

**Board of Electricity  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 9, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Minnesota Room, Department of Labor & Industry**

**Members Present:**

Anthony Toft  
Dan Westberg  
Doug Fingerson  
Jim Freichels  
Joe Vespa  
John McConnell  
John Schultz  
Kim Huxford  
Scott Novotny  
Willy Hoskins

**Members Absent:**

Laura Karow  
Dan Klein

**DLI Staff & Visitors:**

Bill Bierman – DLI  
Carey Wagner – DLI  
Lyndy Lutz – DLI  
Gary Thaden – NEC  
Scott Nutting – CEIA  
Jim Nomlos – Mpls JATC  
Bill Heaney – IBEW  
David Fisch – MNESTA  
Judi Rubin - MEA

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:19 a.m. by Chair Vespa. Roll call was taken by Vice Chair Toft and a quorum was declared.

**II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda with correction to the listed year was made by Freichels, seconded by Westburg. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

**III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

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

**IV. Regular Business**

- a. Expense Approval – Vespa reviewed and approved the per diem and expenses. A motion made by Toft, seconded by McConnell to approve per diem and expenses. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- b. Enforcement – Schultz gave a short report. In calendar year 2013 to date, there have been 106 enforcement cases open, 136 have been closed (60 orders issued), with 158 open cases currently in process. Enforcement cases are slightly down from 2012 and 2011. One additional investigator added to the department. Information available on the website at:  
[http://dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/ele\\_2013ytd.pdf](http://dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PDF/ele_2013ytd.pdf)
- c. E-TRAKiT – Schultz provided an update stating that permits that are filed online are now in excess of 70%. All information can be accessed online regardless if the permit was filed electronically. Electrical inspection revenue is running approximately 6 percent ahead from the prior fiscal year. The final report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2013 will not be available until mid-August.

## V. Special Business

- a. Election of Officers – The meeting was turned over to John Schultz, Commissioner Peterson’s Designee for the election.
  - **Chair** – Vespa nominated Toft for Chair. No other nominations were made. The vote was unanimous, nomination passed. Anthony Toft was elected board Chair.
  - **Vice Chair** – Toft nominated Vespa for Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. The vote was unanimous, nomination passed. Joe Vespa was elected board Vice Chair.
  - **Secretary** – Toft nominated Huxford for Secretary. No other nominations were made. The vote was unanimous, nomination passed. Kim Huxford was elected board Secretary.

The meeting was turned over to newly elected Chair Toft.

- b. Request for Comments – Schultz explained the Request for Comments process which is the first step in Rulemaking. Bierman reviewed the Request for Comments document presented for the possible Amendment to Rules Governing the Minnesota Electrical Code, Minnesota Rules, chapter 1315. Huxford noted a misspelling error on the back page; the last paragraph, second sentence should read as “are” not ate. The correction will be made.
- c. 2014 NEC – publication of a Request for Comments: Freichels made a motion, seconded by Vespa to publish a Request for Comments for Adoption of the 2014 NEC. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.
- d. Reciprocal Agreements – Schultz stated he will be attending the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) meeting in August of 2013. The typical agenda includes issues relating to licensing, electrical code and processes that other states are using. Schultz asked board members if there were any topics he should raise at this meeting and there were none. Minnesota has reciprocal agreements individually with a number of states but there will be a large number of states that we currently do not have agreements with that will be attending. There was an update on Wisconsin stating that there are a large number of license holders that live in Wisconsin, however, their licensing requirements are quite a bit different than Minnesota’s. It is unlikely the two states will enter into an agreement at this time.
- e. Satellite Training update – Department has been very busy with other Rulemaking so this has been put on hold. Department is going through a major building code amendment process. In the near future we expect to be moving forward again.

## VI. Committee Reports

- a. CCAC – McConnell stated nothing to update, as there hasn’t been any recent meetings due to the amendment process.
- b. Legislative Update – Schultz stated that there are a limited number of legislative changes that have impacted CCLD. The changes are primarily found in Chapter 85 of the 2013 Session Laws. It was mentioned that elevator licensing was moved from the Electrical Act to sections 326.163 to 326.191. This creates elevator licensing in the same model as it was in the electrical but licensing will now be based on elevator technology and code as well as limited electrical technology and code. Current licensing will simply transition into the elevator licensing with only changes to continuing education requirements which are: 16 hours comprised of 12 hours-elevator code/4 hours-electrical code that relates to elevator construction. New license types

became effective July 1, 2013 for a limited class of elevator constructors that relates to stair chairs, platform lifts and similar types of equipment. If individuals get licensed in the current electrical elevator constructor license types by January 1, 2014 their license will simply transition to the elevator licenses. Another change that occurred this session was in the fee schedule in 326B.37 that relates to utility interconnected wind generation installation. The new fee schedule applies to larger wind farms (typically 10-12 towers or more) and allows for an alternative fee schedule based on plan review/valuation of each individual tower with minimal inspection. The plan review will provide an opportunity to identify any problems during the planning stage and create consistency with statewide installations.

**VII. Complaints**

None brought forth

**VIII. Open Forum**

None brought forth

**IX. Board Discussion**

Friechels thanked former Chair Vespa and welcomed newly elected Chair Toft.

**X. Announcements**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting (subject to change)

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

**XI. Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Huxford, seconded by McConnell to adjourn. The vote was unanimous, motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Huxford*

Kim Huxford  
Secretary