



**WORLD PLUMBING COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING
18 March 2025
Frankfurt, Germany**

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); BSA Narayan, Indian Plumbing Association (India) (Via Zoom); Jean Claude Twagirimana, Rwanda Plumbers Organization (RPO) (Rwanda) (Via Zoom), Yongxin Qin, China Construction Metal Structure Association (China); Secretariats, Gaby Davis, IAPMO (USA), Leticia Gallegos, 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 Frankfurt. The Chair asked those in attendance, in person and virtually, to introduce themselves.

2. GREETINGS MESSE FRANKFURT – JOHANNES MÖLLER, GROUP SHOW DIRECTOR TECHNICAL FAIRS

Mr. Moller welcomed the WPC general meeting attendees to ISH 2025 and gave some background on the show. Chair Dave Viola invited all attendees to the Memorandum of Understanding signing between Messe Frankfurt and the World Plumbing Council to be held on Tuesday, 18 March 2025, at the WPC booth.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING

The Chair sought and received confirmation that the Minutes from the meeting held on 13 September 2024, were a true and accurate record.

Moved: Tom Bigley

Seconded: Alberto Fossa

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.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 4.1 Chair Viola shared [slides](#) and a brief update on the World Plumbing Day celebrations that happened globally.
- 4.2 WPC and WorldSkills International renewed our collaborative partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding at WorldSkills Lyon in September 2024. WPC remains a supporter of the WorldSkills competitions which focus on vocational education and training, highlighting the importance of the skilled workforce.
- 4.3 Chair Viola reported on the WPC relationship with WHO. The Secretariat team will meet with WHO staff in the coming months. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

5. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

- 5.1 The 31 December 2024 WPC Financial report was provided in advance and approved by the Executive Board. Secretary/Treasurer Shayne La Combre provided an update on the WPC Finance Reports dated 31 December 2024 prepared by Ferax Treuhand AG.

The Chair proposed the Resolution to accept the financial report.

Moved: Alberto Fossa

Seconded: Tom Bigley

- 5.2 The 31 January 2025 WPC Financial report was provided in advance and approved by the Executive Board. Secretary/Treasurer Shayne La Combre provided an update on the WPC Finance Reports dated 31 January 2025 prepared by Ferax Treuhand AG.

The Chair proposed the Resolution to accept the financial report.

Moved: Tom Bigley

Seconded: Gurmit Singh

6. WPC/ISH: Plumbing Champions Presentation; Sean Kearney

Sean Kearney shared [slides](#) and a brief update on the WPC/ISH: Plumbing Champions.

7. WORKING GROUP UPDATES. The Chair invited the leads of the following Working Groups to provide an update to the attendees.

- 7.1 **Language Barriers:** Alberto Fossa advised that we are working towards sharing certain documents and materials 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.

- 7.3 **Membership:** Tom Bigley reported that the 2024 members are up by 16%. He challenged all WPC members to recruit at least one new member. Additional categories will be added, which will be discussed under item 8.

- 7.4 **Scholarship:** Tom Bigley shared [slides](#) and announced the three winners of the 2024 scholarships.

- 7.6 **World Plumbing Day:** Chair Dave Viola reported on this item in the Chair's report.

- 7.7 **Awards and Recognitions:** Shayne La Combre shared [slides](#) and an update on the WPC's 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.

Deputy Chair Kevin Wellman gave some background on Geoffrey Marsh, past Chair of the WPC, who recently passed. The Executive Board renamed the Distinguished Service Award as the Geoffrey Marsh Distinguished Service Award.

7.7 Health Aspects of Plumbing: Chair Dave Viola reported on this item in the Chair's report.

7.8 Education and Training: Gaby Davis provided an update on behalf of Paddy Kavanaugh. This working group was established as a result of members asking for WPC support of their own education and training programs. The WG is working with technical experts to develop guidelines and a process to enable member organizations to seek WPC recognition of some kind.

8. BY-LAWS AND POLICY CHANGES

Elmar Esser reviewed the proposed edits to the by-laws. Proposed edits were previously shared with the membership in advance of the meeting. See the attachment to these minutes.

Following the review, members were asked to vote (one vote per country), details follow:

- Australia: approved
- Brazil: approved
- China: approved
- India: approved
- United Kingdom: approved
- United States of America: approved

The proposed by-law amendments were approved unanimously.

The Chair confirmed the presence of a quorum for the decision on the adoption of the by-laws amendments.

9. WPC / WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Engr. Bonifacio "Boni" B. Magtibay, PhD, Technical Officer, Environmental/Occupational Health, WHO-Philippines, presented [slides](#) on the Plumbing for Health Project in the Philippines.

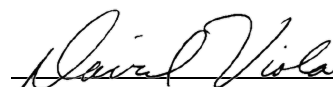
10. REPORT ON CURRENT MARKET DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY.

Jens Wischmann, CEO, German Sanitary Industry Association and Buildings and Energy Association, presented [slides](#) on the current market developments in Germany.

11. 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