

**Board of Electricity
Draft Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Minnesota Room – Department of Labor & Industry
443 Lafayette Road No, St Paul 55155
DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US**

Members Present:

Douglas Fingerson
James Freichels
William Hoskins
Kim Huxford
Daniel Klein
Timothy R Malooly
John McConnell
John Schultz (DLI Commissioner's Designee)
Jeffrey Slimmer
Joe Vespa

Members Absent:

Anthony Toft
Thomas Seanger

Staff Present:

Bill Bierman
Sandy Arndt
Sharon Sokol

Visitors:

Scott Nutting
Gary Thaden
Dan McConnell
Brian Winkelaar
Tony Maghrak
[John Ploetz](#)

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vespa at 9:27 a.m. and role was taken.

- A. Role Call
- B. Announcements

Schultz reported on the appointments of commissioner, deputy commissioner and assistant commissioners.

Governor Dayton has appointed Ken Peterson as Commissioner of the Department of Labor & Industry. Commissioner Peterson was the commissioner of the Department in 1988 – 1991 and has also served the as Deputy Commissioner of Mn. Public Service Department. His most recent public service was in Mn. Attorney General's office where he was Deputy Attorney General of Government Operations.

Commissioner Peterson has made the following appointments:

Kris Eiden, Deputy Commissioner. Ms. Eiden served as Chief Deputy Attorney General in the Mn. Attorney General's Office from 2003 to 2007 and Deputy Attorney General for four years prior to that.

Jessica Looman, Assistant Commissioner for the Construction Codes and Licensing Division and the Apprenticeship and Labor Standards units. Ms. Looman has served as General Counsel of the Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota for the past 10 yrs.

Gary Hall, Assistant Commissioner for the Safety & Workers' Compensation Division. Mr. Hall was previously an Assistant Commissioner with the Department and has been a worker's compensation judge and the Office of Administrative Hearings.

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Freichels and seconded by Fingerson to approve the meeting agenda. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by McConnell and seconded by Freichels to accept the previous Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

IV. Regular Business

- A. Expense Approval
 - i. A motion was made by McConnell and seconded by Freichels to approve Expense Reports and Per Diems. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.
- B. Enforcement
 - Nothing for Enforcement

V. Special Business

- A. Reciprocal Agreement(s)
 - i. Schultz referred to the draft agreements that have been drafted for each of the states the board agreed to extend an agreement to. The agreement language is generally the same in all the agreements with the only difference being the references that relate to the individual states. The states include Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and Nebraska at the journeyman level and South Dakota and Iowa at both the journeyman and master level. The language is in the same format as in the existing master electrician agreements with North Dakota and Nebraska. They have been reviewed and approved by legal council.

Schultz reported that a reciprocal agreement document was received from Colorado and is open for review and discussion.

Motion made by Malooly, seconded by Hoskins that the board approve the Reciprocity Agreement language and format as presented, not including Colorado, and forward to respective States for review and approval. If there are changes, bring back to board for approval.

McConnell Abstains, Motion passed.

Motion by Freichels, seconded by Malooly to approve a reciprocal agreement for the journeyman electrician with Colorado.

Schultz moved an amendment to approve the agreement using Minnesota's agreement template.
The amendment was accepted and the motion passed.

B. 2011 National Electric Code

- i Gary Thaden representing the National Electrical Contractors Association stated that the effective date of the 2011 NEC should be July 1st for a number of reasons, including the training on the new code that has been ongoing since last fall, the fact that historically the effective date has been July 1st of the edition year and contractors and engineers have come to expect this effective date as they design and bid jobs. Additionally, the deadline for proposing changes for the 2014 NEC is November 4th, 2011 and if the effective date is after the deadline, industry professionals will have limited practical experience working with the 2011 edition and limited opportunity to submit proposals for the 2014 NEC.

Motion by Freichels, seconded by Malooly to have the effective date of the 2011 NEC to be July 1st 2011 or 5 days after the notice of adoption to the State Register, which ever date is later.
Motion is passed.

Legal counsel Bill Bierman presented a draft Resolution to Authorize Chair Vespa to sign the Board's Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules and authorizing Vespa to be the Board's representative if a hearing would occur.

Huxford made a motion to adopt the resolution and Fingerson seconded.
Motion Passed.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Construction Codes Advisory Council – McConnell (Appointed to replace Seanger)

William Hokins – Alternate

C. Legislative Update – John Schultz

- i. The department will be seeking repeal of the \$1.515M transfer from the CCLD special revenue fund to the State's general fund. If this effort is unsuccessful, the department will seek extension of the minimum \$5 surcharge on fixed fee permits. In addition, the department will be seeking an inspection fee increase for electrical, elevator and plumbing inspection. The department's proposal will also include a reduction in plumbing plan review fees. Other initiatives are also being discussed, but will not have any effect on electrical licensing or inspection.

VII. Complaints

No report

VIII. Open Forum

Scott Nutting representing the Contract Electrical Inspector Association (CEIA) expressed concern that enforcement of electrical licensing and inspection laws is down due to lack of funding and that work being done by unlicensed individuals throughout the state affects public safety.

Gary Thaden representing Minnesota Contractors of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) stated that there has been positive feedback on recent rule for continuing education for the unlicensed people. Attendees have commented that they have found the education helpful.

IX. Board Discussion

Member Slimmer commented that the two-day code update continuing education held at the University of Minnesota on January 5th and 6th was very good.

X. Announcements

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- i. Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- ii. Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

iii. Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Freichels, seconded by McConnell, to adjourn.
The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.
Board adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Toft

Anthony Toft

Draft