

**Board of Electricity  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 13, 2010  
Minnesota Room – Department of Labor & Industry  
443 Lafayette Road North, St Paul 55155  
[DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US](mailto:DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US)**

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Jim Freichels  
Timothy Malooly

**Staff Present:**

Bill Bierman  
Sandy Arndt  
Kevin Wilkins  
John Williamson

**Visitors:**

Tyler Weiers  
Scott Nutting  
Cari Williamette  
Bill Heaney  
Jim Nimlos  
Phil Raines  
Gary Thaden  
Russ Ernst  
David Fisch

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vespa at 9:07 a.m. and role was taken.

**II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

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

**III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Klein and seconded by Seanger to accept the previous meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

#### **IV. Regular Business**

- A. Expense Approval
  - i. A motion was made by Hoskins and seconded by McConnell to approve Expense Reports and Per Diems. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.
- B. Enforcement
  - i. No issues were directed to the Board.

#### **V. Special Business**

- A. Reciprocal agreements
  - i. Update on MN State Master Reciprocity Agreement (with ND, NE, SD)
    - A motion was made by Seanger and seconded by Toft to keep the Reciprocal Agreement language with South Dakota at the master/contractor level. The vote was unanimous and motion was passed.
  - ii. Update on South Dakota's ICC exam
    - One reason the South Dakota Electrical Commission relies on the ICC exam is because they have limited technical experts that could develop and maintain their electrical exam. There have been some questions regarding the overall integrity of the ICC exam, but after discussion with South Dakota's executive director J.J. Linn, Schultz feels these issues will be resolved .
  - iii. Update on Multi State Reciprocity Agreement
    - A motion was made by Seanger and seconded by Hoskins to approve the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance Agreement as presented. McConnell voted no. The majority ruled and the motion passed.
- B. Request for Final Interpretation
  - The following Request for Final Interpretation was submitted by the Department of Labor and Industry:

“Does National Electrical Code Article 547 apply to premises where buildings, structures and areas are used for agricultural purposes but not animal confinement?”

- A motion was made by Seanger and seconded by Huxford to respond “no” to the question posed in the Request for Final Interpretation. McConnell, Slimmer and Toft voted no. Huxford, Seanger, Hoskins, Klein, Schultz, Vespa and Fingerson voted yes. The majority ruled and the motion passed.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

- A. Construction Codes Advisory Council – Tom Seanger
  - i. The Council reviewed all the pending legislation in the House and the Senate concerning the construction trade, but no action was taken.
- B. Legislative Review – John Schultz
  - i. Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, all permits issued by the department will be subject to a surcharge fee. Also beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, the minimum surcharge fee for fixed fee permits will increase from the \$.50 to \$5.00. The statutory authority for this increase is only for Fiscal Year 2011 which begins July 1, 2010 and ends June 30, 2011. The surcharge from CCLD electrical inspections alone is anticipated to be \$550,000, with the total anticipated increase from surcharge to be \$1.2 million. This additional revenue will ensure the division will be fiscally solvent beginning July 1, 2011. Without this change the fund balance would be dangerously close for the division to not be able to cash flow from month to month beginning July 1, 2011. The cash flow crisis is due to the downturn in the construction economy as well as the continued transferring of \$1.5 million to the general fund. There was significant effort to get the \$1.15 million transfer law changed, but with the state faced with a multi-billion dollar deficit they want to keep all possible general fund revenue sources. The division hopes to stop the transfer of the \$1.5 million in the future, but this will depend on the state's general economy.

## **VII. Complaints**

No Complaints were directed to the Board.

## **VIII. Open Forum**

No issues were directed to the Board.

## **IX. Board Discussion**

No issues were discussed.

## **X. Announcements**

- A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings
  - i. Tuesday, July 13, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
  - ii. Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

## **XI. Adjournment**

Vespa declared the Board of Electricity meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Anthony Toft*

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