

**Board of Electricity
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2009
Minnesota Room – Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul 55155
DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US**

Members Present:

Douglas Fingerson
Jim Freichels
Willy Hoskins
Kim Huxford
Daniel Klein
John McConnell
Dick Owen
John Schultz (DLI Commissioner's Designee)
Tom Seanger
Andy Toft
Joe Vespa

Staff Present:

Wendy Legge
Annette Trnka

Visitors:

Gary Thaden
John Ploetz
Scott Nutting
Phil Raines
Dan McConnell
Bill Heaney

Members Available by Teleconference:

None

Members Absent:

Timothy Malooly

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Freichels at 9:03 a.m. and role was taken.

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Owen and seconded by Klein to approve the meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Toft, seconded by Hoskins, to accept the previous Meeting Minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

IV. Regular Business

A. Expense Approval

- i. A motion was made by Seanger and seconded by McConnell to approve Expense Reports and Per Diems. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.
- B. Enforcement
- i. DOLI Enforcement – (http://www.electricity.state.mn.us/disciplinary_actions.html)
 - ii. Complaint Directs & Form – (<http://www.electricity.state.mn.us/complaints.html>)
- The above website links were accessed and discussed.

V. Special Business

- A. Reciprocal agreements –
- i. Update on MN State Master Reciprocity Agreement (with ND, NE, SD) – Schultz stated that North Dakota indicated they would be addressing it at their next meeting; however, Schultz has not heard back from them since and thought it may be due to the Red River flooding. He stated that South Dakota is working through some of their licensing issues. He stated that he has not heard anything back from Nebraska and doesn't know what their status is at this time. Seanger stated he had just received his North Dakota license, which states that now ND is requiring “current government issued picture identification card” that must be carried along with the license. Seanger asked if Minnesota has anything similar requirements. Schultz stated that Minnesota does not.
 - ii. Update on South Dakota's ICC exam – Schultz stated that South Dakota hasn't given any further updates.
 - iii. Update on Multi State Reciprocity Agreement – Schultz referenced the letter from Washington State which announces the state's withdrawal from the Multi-State Reciprocal Agreement which became effective April 1, 2009. Discussion regarding Minnesota's continued participation followed. The Multi-State annual conference will be held in New Hampshire in August. Schultz stated it's unlikely that Minnesota will send anyone.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Construction Codes Advisory Council – Tom Seanger stated there is a meeting this week on April 9th, and he expects to have a report for the next Board of Electricity meeting.

VII. Complaints

There have been no complaints to the Board.

VIII. Chapter 3800 (Electrical Licensing & Continuing Education)

Wendy Legge gave an update on the rulemaking in progress. The Judge's Report should be received from the Administrative Law Judge on April 15, unless the rules are disapproved (either a portion or in entirety), in which case it would be sent to the Chief Administrative Law Judge who has an additional 10 days to issue a separate report. Freichels stated he doesn't anticipate a need for a special meeting and plans to discuss this issue at the May 5th meeting.

IX. Open Forum

Dan McConnell from the audience asked about the Construction Codes Advisory Council members having the ability to appoint an alternate member. It is included in the draft of the by-laws of the CCAC that each member can appoint an alternate, who would not be a voting member; however, they could participate in the meeting. Seanger stated he would have information at the next Board of Electricity meeting in his report on the CCAC.

Dan McConnell stated there's a lack of clarity regarding solar panels and feels it's clear in the law that the panels need to be installed by a licensed person. Schultz stated that the wiring associated with solar photovoltaic systems is electrical by definition; he feels the question becomes whether the physical mounting of a solar panel is electrical work. Schultz went on to state that because those installations are so varied, the Department feels it is appropriate to deal with that question on an individual basis. After further discussion, Freichels stated that he would place this issue on a future agenda and said it should be determined who should be additionally notified in the public, so as to make sure that anyone interested in this subject specifically could attend.

X. Board Discussion

Schultz discussed Senate File 1523, for which there is no House companion file and was not heard in committee. The bill deals with some modification to the Electrical Act; specifically for the installation of satellite antenna systems. Senate File 916 deals with electric vehicle charging equipment and infrastructure of that issue. Schultz went on to state that SF 916 has been amended a number of times and suspects that the bill will make it through the Legislature within the next year or two. Thaden stated SF 916 had a mandate for electrical charging systems in parking lots, parking ramps and homes and the Senate version of that particular section has been deleted from the bill and suspects that the same thing will happen on the House side.

XI. Announcements

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- i. Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- ii. Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- iii. Tuesday, July 7, 2009, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Klein, seconded by Seanger, to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Electricity, the vote was unanimous and the motion passed. Board adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Fingerson

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