

Board of Electricity

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m.

Minnesota Room, Department of Labor & Industry

443 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

Members Present:

David Curtis
Jim Freichels
Willy Hoskins
Kim Huxford (Secretary)
Laura Karow
John McConnell
Scott Novotny
Andy Toft (Chair)
Joe Vespa (Vice Chair) via teleconference
Dan Westberg
Weston Wilson

Members Absent:

Sam Sampson

DLI Staff & Visitors:

Bill Bierman (DLI)
John Williamson (DLI)
Lyndy Lutz (DLI)
Lori Herzog (DLI)
Gary Thaden (NECA)
Todd Green (DLI)
Dean Hunter (DLI)
Pete Lindahl (IBEW 292)
Ray Zeran (IBEW 292)
Tony Maghrak (IBEW)
Andy Snope (IBEW)
David Fisch (MNESTA)
Russ Ernst (MNESTA)
Clara DeRosier (MEA)
Erin Murray (MEA)
Scott Nutting (CEIA)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Toft. Roll call was taken by Novotny in the brief absence of Secretary Huxford and a quorum was declared.

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Westberg, seconded by Freichels, to approve the agenda with the addition of item d under IV. Regular Business and item e, iia. under V. Special Business as shown below. Secretary Huxford took roll call and the vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

IV. Regular Business

- a. Expense Approval
- b. Approve per diem and expenses
- c. Enforcement
- d. E-Licensing and E-Trakit – Update
- e. CCAC member appointment/re-appointment

V. Special Business

- a. Update on Reciprocal Agreements
 - i. Report on 2016 NERA meeting
 - ii. Update on Wisconsin reciprocal licensing request
 - iii. MN/WI Reciprocity Agreement vote
- III. Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

III. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Wilson, seconded by Hoskins, to approve the October 13, 2015 meeting minutes with revisions as follows: Remove "Laura Karow" from members present – she is listed twice; add Peter Lindahl (IBEW) to DLI Staff & Visitors; VII. Special Business, Item a, ii. amended as follows: "To meet reciprocity requirements, 8,000 ~~€~~ on the job training hours are required." Strike ~~on board~~ in VII. Special Business, paragraph 2 and the motion that follows. The roll call vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

IV. **Regular Business**

- a. **Expense Approval** – Toft reviewed and approved the per diem and expenses. A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Curtis, to approve per diem and expenses. The roll vote was unanimous; the motion carried.
- b. **Enforcement**
Nothing to report.
- c. **E Licensing and e-trackit**
Nothing to report.
- d. **CCAC member appointment/re-appointment**
A motion was made by Hoskins, seconded by Karow, to re-appoint John McConnell to the Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC). The roll call vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

V. **Special Business**

- a. **Update on Reciprocal Agreements**
 - i. **Report on 2016 NERA meeting**
Williamson noted the NERA meeting will be held in Duluth at the Inn on Lake Superior, Canal park on August 8-10, 2016.
 - ii. **Update on Wisconsin reciprocal licensing request**
Toft replied to the State of Wisconsin via email on October 27, 2015 (**See Attachment A**) expressing concerns that Wisconsin is still testing on the 2011 NEC while Minnesota is testing on the current code (2014 NEC).

A motion was made by Hoskins, seconded by Freichels, to accept the State of Wisconsin's Reciprocal Agreement. The motion failed and was not passed (9 against / 2 for).

Toft referred to **Attachment B**. Wilson said he is against the motion for accepting the State of Wisconsin's Reciprocal Agreement due to licensing requirements; he doesn't believe Wisconsin is on par with Minnesota's educational requirements. Karow also noted she is against due to testing requirements – Minnesota tests on the 2014 NEC and Wisconsin tests on the 2011 NEC. Hoskins noted that Sampson reviewed Wisconsin's exams and deemed them equivalent. Novotny also said he is against the motion.

iii. Campaign finance and Public Disclosure Board

Members will receive something in the mail to complete. This is an annual report in order to determine if there is a conflict of interest.

VI. Committee Reports

CCAC – have not met. Next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.

VII. Complaints

No complaints brought forth.

VIII. Open Forum

Nothing brought forward.

IX. Board Discussion

Bierman briefly discussed the clean up bill to amend language regarding Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 326B.13, subdivision 8. He said it will not affect the 2017 code and added that the Board has the authority to adopt the NEC. One issue is on the board's authority, the other issue pertains to the number of days required for a rule to be adopted or amended after publication of the rule's notice of adoption in the State Register.

Williamson recommended the Board adopt the rule with an effective date of July 1, 2017; Minnesota is known as a leader in electrical safety and it is a reasonable target date. Thaden suggested the Board begin working on the rules earlier and Bierman said he would review and suggest a timeline.

McConnell expressed concerns regarding green code electrical ordinances. Williamson noted it would be a good idea to have a compendium of all codes.

X. Announcements

- a. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings – 9:00 a.m. Minnesota Room, DLI
 - i. Tuesday, April 12, 2016
 - ii. Tuesday, July 12, 2016
 - III. Tuesday, October 11, 2016

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Hoskins, seconded by McConnell, to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. The roll call vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Huxford

Kim Huxford
Secretary

From: [Anthony Toft](#)
To: Michael.Berndt@Wisconsin.Gov; Matt.Pulda@legis.wisconsin.gov
Cc: [Sampson, Sam \(DLI\)](#); [Lutz, Lyndy \(DLI\)](#)
Subject: Minnesota License Reciprocity
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:00:31 PM

Dear Mr. Berndt and Mr. Pulda,

The Minnesota Board of Electricity discussed the electrical license reciprocal request with Wisconsin at the last meeting on October 13, 2015. Mr. Sam Sampson asked that I notify you of the status of the request and where we are at this point.

A board vote will likely happen at the next meeting on January 12, 2016.

Some of the discussions and concerns brought up were that Wisconsin is still testing on the 2011 NEC and Minnesota tests on the current code which is the 2014 NEC. Other discussions were on some of the approved continuing education classes allowed for license renewal. Wisconsin has approved classes that are still based on the 2005 NEC and approved classes that are not based on the electrical code at all. Understanding that if reciprocal with Minnesota the ceu classes would have to be approved by Minnesota DOLI.

Discussions also covered electrical work that is exempted from licensing and questions on if certain municipalities can be exempt from inspection.

Those were some of the discussion topics and some may be brought up at the next Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Anthony C.Toft
MN Board of Electricity, Chair



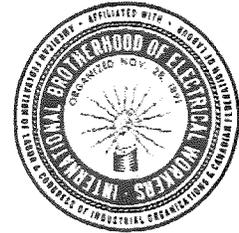
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

Local Union #242

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DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55812

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December 2, 2015

Minnesota State Board of Electricity
Anthony Toft
7139 Cty Road 3 SW
Byron, MN 55920

Dear Anthony,

I am writing to you to express my concern in your consideration to allow reciprocity of electrical licensure with the state of Wisconsin. As Business Manager of IBEW Local 242 Duluth representing a membership of 520 I want to let you know that we are adamantly opposed to allowing electrical license reciprocity with Wisconsin.

As I am sure you are aware of, the State of Wisconsin only enacted a statewide electrical licensing law for electricians on April 1, 2014. As this new law is just in its infancy, we believe more time and caution should be taken in order to evaluate the standards, training and equivalency of the Wisconsin program before entering into a reciprocity agreement.

We believe that the Wisconsin electrical licensing program is inferior to the Minnesota program. When it comes to a safe electrical installation free of hazard to personal and equipment there is a potential risk to public safety if a less qualified individual is allowed to install and maintain electrical equipment without the thorough training and continued education afforded by the Minnesota program.

It has been stated at the last MN State Board of Electricity meeting that the Wisconsin license exam has been deemed equivalent. With all due respect, we disagree with that statement. Some of our members have taken the Wisconsin test recently and have commented that it is far less challenging than the Minnesota exam. In addition, continuing education is required to renew a Wisconsin license every 4 years. Currently, code update classes are reviewing the 2011 and even the 2008 Code.

There are other differences in training, qualifications and supervision; an electrical license is not needed to perform the following in Wisconsin: Replacing a device on an existing 20 amp circuit or for systems operating at less than 100 volts. A license is not required to perform work on WDOT projects for lighting or signals. A sign technician or ballast changer does not need an electrical license. An individual employed by the owner of an industrial or manufacturing or existing facility does not need a license to perform electrical work on the property. If you are older than 59 with 15 years of electrical experience you don't need a license. Volunteers working for a non-profit do not need an electrical license if performing work for a non-profit corporation.

December 2, 2015

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Anthony Toft

One Journeyman or Master may supervise 4 unlicensed individuals. With all these exceptions, of which I have only listed a few, and the lesser supervision ratio, one wonders how anyone would get appropriate on the job training.

I am asking that you do not support electrical licensing reciprocity with the state of Wisconsin. It is clear that they still have a long way to go before the state of Wisconsin has an equivalent program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Smith", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald Smith
Business Manager
IBEW Local 242

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