

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

### MEETING NOTES

7/10/2023

The GMGSRC TG came to order a little after 11 a.m. In attendance were TG members Bill Fraser, PABCO Gypsum, Jay Watt, National Gypsum Company, Matt Gallagher, National Gypsum Company, Barry Reid, Consultant, Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC, Kyle Flondor, United States Gypsum Company, and Kara Bosnic, United States Gypsum Company. Christian Chinsio dialed in to represent CertainTeed Gypsum, Inc., as Mitch Schittler was on vacation. Michael Gardner, M Gardner Services, Jessica Stratton, Linton Engineering, 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 call focused on baseline preliminary drawings prepared by Jessica Stratton showing how an IRC compliant one- or two-story home could be constructed using double-sided gypsum walls comprised of glass mat gypsum exterior sheathing and gypsum wallboard. Stratton explained that a single-story residence could rely strictly on exterior walls for shear strength in conditions governed by Exposure category B, and Seismic Design Category: A-C. Much of the country—but not all—falls within these parameters. A two-story residence could be achieved by providing additional bracing in the form of strategically placed partition walls. Use of a hipped roof facilitates the design, although it was noted by a TG member that hipped roofs are not commonly used by residential builders because they are more difficult to construct.

M. Gardner and J. Stratton addressed additional questions that revealed:

- The design demonstrates both possibilities and the limitation of gypsum-based walls.
- The design assumes horizontal joints are blocked.
- The possibilities for openings are infinite as long as basic prescriptive IRC requirements are met.
- Significant design flexibility exists even within the IRC requirements.

A task group member noted that it would be interesting to see what the design possibilities would be if additional bracing or strapping were applied to the exterior wall design.

It was suggested that a marketing strategy brainstorming and planning session take place during the Fall 2023 GA Meeting in Austin, Texas, preceded by one or two virtual sessions leading up to the Fall 2023 committee week. This concept was endorsed by the majority of TG members. S. Meima shared research into marketing firms generally and specifically BLD Marketing which was highlighted on the last call and comes recommended by others in the building space. The idea is that such a firm could eventually become involved in the project to provide strategic and creative guidance.