Meeting Notes

I. Introductions

II. Updates
- Contractor University – courses have been very popular and are filling up quickly
- Duluth Conference – there are a number of presentation on codes and a good number of the presenters are in this subcommittee
- League of MN Cities – cannot participate directly but able to help promote events etc.

III. Issue Discussion
Licensing of mechanical contractors would greatly work to reduce issues with improper ventilation issue we’ve discussed, along with alleviating other issues

At the State of the State address, state buildings officials asked why there is not a certification for mechanical contractors

The mechanical contractor community is split on whether they want a certification

Plumbers who work in Minneapolis and St Paul need two certifications - state

Non-certification options:
If manufacturers required installation by certificated contractors in order for their warranties to be valid, mechanical contractor would seek more training
If utilities only offered rebates to contractors with certification, mechanical contractor would seek more training as well

What would a certification entail: A course and an exam; Continuing education credits?
Would an exam be a deterrent for mechanical contractor community support a licensing requirement?
The hours of continuing education should live in rules rather than statute
All existing state trade licensing is overseen by DLI and it would make sense for HVAC to be under DLI as well
MNSCU would be a good option for training courses

Fresh Energy could build political support from trade groups in asking for a certification from the legislature
We would need to work on marketing language depending on a group – key concepts could include: consistency, level playing field

There was an old bill that folks were working on – Don will reach out and see where in the process they stopped

Kentucky requires HVAC licensing
Massachusetts requires certification for their stretch codes and the union uses the certification to recruit
All code changes in Wisconsin go through the legislature so they have a more dynamic code
BATC as a representative for builders would be supportive of an HVAC contractor certification

For the most part, general contractors get the blamed for problems
An HVAC contractor certification this would help determine which contractor made the error

Jeff Boumeester from Graybar – LEDs work very well with controls
Cheat sheets for inspectors has been useful
We could use a similar model for code guidance as well – especially for ventilation

Alison Lindberg from MEEA sent information about licensing in other Midwestern states
Tim Manz from Blaine also sent information about Iowa’s HVAC installers and contractors as well
licensing requirements

IV. Next Steps
Don Sivigny will call Gary from MMCA to gauge their interest in a certification for mechanical
contactors
Mike Wilson will call his contacts at MN Heating and Cooling to feel out where they stand as well
Ben Rabe will check in with Ed VonThoma from BAM
Ben Rabe will follow up with Don and Mike and set up meetings with these groups
Tim Manz will draft “Common practices” on continuous and intermittent ventilation to meet total
ventilation requirement

Attendees:
Ben Rabe, Fresh Energy
Tim Manz, City of Blaine
Paul Morin, The Energy Conservatory
Don Sivigny, Department of Labor and Industry
Pat Huelman, UMN Center for Sustainable Building Research
Joe Scharrer, City of Minneapolis
Mike Wilson, Dakota Supply Group
Ross Anderson, The Energy Network
Jeff Boumeester, Graybar
Lonney Olson, MBPA
Alison Lindberg, MEEA (phone)