



WORLD PLUMBING COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

13 September 2024

Lyon, France

MINUTES

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Attendance

PRESENT

Executive Board and Secretariat

Chair, Dave Viola, IAPMO (USA); Deputy Chair, Kevin Wellman, Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering (CIPHE) (UK); Secretary & Treasurer, Shayne La Combre, Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC) (Australia); Directors: Tom Bigley, United Association (USA), Alberto Fossa, ABRINSTAL – Newen Energy Consulting (Brazil); Paddy Kavanaugh, Connect Trade Union (Ireland), , Jean Claude Twagirimana, Rwanda Plumbers Organization (RPO) (Rwanda) (Via Zoom), Yongxin Qin, China Construction Metal Structure Association (China); Secretariats, Gaby Davis, IAPMO (USA), Sean Kearney, IAPMO (Ireland), Elmar Esser (Germany).

Welcome

Dave Viola, Chair, welcomed all to the WPC General Meeting. He also extended a warm welcome to those in attendance online and in person in Lyon. The Chair asked those in attendance, in person and virtually, to introduce themselves.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING

The Chair sought and received confirmation that the Minutes from the meeting held on 17 October 2023, were a true and accurate record.

Moved: Alberto Fossa

Seconded: Shayne La Combre

Business Arising

The Chair invited Members to raise any matters or items of business arising from the Minutes not listed on the Agenda. No matters were raised.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dave Viola presented the Chair's Report advising:

The WPC Executive Board met three times in 2024 and worked on the following items:

- Review, update, and implement the strategic plan of the WPC.
- Update the strategic plan which will be available on the WPC website.

- Took inventory of all of the functions of the World Plumbing Council looking for opportunities to be more impactful, collaborative, and inclusive.
- Reviewed documents that were published, such as:
 - Health Aspects of Plumbing (2006) which was jointly produced with the WHO,
 - Environmental Aspects of Plumbing (2010),
 - World Plumbing Day (2010), and supporting resources, and
 - Scholarship Program.
 - Established several Working Groups to begin working on the opportunities identified during the process.
 - Examined our strategic partnerships with organizations such as the World Health Organization, WorldSkills International, Messe Frankfurt
- Plumbing Champions is a program from the World Plumbing Council and the International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Foundation (IWSH). It is utilized at high-profile industry events such as WorldSkills, World Plumbing Conference, and ISH Frankfurt to showcase skills through programs that:
 - Deliver social impact projects in underserved communities,
 - Illustrate the importance of plumbing by bringing together the best young plumbers from around the world,
 - Demonstrating best practices,
 - Collaborating with WPC and IWSH partners and members.
- World Plumbing Day: The most important day for our industry, March 11 is a celebration of the important role that plumbing plays in health and safety in modern society. For 2025, the World Plumbing Council wants to develop a theme to be announced at the General Membership Meeting on 13 September while in Lyon, France, at the WorldSkills International competition. As part of the plan for 2025, the organization would like to:
 - Consider how best to enhance the status of World Plumbing Day,
 - Propose methods to promote World Plumbing Day at ISH 2025,
 - Propose a theme for 2024; possible toolkit (online resources, primary school presentation slides, etc.),
 - Consider how members will contribute through video recordings.

The goal is to raise awareness about the vital role plumbing plays in promoting public health, environmental sustainability, and economic prosperity. The campaign will work to more closely connect the World Plumbing Council brand to this conversation that keeps people and communities safe. Along with the theme, develop resources that that can be used by members, partners, and the industry and to amplify the Scholarship Program.
- The WPC Scholarship Program is for individuals actively involved in their local plumbing industry, particularly in education and training and are intended to provide the opportunity for an educational exchange between plumbing industry participants from different countries.
 - Education and Training Scholarship is for applicants from developed countries,
 - Education and Training Scholarship is for applicants from developing or least developed countries,
 - United Association Instructor Training Program Scholarship is for Trainers, Teachers or Instructors from developing or least developed countries.
- Global Lead Pledge & Partnership Expansion: The WPC supports the Global Lead Pledge, contributing to the significant expansion of partnerships, now encompassing over 50

organizations committed to addressing lead leaching into drinking water globally. This past year the G7 and G20 included statements about addressing lead across all sources, including drinking water. At the UN General Assembly, the US Government is launching a new Partnership for a Lead-Free Future to galvanize action on lead dangers from all sources.

- International Standardization Efforts: The WPC is working with countries to identify gaps and to update and harmonize standards related to plumbing systems. This will help to ensure safer environments, more effective use of water resources, and improved public health outcomes worldwide. Convening public and private stakeholders, it will further work to develop a road map for policymakers identifying key issues, barriers and opportunities that will help to formalize and differentiate the product markets for this sector.
- Global Hand Pump Standardization: The WPC is supporting efforts to develop a new global standard for hand pumps to help deliver reliable access to clean water in communities across the world. Approximately 200 million people in Africa alone rely on Handpumps as their primary source of water. Lacking an effective standard, these products are perennially challenged by performance and material safety issues.
- APEC and Water Summit Initiatives: The WPC successfully hosted a one-day summit on water in conjunction with APEC in Seattle. The summit brought together many of our global partners to address critical issues related to water management, conservation, and technology. Korea, the host of next year's APEC, has recognized the impact of our efforts and requested that we expand this initiative into a two-day water summit.
- The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) is placing an increased focus on water issues and specifically plumbing. They have been introduced to many of our industry's issues through regular engagement with USAID and the efforts on international standardization of drinking water contaminants.
 - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is investing significant resources into drinking water and sanitation, and are attempting to place mechanisms in place for how to update plumbing systems and the proper disposal of contaminated plumbing system components. ADB has been a supporter of the APEC efforts and is involved now in the planning of next year's summit to be held in Korea.
- The next WPC General in-person meeting is scheduled for March 2025 and will be held in conjunction with the ISH trade fair in Frankfurt, Germany. The trade show is scheduled from March 13 – 17, 2025. The WPC will host a General Meeting on March 15. The details will be posted on the WPC website. The next Plumbing Champions project will be presented at ISH 2025 in collaboration with IWSH and IAPMO.
- The WPC newsletter continues to be published quarterly. We count on all of our members to share news for inclusion in the newsletter. We have criteria we follow to publish articles that have been posted on the WPC website. This will help our members understand our screening process when considering which articles to publish.

4. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

- 4.1** All the financials were provided in advance and approved by the Executive Board. Secretary/Treasurer Shayne La Combre provided an update on the financial statements prepared by Ferax Treuhand AG.

The Chair proposed the Resolution to accept the financial report.

Moved: Kevin Wellman

Seconded: Alberto Fossa

- 4.2** Secretary/Treasurer Shayne La Combte provided an update on the financial statements for the year-to-date report for 2024 prepared by Ferax Treuhand AG.

The Chair proposed the Resolution to accept the financial report.

Moved: Paddy Kavanaugh

Seconded: Tom Bigley

5. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

- 5.1** **World Plumbing Day:** Nora DePalma with Dialogue provided an update on the theme selected for 2025 World Plumbing Day. See attached [slides](#).

- 5.2** **Language Barriers:** Alberto Fossa advised that we are working towards sharing certain documents, and material in various languages. This WG will continue to meet and introduce our materials translated into certain languages. This WG is also addressing the definition of “plumbing” and how it translates in multiple nations.

- 5.3** **Membership:** Tom Bigley provided a report on proposed new membership categories:

- Manufacturer member category at US\$2,000 (non-voting). This is defined as members who are companies involved in the production of products intended for the plumbing industry and which support the objectives of the WPC.
- Complimentary membership, which is not a new category of member but, rather, something approved by the Chair and Executive Board.
- Honorary membership which is defined as members who are organizations, companies, or natural persons related to the plumbing industry who are appointed as Honorary members by decision of the Executive Board and who have no vote at WPC General Meetings.
- Sponsorship program, this is a work in progress to be introduced in 2025.

All of these will come to the membership as proposed amendments to the by-laws at the next General Member Meeting.

- 5.4** **Objective 5 of Strategic Plan:** Shayne La Combte highlighted the edits made to recognize global issues such as sustainability and energy as a result of climate change. Recent edits will be posted online on the WPC website.

- 5.5** **Scholarship:** Tom Bigley noted that two of the three 2023 scholarship recipients have completed their scholarship trips. One will be extended to 2025 as a result of travel documentation delays.

- 5.6** **Awards and Recognitions:** Shayne La Combte provided an overview of the document shared with the members regarding the new awards and recognition scheme. There will now be three levels of awards:

- Merit Award
- Excellence Award
- Distinguished Service Award (existing)

A committee was developed to implement and announce this new program. Additional information will be provided at the next General Meeting.

- 5.7** **Health Aspects of Plumbing:** Dave Viola advised that the WG will be working with the World Health Organization on new methods to update this publication. Rather than an

entirely new publication this will be updated by topic or module and made available in conjunction with the WHO technical team.

- 5.8 Education and Training:** Paddy Kavanaugh advised that the WG is in the process of developing a program wherein the WPC could recognize, in some capacity, education programs, courses, or curricula for WPC members. This would give the WPC member the opportunity to add credibility to their program and to their program participants. Once available, we will share this with the membership.

6. PLUMBING CHAMPIONS AT WORLDSKILLS LYON 2024

Sean Kearney, IWSH Managing Director and WPC co-secretariat, introduced Pascale Duhan Porvian from BTP-CFA Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. Pascale provided an overview of the BTP-CFA training program and campuses. WPC and IWSH are working with this facility on a toilet room renovation project, utilizing the materials from the WorldSkills competition this week. The project is anticipated to be completed in October or November 2024.

ACTION ITEM: The Secretariat will share [slides](#) with members.

7. SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The WPC Board welcomed Chris Humphries, President of WorldSkills International, and David Hoey, CEO of WorldSkills International. Chair Dave Viola joined them both in signing a new Memorandum of Understanding.

WPC Medallions were presented to Pascale, Timo, Chris, and David Hoey

8. WPC/ISH

Stefan Seitz shared a presentation on the ISH trade fair in Frankfurt.

Presidents and Directors of WPC member associations will be offered Messe Frankfurt Business Club access which includes:

- Free admission on all days of the fair
- Free use of the car park near the trade fair and the public transportation system
- Access to Messe Frankfurt Business Club lounges (incl. catering, fast WLAN, cloakroom and concierge services)
- Special conditions with MF hotel partner Hilton Frankfurt City Centre

Peter Thoma announced that the WPC will work with Innung SHK Frankfurt on another project at ISH in March 2025. Young plumbers from around the world will collaborate on a social project, similar to the 2023 project held following ISH at the community sports center.

In 2025, we will install new bathroom facilities in a former public shelter where nowadays music groups practice. Over 1,000 artists and musicians use the space regularly. The restroom facilities will be installed here.

9. WPC/WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Sean Kearney and Grant Stewart presented a report on the WASH project in Manila.

WPC worked with the World Health Organization, Philippines Society of Sanitary Engineers (PSSE), National Master Plumbers' Association of the Philippines (NAMPAP), IWSH and IAPMO. See attached [slides](#).

10. WPC/WORLDSKILLS AFRICA

Sean Kearney explained the difficulty in our WPC members from African nations getting a visa to travel to WPC meetings and events. WorldSkills teams are doing what they can to support African teams who will need to travel in the future. Zambia will host the next WorldSkills Africa competition. They will need resources for the competition and invite support from the industry to accomplish this. As we are doing this week at WorldSkills Lyon, the Zambia plumbing materials can be carried forward to a social impact project in the local community.

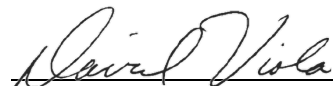
11. WORLD PLUMBING CONFERENCE 2026

Kevin Wellman provided a report on the planning of the 2026 conference. The conference will be held in Birmingham, England from June 23 – 25, 2026. See attached [slides](#).


12. CLOSE OF WPC GENERAL SESSION

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the business session.

Signed:



Dave Viola
Chair



Gaby Davis
Meeting Secretary