

Swimming Pool Code Committee Minutes
West Wisconsin Technical College
1000 College Avenue
Mauston, WI 53948
March 10, 2011

Committee Members in Attendance:

Amy Pach, State Health Inspector, DHS Northeast Regional Office
David Sawvell, Agent Health Inspector, La Crosse County Health Department
Doug Henry, WHLA Member, Best Western Quiet House & Suites in Dodgeville
Glen Jones, Public Swimming Pool Consultant/Plan Reviewer, DOC
Jerry Chilinski, Agent Health Inspector, Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services
Jim Kaplanek, Section Chief, DHS Central Office
Laurie Diaby-Gassama, Agent Health Inspector, St. Croix County Department of Health and Human Services
Mary Ellen Bruesch, State Health Inspector, DHS Southeast Regional Office
Mike Nelson, Construction Manager, Neuman Pools Inc.
Peter Simon, Sales and Project Development, Neuman Pools Inc.
Sara Brown, Agent Health Inspector, Marathon County Health Department
Shane Sanderson, Recreational Waters Program Manager, DHS Central Office
Shane Schwingle, Lifeguard Training and Staffing Consultant, Madison Area Technical College
Susan Metko, YMCA Member, Fond du Lac Family YMCA
Terri Olivo, WPRA Member, Signicast Aquatic Center in Hartford
Tim Blanchard, WLHA Member, Marcus Corp. Grand Geneva
Tom Carrico, Swimming Pool Consultant, Carrico Aquatic Resources

Committee Members unable to attend:

Bob Wiess, WACO Member, Wilderness Campground in Montello
Steve Matzl, WHLA Member, Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells

Meeting Discussion:

The meeting began at 9:35 AM.

The Minutes from January and February were approved.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2011.

At 9:45 AM, the Committee resumed discussion from the Issues List-items carried over from last meeting.

Researching accuracy of controllers (172.14 (5)): Shane provided info from his research. Cyanuric acid does negatively affects the accuracy of controllers but the level at which this

occurs and what other confounding chemicals impact it is unknown. Shane described that this info would not support increasing CYA limit from 30 ppm. Shane learned error ranges can't be described any better than with info already available. Shane asked what the group thought about requiring ORP readers display to read in 10 mV or smaller increments. Tom Carrico and Peter Simon provided technical input and clarification about how controllers operate and display. Tom emphasized that water in the flow cell is being read in the flow cell so the sample should be taken there---Shane clarified that this practice is OK, however---the inspector still needs to take the sample from the basin.

Peter Simon will bring cut sheets from actual controllers and probes. This item will be discussed more at a future date.

Definition of Cyanuric Acid (172.14): Shane proposed language, group discussed briefly and agreed on. It was written as follows: “Cyanuric acid - means a chemical, often referred to as “stabilizer” and abbreviated as “cya”, that is commonly used in outdoor pools to reduce the loss of chlorine which is accelerated by the ultraviolet rays of the sun.”

Approved Test Kit at Each Site (172.17): Shane also proposed language to address requirement to keep a test kit at each site with a permit and it was agreed on as follows: “**DHS 172.17 Water test kits.** (1) A test kit of a type approved by the department shall be maintained *at each permitted facility* for testing the pool water pH; the disinfectant residual; the combined chlorine level, when chlorine is used; the total alkalinity; and the cyanuric acid concentration, when used.”

(172.22) Requirement of Lifeguard Staffing Plan: Shane proposed clarifying language in 172.22 to make it clear which pools will need Lifeguard Staffing Plans, guards and/or attendants. Peter Simon noted he hoped there would also be specific guidance in knowing which pools will need the plans, guards, and/or attendants. There was discussion about Lifeguard Staffing Plans, when they are required, which items are included, and how the items are worded. (Susan Metko-"Zones" vs "Placement."-(Shane Schwingle, requests clarification of staffing plan needed, add/or change language to help clarify that a pool can have more than one plan or plan that indicates and describes changes in staffing based on use). Tom Carrico advised consider flexibility in the requirement for plan if there is a certified operator.

There was discussion of impact of patron load. Shane explained relevance of knowing and posting maximum patron load. Tom Carrico pointed out that the code does not address fact that pools are always changing. Peter Simon suggested we write this in the code to make code somehow reflect fact that pool use may change from time to time.

Shane proposed modifying #6 to allow for multiple plans, accounting for changes to lifeguard placement or coverage zones, and removing #4, including first-aid station location under #6. Peter Simon asked if #5 could be re-worded to specifically address different operation, different activities and guards needed. There was more discussion about language ("programs," "activities," "coverage zones," etc.) in #5. There were no objections to the language developed, which reads as follows:

DHS 172.22 Lifeguards and attendants. (1) LIFEGUARD AND ATTENDANT STAFFING PLANS. (a) *The owner or operator of a pool required under 172.23 to have a lifeguard or attendant shall submit a written, proposed lifeguard and attendant staffing plan to the department or the department's agent for approval.* The owner or operator shall keep a copy of the plan at the pool. The plan shall include all of the following:

1. The square footage of the pool, water attraction, and water attraction complex as applicable.
2. *The maximum patron load.*
3. The hours of operation.
4. The number of lifeguards or attendants on duty pursuant to s. DHS 172.23.
5. A diagram or diagrams of the facility that indicates the placement *or coverage zones* of attendants, lifeguards, and first aid stations during all activities and feature operations. The diagram shall include each obstruction.
6. A method of communication when 2 or more attendants or lifeguards are required for a water attraction.

Pools with Climbing Walls (172.23): Shane advised there's a need for a line in the chart to cover climbing walls, so he proposed to add it. There was no objection. It reads:
"Pools with Climbing Walls
At least one lifeguard is required whenever the feature is open to the public."

There was a note to correct 172.23. There is a typo on that reads 172.32 and should read 172.23.

Zip lines could also be added so these items can be reviewed by DHS. SS proposed leaving zip lines out as they can be addressed elsewhere in the Code (as Special Circumstance).

Pools with multiple Diving Boards and Platforms: Susan Metko asked about Lifeguard requirement for this. Shane Sanderson asked for input from lifeguarding and safety representatives (Red Cross) about this. Shane advised that in the Staffing Plan, the coverage can be addressed there and overlapping zones can be allowed or not. The group discussed that this approach may be more confusing and leave too much to interpretation. Susan and Peter proposed language to address life guard requirements for multiple diving boards in the same pool, generally for competition. Shane proposed some concise language that the group did not object to that read, "At least one lifeguard for every 2 or more diving boards or platforms in the same pool."

There was discussion about diving boards and 'safe' diving wells, with input from Glen with Commerce regarding approval of boards used in shallow water (based on manufacturer specs). Shane will research to ascertain if there are boards exiting into <12 feet and how many. Peter Simon will also check into this area.

172.23--'6 foot slide requirement' (language clarification): The group discussed whether it should be 'greater than 4 feet but no more than 6 feet ('6 feet or less')(as opposed to Comm 90). Peter Simon commented clarification will help in industry. Shane described how lifeguarding need is evaluated with regard to slides and 6 foot criteria. Shane proposed language change for Table 172.23-B, to help clarify. Drops into 4 feet or more of water is of concern. Shane proposed changing language in #2 (Pool slides) and #6 (Water slides) to allow for no guarding

under 6 feet in height unless the slide terminus is obstructed. Glen indicated a concern is the rate and force at which water flows down a water slide and drops a rider into shallower water. Peter Simon described industry design practice that addressed force of water and depth of water. Glen Jones described how Comm attempted to address this. Jim K noted that it is hoped that this language will address add-on slides which may be dangerous. Shane Schwingle expressed a concern about needing guards for pool slides and water slides, not only for drowning, but because of the possibility of head and/or back and other injuries. Shane remarked that more (years) DII data is needed to help the code address these safety issues. Peter Simon expressed desire for consistency in height requirement. The group agreed on this language. Shane noted that currently the code does not address guarding requirements for Pool Slide or Drop Slide greater than 6 feet. Jim K advised consistency needs to be used to improve the table. Susan Metko provided comments and input, and concerns. Language of the Table was adjusted to group's agreement.

There was discussion about pool slide safety in general and the need for accident reporting. The group also discussed guidelines that would allow a slide to be considered 'commercial.'

Peter Simon requested specific guidance about how and where pool measurements are taken. Shane agreed to develop language for a standard of measuring slides.

172.23 'Terminus Exit' vs. 'Terminus End'-- The Wisconsin Hotel and Lodging Association had earlier requested clarification and consistency with Comm. Relevant Codes will be reviewed and the language will be clarified. Jim K researched the history of the request and thought Comm may have updated their language to now use 'Terminus.' The language in the Table was adjusted to address this earlier request. Slide terminus means the last 10 feet per DHS definitions. Shane proposed removing the definition of Slide Terminus as a way to clarify and the group agreed. Shane will update language to remove the word 'end,' where appropriate as well.

The group broke for lunch at 12:10 PM and re-convened at 1 PM.

172.23 Maximum distance between guard and area they are guarding?

The group agreed that this should not be mandated but should be considered in the Life Guard and Attendant Staffing Plan.

172.22 (c) and 23 (2) say the same thing, almost. The group discussed options for language and agreed 'warning' is not needed. The group discussed that language should be referenced in 172.22 and 172.23, but placed under the 'sign' section. Jim K reminded the group when signage is referenced it needs to be noted (elsewhere in code).

172.22 Water Attraction Certificate requirement---what is it?

Shane explained that there are additional (to Life Guarding) certifications that are needed in some circumstances, such as water parks, which is an additional course needed if Red Cross certification is used. Shane Schwingle explained that changes were to occur for Red Cross certifications to be released in August. Shane Sanderson stated he has concerns about this part of

the code, as it is not done in other states, the Red Cross courses are up in the air, and the code should contain minimum standards. Susan Metko stated there many pools not meeting this code currently. Shane Schwingle stated there is value in knowing what Red Cross would teach, and the facility should somehow accommodate this (ie spinal in waterslide situation). Susan Metko pointed out that this is not consistent across the industry. Susan and Shane Schwingle proposed to get rid of this. The main difference between Life Guard and the additional water park certification is rescues of spinal injuries in different circumstances. Susan pointed out that additional training should occur. Jim K asked if there was a way training on techniques at water attraction injuries could be incorporated into code or otherwise addressed? Shane Sanderson stated we could eliminate this. Group agreed to eliminate requirement for the special additional certification for Red Cross training (water park). Tim requested adding recommendation. Shane stated we could address this request through educational materials.

172.22 Other techniques of supervision for unguarded pools? This was a general request for ideas. The group discussed problems with supervision, liability, and the perception of supervision if there is a camera. There were no ideas about how to codify anything. Shane will research with insurance companies and review if cameras can be or need to be addressed in the code for any situations.

Subchapter III Employee Illness Reporting System: Sara Brown was wondering if this could be incorporated. Jim K advised something similar to that in the Food Code could be used and explained the restriction and exclusion used in the Food Code. Shane stated we don't have documentation of outbreaks caused by Lifeguards, but Jim K pointed out that including an employee illness section could improve awareness and education. We might want to focus on Crypto and Giardia transmission (from Lifeguards) prevention, as other pathogens would be killed by disinfectant residual. Lifeguards would need to agree to inform the employer. Shane asked who this should apply or be limited to (who is an employee) and we need to define pool employee (immersion in water, contact with patrons). Shane will propose some language. Jim suggested that our code would only require that the employee be informed.

172.20 Clarify intent of Certified Operator to cover multiple basins on the same premises. Shane said we need to discuss what is a reasonable distance and number of facilities for one qualified operator. Peter Simon proposed a day time frame for a start. The group discussed. Shane noted we may need to discuss whether we should require qualified operators for all pools in WI and noted we may eventually adopt the Model Aquatic Health Code that contains this requirement. It may be more cost-effective to have staff certified. The idea that different pools may require different levels of education was also discussed. Shane will do some research and call neighboring states.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011 at West Wisconsin Technical College in Mauston from 9:30a.m. to 2:30p.m. The address is as follows:

West Wisconsin Technical College

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Mauston, WI 53948
(608)847-7364