

**Board of Electricity  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 12, 2010  
Minnesota Room – Department of Labor & Industry  
443 Lafayette Road No, St Paul 55155  
[DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US](mailto:DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US)**

**Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Bill Bierman  
John Schultz  
Kevin Wilkins  
Colleen Chirhart

**Visitors:**

Gary Thaden  
John Ploetz  
Scott Nutting  
Tony Maghrak  
Bill Heaney  
Phil Rainer  
Jim Nimlos

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vespa at 9:01 a.m. and role was taken.

**II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Schultz asked the Board if agenda item V. C. could be moved from third to first. A motion was made by Friechels and seconded by Fingerson to approve the meeting agenda with the change. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

**III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Seanger and seconded by Klein 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 Fingerson and seconded by Friechels to approve Expense Reports and Per Diems. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

##### B. Enforcement

- i. No to update.

#### **V. Special Business**

##### C. 2011 National Electric Code

Colleen Chirhart reported the Electrical Board's Request for Comments was published in the State Register on September 7th. The department must wait at least 60 days before the Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules can be published. To date, the department hasn't received any comments. Chirhart suggested the Board have their rule adoption documents prepared. The Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) will be written by Chirhart and Bill Bierman and sent to Chair Vespa for approval and signature.

##### A. Proposed Inspection Fee Adjustments – Tom Joachim

Schultz filled in for Joachim, who was unable to make the meeting. Schultz referred to the handout "Permitting, Plan Review and Inspection Activities" which was prepared by the department. This document explains how the department is working toward a fee for service model. Schultz reminded the board of all the money that has been transferred out from CCLD's special revenue fund to the general fund. Schultz also stated that if there is an increase in fees, it would likely become effective July 1, 2011.

##### B. Reciprocal Agreement(s)

- i. Update on MN State Master Reciprocity Agreement (with SD)
- ii. Update on South Dakota's ICC exam
- iii. Update on Multi State Reciprocity Agreement

Schultz provided a copy of the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) bylaws and a matrix that identifies states that member states have identified interest in entering into reciprocal agreements with to assist the Board while considering the following motions.

- A motion was made by Friechels, seconded by Hoskins, to enter into reciprocal agreements with Alaska, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming at the Class A Journeyman level. The motion was amended by Toft, seconded by McConnell, to have the formalized agreements brought back to the Board for final approval. The vote on the amendment was unanimous and the motion passed. The vote on the motion was unanimous and the motion passed.

- A motion was made by Seanger, seconded by Freichels, to have separate reciprocal agreements for each license classification. The vote on the motion was unanimous and the motion passed.

- A motion was made by Seanger, seconded by Hoskins, to enter into a reciprocal agreement with Iowa at the Class A Master level. The agreement shall be brought back to the Board for final approval. The vote on the motion was unanimous and the motion passed.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### A. Construction Codes Advisory Council – Tom Seanger

Hoskins attended the meeting in Seanger's place. Hoskins stated Schultz had already spoke about everything that was discussed at the CCAC meeting.

Schultz mentioned Seanger is retiring and the Board will be looking for a replacement for the Board CCAC member . Schultz also mentioned the following terms will be expiring at the end of this year: Freichels, Hoskins, Huxford, McConnel and Toft. Schultz also identified that if members whose terms are expiring want to be reappointed, they must submit an application. Schultz also identified that members whose terms are expiring may continue to serve until replacement appointments are made.

### B. Legislative Update – John Schultz

No legislative update.

## **VII. Complaints**

No complaints were brought to the board.

## **VIII. Open Forum**

Thaden voiced a concern from the electrical industry that additional revenue that would be collected from the increase of fees would be taken by the legislature.

Ploetz was wondering if there is a way for the electrical industry to be notified of form changes, policy changes, etc?

Schultz stated the best way for the electrical industry to stay informed is to sign up for the newsletter and check the department's website on a regular basis.

Ploetz asked who the electrical industry should contact regarding any inconsistency in the charging of electrical inspection fees.

Schultz suggested they should discuss this with John Williamson, the Chief Electrical Inspector.

## **IX. Board Discussion**

Wilkins responded to a request to provide information regarding licensing. He distributed documents to the Board which listed the current totals of the different classes of licenses as well as a report on license examinations. He also explained changes to the new licensing process that have taken place so far.

Schultz reported that with the implementation of TRAKiT, contract electrical inspectors will be able to enter inspection data on a daily basis, which will enable the department to pay them for inspection service more quickly. He also stated there is a large number of staff working on the backlog of Requests for Electrical Inspection (electrical permits). The Department hopes to have the electronic filing of electrical permits available by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Board members expressed well wishes to Seanger on his retirement.

## **X. Announcements**

### A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- i. Tuesday, January 11, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- ii. Tuesday, April 12, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- iii. Tuesday, July 12, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- iv. Tuesday, October 11, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

## **XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Seanger, to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Electricity, the vote was unanimous and the motion passed. Board adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Anthony Toft*

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