gregory, Ilke Hanslor, Richard Smith, Jim McLean, Gary Ragland, Mike Morris, Greg Nalls and Mary Ellen Jackson

Mary Ellen gave an update on the TAC web page and distributed a copy of the introductory page. The site will be up and ready by March 4. She also discussed the March 4 presentation on the permitting process for the engineering and development communities.

Meter Boxes Issues were discussed as follows:

It was suggested that all new meter boxes be required to have concrete bottoms. Group stated a policy needed to be distributed to state that any new construction recorded or installed after a certain date would have to meet these requirements.

Fiber glass boxes continue to have issues passing final inspections. 65% fail due to caving walls. TAC agreed this was an issue but felt the box should be left as an option with all understanding that statistics support the failure rate.

The following proposals were distributed and discussed:

Repairs or Upgrades to Existing Commercial Meter Boxes

If changes and or upgrades can be made to an existing box, that is not determined to be in a deteriorating status without damaging the integrity of the box, the box does not have to be replaced. All replacements must be pre-fab concrete boxes. (Brick falling out, mortar missing, caved-in walls, missing or cracked brick, missing frame and cover, unlevelled frame and cover, walls not properly sealed water tight, walls do not have to be removed.)

Existing box and service line on vacant lot

Residential

It will be the responsibility of the contractor or developer to upgrade service line from main to meter box to 3/4" copper on residential construction.

Commercial

It will be the responsibility of the contractor or developer to upgrade service line from main to meter box to brass, copper or ductile iron steel. Cast Iron may be maintained. No galvanized or lead accepted. Valves must be operational.

Increased size of service

When increasing the size of service, the old line must be killed at the point of connection by contractor or developer.

A drawing of allowable T's was distributed and discussed. Basically there are no changes in this drawing as suggested in the December TAC meeting. There will be an

internal discussion concerning limiting the number of connections as related to the size of the main.

The following proposal for fire policy and procedures was distributed and discussed:

**MWS CSC Policy 2005-01
New Fire Service Lines**

BASIS OF CONSIDERATION:

Metro Water Services shall monitor fire services to account and collect revenue for water usage. Double detector check devices do not register usage. Two flow lines exist, but only one registers consumption; therefore, usage on this device is carefully monitored.

Policy:

There should be no consumption on this device unless there is a fire or the sprinkler system has been tested. It is the responsibility of the customer to monitor usage and notify MWS if these situations have occurred. If this information is not received, usage will be categorized as “unexplained”. Continued “unexplained” usage will require installation of full flow fire meter and appropriate Reduced Pressure Backflow Device.

The group suggested including the specifications requiring a RPBP installation when required to install full flow fire meter.

Suggestions for the March Agenda included revisiting the Backflow Inspection form and guidelines for determining hazard status during inspection. There are still problems with the carbon copies. Group asked if MWS would consider making the repairs and relocation requirements more specific on test form to allow for consistency in the customer obtaining bids for needed work.

All were reminded of the March 4 presentation and the next meeting will be scheduled for the third Wednesday in March.