

LOUISIANA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2026

The regular meeting of the LUCCC was called to order by Chairman, Nic LeBlanc, on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at 600 North Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Members of the Council present:

- Nic LeBlanc, Chairman
- Trent Clark, Vice Chairman
- Jason Aycock
- Juliette Cassagne
- Jay Dufour
- Fritz Embaugh
- Kenneth Jones
- Bryan Knost
- PJ Odom
- Rodney Taylor
- Charles Visser
- Michael Wich

Commission members, Jackie Dadakis, James Edwards, Andre Ford, and Pat McCormick, were absent. There being a quorum present, the regular order of business was called.

Ms. Cassagne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE JULY 7, 2026, LUCCC MEETING MINUTES

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item A. for consideration. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve and accept the minutes of the July 7, 2026, regular meeting. Mr. Embaugh seconded. The motion passed.

B. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item B. and opened the floor to Mr. Hassert, Executive Director. Mr. Hassert welcomed the commission and audience to the meeting. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item C. and opened the floor for public comment for non-agenda items. Richard Wilson came forward to discuss backflow inspections and Mr. LeBlanc asked Mr. Wilson to come forward to speak when the agenda item, D.3., is open for discussion. Rick Foster, building official for the city of Denham Springs, came forward to ask about the manufactured housing installation inspector training course. Mr. Hassert addressed Mr. Foster's questions. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

NEW BUSINESS

D. Discussion Items:

1. Engineered Patio Covers – Mr. Mike Wich

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item D.1. and opened the floor to Mr. Wich to discuss this agenda item. Mr. Wich reviewed examples of stamped engineered patio covers that were provided in the Meeting Handout and stated that patio covers designed from scratch should require a stamp from a Louisiana licensed engineer on the plans, especially for high-wind areas. Mr. Leblanc, Mr. Embaugh, and Mr. Visser provided comments for this discussion. Rodney Richard, a licensed inspector, also came forward and commented on this matter. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

2. Inspector Training for the updated Uniform Construction Code effective January 1, 2027

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item D.2. and opened the floor to Mr. Hassert. Mr. Hassert stated that he would like to hear the commission's thoughts regarding inspector training. Mr. Wich addressed the commission with the proposal of outsourcing inspector training, related to the adoption of updated construction codes, through a third party, who will provide training to inspectors, building officials and contractors. Mr. Hassert commented on Mr. Wich's proposal. Bill Pousson, building official with Baton Rouge, addressed the commission about upcoming training classes being facilitated by BOAL relating to the 2024 International Residential Code (IRC). Mr. LeBlanc commented on this matter and reminded the commission of the upcoming review of the 2027 I-codes by the commission. Nicholas Vasquez, chief building official for the city of St. George, also came forward and commented on this matter. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

3. House Concurrent Resolution 103, relative to Backflow Prevention Inspection Frequency

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item D.3. and opened the floor to the public or for a representative with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to come forward. Richard Wilson came forward to address the commission, who was speaking on behalf of Sean Cleary with the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO). Mr. Wilson addressed the commission about the importance of backflow prevention and the need for frequent inspections and maintenance of the backflow prevention system. Mr. LeBlanc read the digest portion of HCR 103, which stated "requests the La. State Uniform Construction Code Council and the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to study whether annual required inspections of backflow prevention devices, barometric loops, and air gaps are necessary or whether a less frequent testing schedule could maintain adequate safety and protection of water while reducing costs to property owners." Mr. LeBlanc stated that 2021 International Plumbing Code (IPC) currently requires annual inspections of backflow prevention devices, which is the same for language the commission adopted for the 2024 (IPC) effective on January 1, 2027. Mr. LeBlanc asked a representative of LDH to come forward to provide their comments on this matter. Mr. Taylor also commented on this matter and expressed his concerns of changing the frequency of these inspections. Stephen Joubert, P.E., with LDH, came forward and addressed the commission on this matter. Mr. Joubert also stated their position is to keep the annual inspections in place for the frequency of these inspections. Mitch LeBas, with Backflow Prevention Services, LLC, also came forward and addressed the commission on this matter. Joe Moranto, a licensed plumber, also came forward and commented on this matter. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

4. Rule 503, Private Outdoor Recreational Structures (LAC 55:VI.503)

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item D.4. and opened the floor to Mr. Hassert. Mr. Hassert expressed some concerns with the current language under Rule 503, Private Outdoor Recreational Structures, and asked the commission to consider making some changes to this language for more protective language. Mr. LeBlanc provided additional information on this matter and expressed his own concerns with the language in Rule 503. Mr. Wich also agreed with Mr. Hassert and provided comments on this matter. Mr. Knost and Ms. Cassagne also commented on this matter. Billy McShan, with Vernon Parish, came forward and addressed the commission regarding this matter. Ms. Cassagne stated that this existing rule needs drastic reorganization and amendment for clarity and suggested to the Chairman that the matter be referred to the IRC code review committee to draft amended language for this rule. Mr. LeBlanc agreed with Ms. Cassagne's suggestion. Nicholas Vasquez and Rodney Richard both came forward and provided comments on this matter. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

5. Rule 707, Continuing Education Requirements (LAC 55:VI.707)

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item D.5. and provided information on this discussion topic. Mr. LeBlanc stated that enforcing continuing education in addition to the required 60 hours of continuing education for the International Code Council (ICC) would be an unnecessary burden on licensed inspectors. Mr. Wich agreed with Mr. LeBlanc and agreed with the proposed language for the continuing education requirement relating to the Manufactured Housing Installation Inspector classification. Billy McShan came forward and addressed the commission regarding this matter. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

6. **Rule 901, Employment after January 1, 2007, relative to the Provisional F Registration (LAC 55:VI.901)**

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item D.6. and provided information on this discussion topic. Mr. Hassert commented on this matter, expressed concerns about the provisional F registrations, and suggested to the commission the possible removal of the Provisional F registration as provisional licenses or registrations are not offered with any other board or commission. Mr. Wich and Mr. Embaugh commented on this matter. Mr. LeBlanc requested staff to provide at the next commission meeting the number of provisional F registrations currently in effect. Mr. Clark also commented on this matter. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

7. **Rule 905, Grandfathering for Employment of at Least 10 Years on January 1, 2007, relative to Grandfathered Registrations (LAC 55:VI.905)**

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item D.7. and provided information on this discussion topic. Mr. LeBlanc also expressed concerns on continuing this practice of having inspectors without the required certifications being allowed to practice as a licensed inspector due to being previously grandfathered under the provisions of Rule 905. Mr. Leblanc also stated that this matter will be on the next meeting's agenda for a vote. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

8. **Rule 111, International Plumbing Code, relative to adopting proposed language (LAC 17.I.111)**

Mr. LeBlanc brought forward agenda item D.8. and provided information to the commission on this discussion topic. Mr. LeBlanc also suggested repealing the entirety of Chapter 16 relating to Travel Trailer and Mobile/Manufactured Home Parks in the IPC at the next commission meeting as mobile homes are not under the authority of the commission and that this may be an LDH matter and not a commission matter. Mr. Visser and Mr. Aycock commented on this matter. Mr. Wich commented on this matter and stated the necessity for the commission to regulate this matter relating to plumbing and sanitation in RV parks. Mr. Visser agreed with Mr. Wich and stated that there is value of having chapter 16 of IPC under the authority of the commission. Karen Benjamin with LDH came forward and addressed the commission regarding this matter. Ms. Benjamin expressed concerns that this regulation would not fall under the purview of LDH and that plumbing regulations would fall under the purview of the commission. Ms. Cassagne also provided comments regarding the proposed language and having consistent language. Mr. Wich, Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Hassert responded to Ms. Cassagne's comments. Rodney Richard came forward and provided comments on this matter. Mr. Wich made a motion to approve the adoption of the proposed language as stated in the meeting handout to amend Rule 111 for the 2021 IPC by emergency rule, and to amend Rule 111 for the 2024 IPC through the standard promulgation process. Mr. Jones seconded. After a roll call vote was held, the motion passed with 12 Yeas, 0 Nays, and 4 members were absent. With no further comments made, this matter was concluded.

Mr. Hassert asked Mr. Dufour for an update on the judicial action, the injunction against a particular building official in New Orleans. Mr. Dufour responded by stating the Legal Department for the City of New Orleans had no comment on the matter. Mr. Hassert also discussed La R.S. 37:3727(F), where the governor may remove a member of the commission for cause or at the request of the chairman for cause or for failure to attend more than half the regularly scheduled meetings within a 12-month period. Mr. Hassert stated several commission members have exceeded that and asked for guidance from the commission on how to proceed with possible replacements. Mr. LeBlanc responded to Mr. Hassert's comments regarding the commission members who have not attended the commission meetings in the past year.

No Executive Session was called.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LeBlanc called for an adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn at 11:24 a.m., and Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Nic LeBlanc, Chairman



Juliette Cassagne, Secretary