

**Board of Electricity
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 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
Kim Huxford
John McConnell
John Schultz (DLI Commissioner's Designee)
Tom Seanger
Andy Toft
Joe Vespa

Staff Present:

Wendy Legge
Annette Trnka

Visitors:

John Ploetz
Gary Thaden
Bill Heaney
Dan McConnell
Scott Nutting

Members Available by Teleconference:

None

Members Absent:

Willy Hoskins
Daniel Klein
Timothy Malooly

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vespa at 9:00 a.m. and role was taken.

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Seanger, seconded by Freichels, to approve the meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Gary Thaden pointed out that he had been representing the National Electrical Contractor's Association when he addressed the Board in the Chapter 3800 discussion. A motion was made by Freichels, seconded by Huxford, 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 Fingerson, seconded by McConnell, to approve Expense Reports and Per Diems. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.
- B. Enforcement – Schultz stated the Department is continuing in their effort to have the law changed to not have to transfer the \$1.5 million to the General Fund every fiscal year. He also stated he feels it's important that the electrical industries be vocal on this subject with their legislators. Schultz stated that in the last legislative session the Governor proposed removing that mandate, however the Senate chose not to remove the required transfer. The law could be changed in the next legislative session to eliminate the transfer.

Freichels recommended adding the subject of enforcement and additional funding to October's Agenda.

V. Special Business

- A. Reciprocal agreements –
 - i. Update on MN State Master Reciprocity Agreement (with ND, NE, SD) – Schultz gave an update on the Reciprocal Agreements.
 - ii. Update on South Dakota's ICC exam – Schultz stated that South Dakota has recently changed their exam, policies and procedures.
 - iii. Update on Multi State Reciprocity Agreement – Schultz stated that Texas has changed their policies, primarily because they are still interested in being a part of the multi-state reciprocity agreement. Iowa is also interested in joining.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Construction Codes Advisory Council – Tom Seanger. The CCAC has not met since June, however, they are scheduled to have a meeting September 17.

VII. Complaints

There have been no complaints to the Board.

VIII. Chapter 3800

Wendy Legge gave an update on the status of the Board of Electricity's rules on Chapter 3800. The Notice of Adoption is scheduled to be published in the *State Register* on October 12, 2009, and the Rules would then become effective October 19, 2009, which is five business days after publication in the *State Register*.

VIII. Open Forum

Bill Heaney asked if the Department has a plan in place in case of a pandemic. Schultz stated yes. Heaney then asked if it would affect the Board of Electricity in case of martial law. Legge stated that the Governor does have a provision to waive rules, not statute, in case of an emergency.

John Ploetz stated his question was directed to the Department and stated that on the Department's website, there is a listing of individual license holders and whether they have met their education requirements. He asked if there is a way to list the last date that list was updated on the website. Schultz stated that the list is updated daily; however, there is a delay from receiving the data and getting it inputted due to staff reduction.

IX. Board Discussion

Vespa stated that in the last meeting, Schultz had talked about the area reps being reassigned and asked if that information is on the website. Schultz stated that beginning September 14th two of the electrical area representatives in the northern part of the state will be assigned a full inspection area, which will impact inspection areas that are assigned to contract electrical inspectors. Gary Thaden asked if that information could be put on the Department's web site. Schultz stated that the information will be posted on the web site by this Friday or the following Monday. Toft asked if this reassignment of inspector's displaces any contract electrical inspectors. Schultz stated no.

Schultz suggested the Board consider going to quarterly meetings, due to the lack of business that needs to be taken care of after their October meeting.

X. Announcements

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- i. Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- ii. Tuesday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Freichels, seconded by McConnell, to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Electricity. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed. The Board adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Toft

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