



## BUILDING CODE UPDATE COMMITTEE

Minutes for April 12, 2024 Meeting

Name	Present		Means of Participation
	Yes	No	
Darrel Cross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Robert Larue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Kris Griffith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA
John Hawkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Chip Bradway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
David Cook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
James Murua	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person

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### MEETING DETAILS

**Date:** April 3, 2024

**Time:** 9:00am

**Location:** Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 18

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#### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:08am.

#### 2. Roll Call

A roll call was taken to determine member participation. A quorum was met. See above for details regarding attendees and means of participation.

#### 3. Review of February and March Minutes

Issue with the minutes going to the wrong link. No action taken on minutes this meeting. Will review all minutes at next meeting and catch up.

#### 4. Review of Code Change Proposals and Fiscal Impact

- a. **213- Definitions – Construction Documents** – Withdrawn by proponent. Shelly Wakefield will submit one for Fire and Building.

- b. **262 – 506.3.3 – Amount of Increase** – Kentucky has almost identical amendment. Less than 60, more than 40 is a three hour wall. Frontage increase used on other things than unlimited area schools. **Fiscal impact:** None, as amendment already exists. Committee unanimously **approved**.
- c. **263 – 507.5 – Two-Story Buildings** – Carried over amendment to allow schools to be unlimited area. Allows additions to be added to existing, compliant schools without separation walls. Limited hazard levels on E occupancies, sensible for size of school buildings in Indiana. Committee unanimously **approved**. **Fiscal impact:**
- d. **264 – 507.4 – Sprinklered, One-Story Buildings** – Adds E occupancies to definition, already existing amendment with no detrimental effect, allows for faster and easier construction of school buildings. Without adoption would affect nearly every school system in the state. Committee unanimously **approved**. **Fiscal Impact:** None, as amendment already exists in current code.
- e. **281 – 423.4 – Critical Emergency Operations** – Eliminates the requirement for storm shelters. Concern that government buildings are going to be unduly burdened by excessive costs of compliance for a low frequency event. Mr. Bradway notes that typical wind loads and tornado loads are quite different. Mr. Cook added that Ohio and Michigan have both deleted this provision. Potentially could allow for prefabricated storm shelter to be added to building. Mr. Hawkins suggested a phase-in rather than a complete exclusion, moving toward tornado protection. Arguments were made that emergency centers should be required due to the necessity of 911 centers and other emergency operations centers to the community, as a loss of those centers during an emergency would be an extreme event. **Fiscal Impact:** Zero, as 911 call centers and other stations are already required to be built quite robustly. **Motion:** Approve for newly constructed 911 call stations and emergency operations centers only. (Delete 'fire, rescue, ambulance, and police stations', add 'newly constructed' in front of 911). New sentence: Fire, rescue, ambulance, and police stations that voluntarily construct a storm shelter shall comply with this section and ICC 500. Committee **approved with amendments** with Mr. Larue abstaining, Mr. Cook dissenting.

Committee broke from 10:25am to 10:35am.

- f. **282 – 423.5 Group E Occupancies** – Eliminates storm shelter requirements for E occupancies. Mr. Cook believes that compliance for schools would create tremendous financial obligations for large schools. Mr. Cook questions the safety provided versus the effort and cost required to comply. Mr. Hawkins notes that the proposal is not zero fiscal impact, and the Henryville school tornado is a prime example of why compliance is necessary. Tornado hit the school after children were evacuated but the result was chaotic, as homes may not have storm shelters or even parents at home, and rebuilding the school cost \$30M, questioned whether the fiscal impact of the proposal is worth the return period over perhaps 100 years. Mr.

Cook believes that forecasting has gotten sophisticated enough that predicted casualties from tornadoes is relatively low. Mr. Hawkins counters that casualties are so low in Indiana due to pure luck. Debate was had about whether current corridor construction would withstand a tornado without the need for storm shelters. Shelly Wakefield notes that there is another school in Jasper that was struck, and that hospitals and other emergency facilities shelter in place, but we have no such requirement for children in schools. Mr. Cook believes that the protective areas that already exist in schools would suffice. Extended discussion was had on what requirements would be needed, fiscal impact, whether additional members of the community would be required to shelter, what the cost would be to built to a Category 4 risk factor, what alternatives were available. Mr. Hawkins suggested that classroom additions could also serve as storm shelters for roughly a 30 percent increase in smaller buildings, premium cost of roughly 120 dollars a square foot. Mr. Hawkins notes that this isn't a question of statistics, but a question of building resilient buildings that better withstand unforeseen circumstances and have a positive overall economic impact. **Motion:** 423.5 – All newly constructed, detached group E occupancies shall have a storm shelter constructed in accordance with ICC 500. 423.5.1 – Strike the section that says 'shall include all of the buildings on the site and'. Committee **approved**, Dave Cook dissented.

After the motion Dave Cook asked how the motion would affect Amish schools. Further research would be required to address that issue.

## 5. Other Committee Business

John Hawkins forwarded a draft fiscal impact assessment for the group that Daz forwarded for assessment.

## 6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Indiana Building Code Update Committee shall take place on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 9:00am**. The meeting will be held in the **Indiana Government Center South** in **Conference Room C**. The meeting will also be streamed live via Microsoft Teams.

Public notice and virtual/electronic meeting access details will be provided on the Committee's Web Page in advance of the meeting.

## 7. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.