

**Board of Electricity
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Minnesota Room – Department of Labor & Industry
443 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155
dli.cclboards@state.mn.us**

Members Present

Joe Vespa, Chair
Douglas Fingerson
James Freichels
William Hoskins
Kim Huxford
Timothy R. Malooly
John McConnell
Jeffrey Slimmer
Andy Toft
Daniel Klein

Staff Present

Bill Bierman
Karen Reiter

Members Absent

None

Visitors

David Fisch
Dan McConnell
Tony Maghrak
Jim Nimlos
Scott Nutting
Brian Winkelaar
John Ploetz
Phil Raines
Gary Thaden
Kevin Williams
John Schultz

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vespa at 9:08 a.m.

A. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken.

B. Announcements

Schultz announced that Jessica Looman, Assistant Commissioner for the Construction Codes and Licensing Division and the Apprenticeship and Labor Standards units is in attendance at this meeting.

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion was made by Freichels and seconded by Slimmer to accept meeting agenda as written. All voted in favor and motion passed.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Freichels and seconded by Fingerson to accept previous meeting Minutes with the following change: Identify Willy Hoskins as the acting secretary in Andy Toft's absence. Motion to accept Minutes with this change passed unanimously.

IV. Regular Business

A. Expense Approval

Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Hoskins to approve per diems and expenses. Voting was unanimous and motion passed.

B. Enforcement

Nothing for Enforcement.

V. Special Business

A. Reciprocal Agreements

1. Schultz presented the Minnesota/Iowa Journeyman Electrician reciprocal agreement Iowa has submitted for Board approval. Iowa has amended the agreement Minnesota forwarded for their consideration. Schultz has compared the language of both agreements and provided a point-by-point comparison to the board. Based on the comparison, Schultz believes Iowa's language to be equivalent to that in the agreement Minnesota provided and suggested approving the agreement. Motion was made by Klein and seconded by Slimmer to accept the Journeyman agreement between Iowa and Minnesota. Discussion ensued and motion unanimously passed

Schultz presented the Minnesota/Iowa Master Electrician reciprocal Iowa has submitted to the Board for approval. Iowa has amended the agreement Minnesota forwarded for their consideration. Schultz has compared the language of both agreements and provided a point-by-point comparison to the board. Based on the comparison, Schultz believes Iowa's language to be equivalent to that in the agreement Minnesota provided and suggested approving the agreement. Motion was made by Fingerson and seconded by Hoskins to accept the Master agreement between Iowa and Minnesota. Voting was unanimous and motion passed.

Schultz reported we received signed agreements from ND, SD, NE, AK and WY at the Journeyman level and SD at the Master level using the format as we presented it to them. Schultz recommends these agreements be approved for final signage. Motion was made by Freichels and seconded by Hoskins to approve these agreements to allow signature. Voting was unanimous and motion passed.

2. Schultz reported that the department received an unsolicited agreement from Texas in a format different than the board's typical agreement. Schultz identified the differences between the Texas and Minnesota licensing and inspection programs. The Texas agreement has not been compared to Minnesota's typical agreement language. Motion was made by Freichels to send our agreement to Texas and see if they approve our language. Seconded by Toft. Discussion ensued (Brian Winkelaar IEW 110 St. Paul) and Toft rescinded his second to the motion. The motion subsequently died for lack of a second.

3. Status of Other Agreements

Schultz asked the Board if they want to entertain agreements with any other states.

CO – At its January meeting, the board moved to enter into an agreement with Colorado and forwarded them an agreement that included Minnesota's typical language for their consideration. To date there has been no response from Colorado.

MT – At its October meeting, the board moved to extend an agreement to Montana. Although there has been indication that they will enter into the agreement, to date a signed agreement has not been received.

NH, ME, NM, OK, AR, and UT are other states with whom we have agreements through the MultiState agreement. The board should determine if it will extend an agreement to these states under the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) or notify these states that it is rescinding reciprocity under the MultiState agreement. Although Idaho withdrew from the MultiState agreement, the board could also consider extending them an agreement.

Motion made by Schultz and seconded by Klein that MN notify all states of the MultiState agreement, save for CO and MT, that Minnesota will not enter into a new agreement and will no longer recognize the MultiState reciprocal agreement. Voting was unanimous and motion passed.

B. 2011 National Electric Code

The dual notice will be published Monday, April 18, 2011 and will allow individuals to request a hearing. Unless there is a hearing, the effective date of NEC will be July 1, 2011. If 25 or more requests for a hearing are received, it will be held on June 1, 2011. The department is not aware of any opposition to adopting the 2011 NEC.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Construction Codes Advisory Council – Report by McConnell

McConnell attended the meeting. There will be changes to the building code. They are in the process of looking at the building code and seeing how it should be changed. McConnell asked if anybody has any problems with how the Building Code & Electrical Code fit, this would be the time to bring it up. No problems reported.

B. Legislative Update

Schultz reported that there is not a lot of legislation proposed that will affect the electrical industry. Senate File 887, which is a budget bill, does extend the \$5 surcharge on fixed fee permits. This is the change that will have the most impact on CCLD.

There are some licensing provisions that are basically clean-up. Also some related to an umbrella Continuing Ed program that applied primarily to residential building contractors will now apply more universally.

When changes were worked on, they tried to make sure that none of the provisions of the various boards were negatively impacted, but had some benefit to them for the various programs. Last fall there was discussion on increasing inspection fees. That did not make the final cut and is not going to take place. From a budget standpoint, extension of the \$5 surcharge is in the bill, which is currently in Conference Committee.

Schultz also reported that the two electrical area representatives who were assigned to inspections have been reassigned back to their area representative duties. The department is also in the process of filling the open electrical area representative position in SE MN and will be back to full complement within a month or so.

The department has also discontinued inspections of selected projects by electrical area representatives.

Inspection revenue through end of March 2011 was \$6,385,806, which is a 1% change from last year, which means we are holding strong. Significant CCLD revenue source is from the overall surcharge on permits – not only CCLD permits, but also permits municipalities issue. 2011 total surcharge amounts will eclipse the 2009 amount. It should be around \$3 million -- \$600,000 above 2010, so although still relatively flat, is not going in the other direction.

Schultz reported that one new investigator has been hired and will primarily be working on electrical investigations.

VII. Complaints

Nothing for Complaints.

VIII. Open Forum

Nothing for Open Forum.

IX. Board Discussion

Nothing for Board Discussion.

X. Announcements

A. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

1. Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Election of officers will be held – MN Room, DLI
2. Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. – MN Room, DLI

C. Adjournment

Motion was made by Hoskins and seconded by Klein to adjourn. Vote was unanimous and motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.