

# Board of Electricity

## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, July 14, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Minnesota Room, Department of Labor & Industry  
443 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

### **Members Present:**

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

### **Members Absent:**

None

### **DLI Staff & Visitors:**

Scott McLellan (DLI)  
Todd Green (DLI)  
John Williamson (DLI)  
Bill Bierman (DLI)  
Dean Hunter (DLI)  
Lyndy Lutz (DLI)  
Gary Thaden (NECA)  
David Fisch (MNESTA)  
Russ Ernst (MNESTA)  
Scott Nutting (CEIA)  
Phil Raines (ABC)  
Judi Rubin (MEA)  
Ray Zeran (IBEW)  
Andy Snope (IBEW)  
John Kripotos (IBEW)  
Jennifer Gaspersich (IBEW)

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Toft. Roll call was taken by Secretary Huxford and a quorum was declared.

#### **II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

A motion was made by Westberg, seconded by Vespa, to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

#### **III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Sampson, seconded by Novotny, to approve the April 14, 2015 meeting minutes. The 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 Freichels, to approve per diem and expenses. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

**V. Enforcement**

Nothing to report.

**VI. E-Licensing update**

The department is continuing to work on electronic licensing renewals.

**VII. E-Trakit update**

Nothing to report.

**VIII. Special Business**

- a. Election of Officers** – the meeting was turned over to Sam Sampson, Commissioner’s Designee for election of officers.

**Chair** – Joe Vespa nominated Andy Toft. No other nominations were given. Vote was unanimous, nomination passed. Toft was re-elected as Chair.

**Vice Chair** – Andy Toft nominated Joe Vespa as Vice Chair. No other nominations were given. Vote was unanimous, nomination passed. Vespa was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

**Secretary** – John McConnell nominated Kim Huxford as Secretary. No other nominations were given. Vote was unanimous, nomination passed. Huxford was re-elected as Secretary.

The meeting was turned back over to re-elected Chair Toft.

**a. Update on Reciprocal Agreement(s)**

- Sampson – Still working with State of Wisconsin on reciprocity. Bill Bierman drafted Reciprocal Licensing Agreements for journeyman and master electricians between Wisconsin and Minnesota (See Attachment A and B). A presentation was shown comparing the requirements for each state.
- Statewide licensing was to take effect on April 1, 2013 but was postponed by Governor Walker. At that time it was deemed not to be equivalent. It took effect on April 1, 2014 and language was changed so individuals could qualify.
- A PLT license should be allowed from Wisconsin. Comment by Westberg. Should have this conversation with Wisconsin. Sampson noted he would be attending the reciprocal licensing meeting in August and next year Minnesota would be hosting the meetings. This year’s meeting is in Santa Fe. All of the states that Minnesota has reciprocal agreements with will be at the meeting.

**A motion was made Toft, seconded by Novotny, not to enter into a Reciprocal License Agreement at this time with the State of Wisconsin for Journeyman and Master Electricians. The vote was 8 for (Toft, Novotny, Curtis, Huxford, McConnell, Karow, Vespa, and Wilson) and 3 opposed (Freichels, Hoskins, and Westberg). Sampson abstained; the motion carried.**

**The Board directed Sampson to check on Wisconsin's testing to determine if it is similar to Minnesota's. The Board also asked Sampson to verify which code version was being used.**

- Add testing info (Huxford / Sampson) regarding taking a local exam. Wisconsin's newest exams have now been deemed to be equivalent. Sampson noted he has not seen the exams but will make sure at the meeting in August to discuss exam equivalency with NERA members. Vespa, what else could or should the State of Wisconsin do to get approval from all Board members? Sampson said most inspections are done by the larger cities and only commercial and residential is inspected. The state is divided into three zones done by state inspectors. Towns and cities can choose not to be state inspected similar to the electrical inspections in Minnesota where cities and towns can adopt their own ordinance.
- Andy Snope added it was enacted in 2015 and he is suspicious if they are just interested in reciprocal licensing agreements between Minnesota and Wisconsin or are they interested in making their state safer. He noted that the exam is not comparable to Minnesota's and that it is "a joke". The exam should be reviewed. Three months ago it was stated that Wisconsin followed an older code and if still true if they are using this to train their electricians then this wouldn't meet Minnesota's standards. Toft noted Wisconsin is still testing on the 2011 code with some 2005.

**IX. Committee Reports**

John McConnell gave a report on the Construction Codes Advisory Council. The Building Codes, with the exception of the Fire Code, are available and can be viewed on the department's website at <http://www.dli.mn.gov/cclcd/codes15.asp> NEC is free and can also be viewed on this webpage.

**X. Complaints**

No complaints brought forth.

**XII. Open Forum**

Nothing brought forward.

**XIII. Board Discussion**

No discussion.

**XIV. Announcements**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings (subject to change) – Minnesota Room, DLI

- Tuesday, October 13, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.

**XV. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Westberg, seconded by Vespa, to adjourn at 9:52 a.m. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Huxford*

Kim Huxford

Secretary

# RECIPROCAL LICENSING AGREEMENT (JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN) WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA

## RECITALS

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 3236B.33, Subdivision 20, when approved by the Minnesota Board of Electricity, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry may enter into a reciprocity agreements for personal Electrician licenses with another state. Similarly, under Wisc. Stat. sec. 101.874, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services may enter into reciprocity licensing agreements with other states.

## AGREEMENT

This agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") is between the State of Wisconsin through its Department of Public Safety and Professional Services (hereinafter, "Wisconsin") and the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (hereinafter, "Minnesota").

### A. DEFINITIONS

1. "Applicant" means a person seeking a reciprocal license, without further examination, in the State of Wisconsin or the State of Minnesota.
2. "Application State" means the state in which a person makes application for a reciprocal license.
3. "Equivalent License" includes only the following:

For the purposes of this agreement, a Minnesota Journeyman Electrician License is the equivalent license to a Wisconsin Journeyman Electrician License.

4. "Minnesota Class A Journeyman Electrician License" means a Minnesota Class A Journeyman electrician license acquired through examination.
5. "Wisconsin Journeyman Electrician License" means a Wisconsin Journeyman Electrician license acquired through examination.
6. "Participating State" means a state participating in this Agreement.
7. "Qualifying State" means the state where an Applicant acquired a license through qualification and examination.

## B. TERM OF AGREEMENT

1. This agreement shall remain in effect until terminated by either of the Participating States or replaced by another agreement.
2. Either Participating State may terminate this agreement by providing 30 days' written notice to the other state.
3. This agreement supersedes any other agreement currently in effect between the Participating States.

## C. OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPATING STATES

1. Participating States shall maintain permanent records of their licensees, sufficient to provide the Application State with information required to effectuate this agreement. In those instances where the Qualifying State is unable to provide evidence that the Applicant meets the conditions of this agreement, the Applicant shall not be eligible for an Equivalent License in the Application State.
2. Participating States shall respond in a timely manner to requests for verification of an Applicant's status and qualifications.

## D. LICENSE RECIPROCITY

1. Participating States must administer a statewide licensing program that includes qualifying experience or training, or a combination of training and experience, as well as a state approved and sponsored examination.
2. A Participating State may issue an Equivalent License without requiring the Applicant to pass an examination if the Applicant has acquired a license through examination in the Qualifying State.
3. The Applicant must have acquired the license in the Qualifying State through examination deemed equivalent by the Application State to the license examination of the Application State.
4. The experience or training requirement under which an Applicant qualified for examination in the Qualifying State must be deemed equal to or greater than the experience or training required for an Applicant in the Application State, at the time the Applicant acquired a license in the Qualifying State.
5. To receive an Equivalent License under this Agreement, an Applicant must submit an application, pay any fees required by the Application State, hold a valid, unexpired license in the

Qualifying State and have held the Qualifying State license continuously for at least one year immediately prior to making application in the Application State.

7. An Applicant is not eligible for a license under this agreement if the Applicant failed the equivalent license examination in the Application State, or if the Applicant's license has been revoked or is suspended in the Application State.

8. An Applicant is not eligible for an Equivalent License if the Applicant has failed to renew a license in the Qualifying State within the timeframe allowed by that state for renewal without retaking the license examination.

9. Participating States reserve the right to refuse a license for cause.

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Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Labor  
and Industry

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Date

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Chair, Minnesota Board of Electricity

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Date

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Chair, Chief Legal Counsel, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services  
Electrical Examining Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# RECIPROCAL LICENSING AGREEMENT (MASTER ELECTRICIAN) WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA

## RECITALS

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 3236B.33, Subdivision 20, when approved by the Minnesota Board of Electricity, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry may enter into reciprocity agreements for personal Electrician licenses with another state. Similarly, under Wis. Stat. Sec. 101.874, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services may enter into reciprocity licensing agreements with other states.

## AGREEMENT

This agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") is between the State of Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (hereinafter, "Wisconsin") and the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (hereinafter, "Minnesota").

### A. DEFINITIONS

1. "Applicant" means a person seeking a reciprocal license, without further examination, in the State of Wisconsin or the State of Minnesota.
2. "Application State" means the state in which a person makes application for a reciprocal license.
3. "Equivalent License" includes only the following:  
For the purposes of this Agreement, a Minnesota Class A Master Electrician License is the equivalent license to a Wisconsin Master Electrician License.
4. "Minnesota Class A Master Electrician License" means a Minnesota Class A Master electrician license acquired through examination.
5. "Wisconsin Master Electrician License" means a Wisconsin Master Electrician license acquired through examination.
6. "Participating State" means a state participating in this Agreement.
7. "Qualifying State" means the state where an Applicant acquired a license through qualification and examination.

## B. TERM OF AGREEMENT

1. This agreement shall remain in effect until terminated by either of the Participating States or replaced by another agreement.
2. Either Participating State may terminate this agreement by providing 30 days' written notice to the other state.
3. This agreement supersedes any other agreement currently in effect between the Participating States.

## C. OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPATING STATES

1. Participating States shall maintain permanent records of their licensees, sufficient to provide the Application State with information required to effectuate this agreement. In those instances where the Qualifying State is unable to provide evidence that the Applicant meets the conditions of this agreement, the Applicant shall not be eligible for an Equivalent License in the Application State.
2. Participating States shall respond in a timely manner to requests for verification of an Applicant's status and qualifications.

## D. LICENSE RECIPROCITY

1. Participating States must administer a statewide licensing program that includes qualifying experience or training, or a combination of training and experience, as well as a state approved and sponsored examination.
2. A Participating State may issue an Equivalent License without requiring the Applicant to pass an examination if the Applicant has acquired a license through examination in the Qualifying State.
3. The Applicant must have acquired the license in the Qualifying State through examination deemed equivalent by the Application State to the license examination of the Application State.
4. The experience or training requirement under which an Applicant qualified for examination in the Qualifying State must be deemed equal to or greater than the experience or training required for an Applicant in the Application State, at the time the Applicant acquired a license in the Qualifying State.
5. To receive an Equivalent License under this Agreement, an Applicant must submit an application, pay any fees required by the Application State, hold a valid, unexpired license in the

Qualifying State and have held the Qualifying State license continuously for at least one year immediately prior to making application in the Application State.

7. An Applicant is not eligible for a license under this agreement if the Applicant failed the equivalent license examination in the Application State, or if the Applicant's license has been revoked or is suspended in the Application State.

8. An Applicant is not eligible for an Equivalent License if the Applicant has failed to renew a license in the Qualifying State within the timeframe allowed by that state for renewal without retaking the license examination.

9. Participating States reserve the right to refuse a license for cause.

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Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Labor  
and Industry

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Date

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Chair, Minnesota Board of Electricity

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Date

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Chief Legal Counsel, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services

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Date