

**Board of Electricity**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Anthony Toft  
Dan Klein  
Dan Westberg  
Doug Fingerson  
Jim Freichels  
Joe Vespa via Phone  
John McConnell  
John Schultz  
Kim Huxford  
Laura Karow  
Scott Novotny  
Willy Hoskins

**Members Absent:**

**DLI Staff & Visitors:**

A/C Jessica Looman - DLI  
Carey Demaris - DLI  
David Fisch - MNESTA  
Gary Thaden - NECA  
Jeff Heimerl - IBEW  
Jeff Lebowski - DLI  
John Ploetz - MEA  
John Rajkowski - DLI  
Judy Cook - SBCA  
Russ Ernst - MNESTA

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Vice Chair Toft. Chair Vespa is present via telephone. Roll call was taken by Secretary Karow and a quorum was declared. Attorney Jeff Lebowski (DLI) is present and stated that because Chair Vespa is via telephone, all votes must be taken by roll call.

**II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

**A roll call vote was taken to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.**

**III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Klein, seconded by Fingerson. The roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried.**

**Regular Business**

- a. Expense Approval - Toft reviewed and approved the per diem and expenses. A motion made by Freichels, seconded by McConnell to approve per diem and expenses. The roll call vote was unanimous. Motion carried.**
- b. Enforcement - Nothing to report at this time.**
- c. E-Licensing and E-Trakit Update - Schultz reminded the board that the on-line process for license renewal is available. The programs have continued to be a success. Electronic permitting is at 55% and continues to increase.**
- d. Satellite System Installer and Contractor License Update - Schultz training programs are available through the SBCA.**

#### IV. Special Business

- a. Update on Reciprocal Agreements – Schultz stated he has received inquiries from Wisconsin as to reciprocal agreements but no official request has been made. Schultz discussed licensing and surrounding states. Currently, ME and RI do not have any individuals with MN addresses. Statistics on neighboring states were reviewed:

State	Master	Journeyman	Total
MN	5560	9705	15265
IA	53	181	234
ND	235	559	794
SD	81	266	347
WI	250	475	725

There was discussion on the WI laws pertaining to license expiration, education and hours of experience. Wisconsin has an interest in potentially changing their licensing laws reflecting similarly to MN laws. Wisconsin is seeking information as to what they would have to do to enter into an agreement with MN. **A motion made by Schultz, seconded by McConnell stating that the Minnesota Board of Electricity will only consider a reciprocal agreement with WI if the qualifications of license were significantly equivalent to Minnesota's qualifications. The roll call vote was unanimous, motion carried.**

Satellite System Installer Continuing Education Rules Update – Schultz reviewed the comments from MEA, SBCA, and Cook/Girard. There was great discussion on the proposed amendments; such as educational programs, technical content, continuing education, online training, program hours and requirements.

Response to MEA comments; #1 it was agreed that the draft should be amended reflecting term “educational program” instead of “program”, on item #2 the department does not agree with comment on technical content and believes the language is appropriate as is. Furthermore, based on the SBCA comments the department does not believe there will be amendments to the draft. **A motion made by McConnell, seconded by Westberg authorizing a response to the requesters as listed above. A roll call vote was taken, the motion carried.**

Schultz reviewed the rulemaking process. **A motion to authorize the resolution as presented was made by Freichels, seconded by Fingerson. A roll call vote was unanimous, motion carried.**

- b. Satellite System Installer Certification Program Rules – There wasn't any comments on the certification program rules.

#### I. Committee Reports

- a. Department Strategic Plan – Assistant Commissioner Looman thanked the members for their commitment on E-Trakit & E-licensing success. As for enforcement, over the past year the department collected over one million dollars through construction codes and licensing enforcement actions. Looman stated she will provide via Demaris the number for the electrical industry. She provided an update on the department's strategic plan and dashboard for 2013 to 2017. The seven sections that affect CCLD are; Code Adoption and

Administration, Licensing, Plan Review, Construction Permitting, Inspection Services, Enforcement, and Outreach and Education. More information can be found at [http://dli.mn.gov/pdf/strategic\\_plan.pdf](http://dli.mn.gov/pdf/strategic_plan.pdf) and <http://dli.mn.gov/PDF/dashboard.pdf>. Lastly, Looman provided a summary of the department's legislative agenda. The biannual budget for FY14/15 has been approved for review by the Governor. Items included are: 1. Labor Standards proposals - child labor laws, minimum wage, and misclassification for non-construction workers, 2. CCLD proposals - modified plumbing inspection fee schedule, elevator inspection schedule by removing the fee cap, elimination of the acceleration plan review fee, and wind farms electrical inspection, 3. Combative Sports proposal - to adjust participant fees.

- b. Construction Code Advisory Councils - McConnell stated the last meeting provided an update on the committee reports for Residential Energy code and the committee is moving forward with the proposal. They are also looking into Green Building Codes.
- c. Legislative Update - Nothing else reported.

#### V. Complaints

None brought forth.

#### VI. Open Forum

Nothing brought forth.

#### VII. Board Discussion

Nothing further discussed.

#### VIII. Announcements

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting (subject to change)

- Tuesday, April 9, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - Minnesota Room, DLI
- Tuesday, July 9, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - Minnesota Room, DLI
- Tuesday, October 8, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - Minnesota Room, DLI

#### IX. Adjournment

**A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Fingerson to adjourn. The roll call vote was unanimous, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laura Karow*

Laura Karow  
Board Secretary