

## Glass Mat Gypsum Sheathing in Residential Construction (GMGSRC) Task Group (TG)

### MEETING NOTES

5/8/2023

The GMGSRC TG came to order a little after 11 a.m. In attendance were TG members Mitch Schittler, CertainTeed Gypsum, Inc., Bill Fraser, PABCO Gypsum, Jay Watt, National Gypsum Company, Matt Gallagher, National Gypsum Company, Barry Reid, Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC, Kyle Flondor, United States Gypsum Company, and Kara Bosnic, United States Gypsum Company. Michael Gardner, M Gardner Services, and GA staff Susan Hines, Michael Schmeida, Steve Meima, and Greg Woolley were on the call. Outside counsel John Fedele, Baker McKenzie, was in attendance throughout the call.

The first topic of conversation was the recently completed Home Innovations Research Labs survey of residential builders probing their awareness and use of glass mat gypsum sheathing. The TG agreed that the survey results confirm some previous research findings, namely that awareness of the product is lacking among a large percentage of builders and that builders need instructions detailing how to build with glass mat gypsum sheathing. Additionally, it appears that builders heavily rely on sales reps when considering the use of new products.

Steve Meima described his experience at the Exterior Insulation Manufacturers Association (EIMA) Annual Meeting in April, noting that interest in moving into the residential sector remains; however, the industry continues to suffer fallout from the failure of numerous EIFs homes in the 1990s. Although those issues have long been addressed and overcome by EIFs builders they continue to face obstacles, including difficulty securing insurance coverage, based on what happened 30 years ago. He also noted that residential EIFs is very popular in Europe.

Michael Gardner updated the TG on his work developing a document to instruct residential builders interested in using glass mat gypsum sheathing. He noted that the consulting structural engineer assigned to provide the technical building requirements is concerned about the strength values of gypsum sheathing. It appears likely that supplementary materials will be needed to provide additional strength. Gardner is confident that a solution will emerge and will work with the engineer to determine what that solution will be.

Within the next few weeks, staff will distribute Gardner's draft document for review by the TG. He considers it to be a "strawman" version that will be vetted numerous times prior to finalizing. The expectation is that this document will be the topic of the next TG call. At the request of a TG member, the meeting is being moved from June 12 to June 13. The call will take place at the usual time of 11 a.m. (ET).