

**RAC Update
January 2016**

Report from SCAC meeting on January 7, 2016

- **SEEA gave a report on the Energy Code Compliance Study –Preliminary**
 - **High level of Compliance – (also in other SE states)**
 - **Great cooperation from the residential builders**
 - **Based on current findings, expect to end project soon with no additional training component**
 - **Expect DOE to recommend that Georgia look at a new Energy Code. Tentative plans are to begin reviewing the 2015 IECC in 2016. NAHB and the Leading Builders had great influence on the 2015 code. It is more user friendly, allows trade-outs, has a HERS rating compliance path.**

- **Announced the formation of 3 Review Task Forces – will begin in late March and have recommendations to SCAC for July meeting**
 - **Swimming Pools – move from being a Permissive Code to Mandatory**
 - **Being requested by Legislature**
 - **Although not officially on the task force (just SCAC members), George McClure has been asked to be involved because he was on the last update of this code. Numerous issues – also involve Community Health**

 - **State Amendments Subcommittee – review any proposed amendments submitted to DCA by the December deadline.**
 - **Amendment list has not been published but told minor recommendations to IRC and Plumbing, rest of commercial. One proposal is about Radon guidelines that are currently permissive. Want to make sure they stay guidelines and are not mandatory. There are proposals regarding railings primarily at stadiums.**
 - **Tim Williams is on this subcommittee. We know how these “minor” issues can evolve if not closely monitored.**

 - **Solar Subcommittee – Appears to be to coordinate references in several codes and develop standard guidelines. It is not a “code” at this point but there is move at ICC to have a Permissive Code for Solar in the 2018 editions. This proposal was brought by State Fire Marshal Dwayne Garriss. It is not a fire code. Dwayne is the 1st Vice-President of the ICC (International Code Council). Georgia is becoming a leader in producing and using solar. Want to address issues now before there is conflict. Sounds positive but we are concerned because of the source.**

- **“Tiny Houses” – have become very popular – featured on HGTV and in the press. Don’t where they fall in the code(s). Some have wheels, others set on a foundation. Varying sizes. Ted Miltiades will appoint a task force in April to look into these houses and make recommendations.**

- **SFM Dwayne Garriss announced that the current State Fire Regulations are up for review. Notices were sent to a number of state agencies and inspection and code enforcement organizations. Not HBAG although Bettie is on the interested parties list. Dwayne said individuals would be receiving notices - Austin and Bettie have received the notice. Will be monitoring. No meetings have set. Looking at fire sprinkler design, installation and licensing of sprinkler installers. Reiterated that this does not affect one-and two-family dwellings.**

- **Bettie spoke to Dwayne again about the WUI code. Asked if it would be addressed or even removed during this process. Dwayne has no plans to bring up. He said “It is not a problem now, no one is asking about it – thanks to you (HBAG)”. Dwayne acknowledges that there are problems with the current WUI code. His suggestion (told Bettie before) to address all the issues with the WUI code at the national level during the ICC process which begins later this year for 2018 edition. Dwayne believes a number of issues need to be reviewed in the WUI – clarify not retroactive, severability – can just use portions not entire code, appeals process, references and guidelines when WUI says “unless approved by local official”, etc. But SFM is not planning to take out of regs at this time. Needs to have something in Georgia regulations about Wildfires to meet US Fire Regulations and grants. But he is not going to promote WUI. We do have recommendation from DCA that this code is “not right for Georgia”. His last word was “let sleeping dogs lie”. HBAG should continue to monitor closely. This is a good example to use in our efforts to change the overall code process.**

- **After the meeting, Bettie also spoke with Tom Allen, ICC Regional Representative, Ted Miltiades, Bill Duck and Windell Peters about having a centralized place here in Georgia to address and publish concerns with code interpretations and issues on a timely basis. This issue was brought by Jim Brown because of problems in the field. ICC will answer questions from members over the phone. It is a longer process to get a written answer. ICC rarely publishes any of these inquires. A few builders are ICC members but most are not. HBAG is a member. DCA is a voting member of ICC and would appear to be ideal spot to get and publish information from ICC. Ted pleaded lack of staff; said he would have to more money allocated to initiate the process. HBAG is looking into the feasibility of setting something like this up internally – cost, staff, ICC access. Bettie and Kelly will be looking into this further.**