

**Board of Electricity**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 13, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.**  
Minnesota Room, Department of Labor & Industry  
443 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Joe Vespa (Vice Chair)

**DLI Staff & Visitors:**

Bill Bierman (DLI)  
Todd Green (DLI)  
John Williamson (DLI)  
Lyndy Lutz (DLI)  
Dean Hunter (DLI)  
Charlie Durenberger (DLI)  
Gary Thaden (NECA)  
David Fisch (MNESTA)  
Andy Snope (IBEW)  
Philip Matson  
*Peter Lindahl (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 Freichels, seconded by Hoskins, to approve the agenda as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

**III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Karow, seconded by Westberg, to approve the July 14, 2015 meeting minutes. The roll call 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 Huxford, seconded by McConnell, to approve per diem and expenses. The roll vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

**V. Enforcement**

Charlie Durenberger, Assistant Director, CCLD gave an update – there haven't been any significant cases to report, only a few issues with continuing education courses. The number of enforcement cases remain steady, no trends.

## **VI. E-Licensing and E-Trakit update**

Durenberger gave an update – just rolled out, almost paperless, Contractor License Renewal process. Bonds will be continuous with no expiration date and will remain in effect until a cancellation notice is received from the Surety Company. Online renewals will show all the information that is on file and changes can be made more easily especially for contractors with minor changes. The Enforcement unit is working with insurance agents and renewal information will be sent to us. The goal is to get the renewals to a point where contractors are only paying a fee.

Personal licensing fees have been reduced by eliminating the 10% surcharge and the Continuing Education (CE) surcharge was reduced to \$5 from \$20.

Durenberger stated he is working on updating the department's website to enable individuals to view their current CE hours. Toft noted that showing course titles was not necessary, only hours. Durenberger added that after licenses are renewed it flips back to not met for the next cycle and the department is working to change this as well.

## **VII. Special Business**

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

#### **i. Report on 2015 NERA meeting**

Sampson attended the meeting on August 4 and 5. There were approximately 26 attendees, with 15 representatives from each of the 15 states. One of the largest issues – how to ensure applicants have acceptable experience? Alaska's representative Al Nagel mentioned that the US Dept. of Labor is leaning on them to require applicants to complete an apprenticeship program before being eligible to take the exam. In Iowa, individuals who have not completed an approved apprenticeship program are eligible to take the exam once 16,000 apprenticeship hours have been taken. Minnesota is hosting the 2016 meeting and Sampson will chair the meeting in Duluth the first week in August 2016.

#### **NERA Bylaws**

Sampson referred to **Attachment A** and discussed stricken and new language.

#### **ii. Update on Wisconsin reciprocal licensing request - See Attachment B)**

Sampson noted that the Board should provide a written response to the State of Wisconsin to review reciprocal licensing agreements between our States and also send an update on our progress to Representative Tom Larson. Sampson asked Toft to address **Attachment C** and Toft voiced his concerns with continuing education requirements and said he doesn't feel licensing between the two states is equal. Sampson stated it is based on the applicant's experience. To meet reciprocity requirements, 8,000 *on-the-job training* hours are required. Sampson said there are Minnesota license holders all over the world that must meet Minnesota's CE requirements in order to renew their license regardless of where they reside. There are only a few online courses available.

Hoskins asked that the Board vote on accepting reciprocity from Wisconsin at the next board meeting. Toft said this would be placed on the agenda.

**iii. Legislative update – effective date of rules**

Bierman referred to Attachment D. He noted one of the changes was to the effective date of the rules as follows: “A rule to adopt or amend the State Building Code is effective ~~180~~ **270** days after publication of the rule’s notice of adoption in the State Register.”

Bierman noted an additional change made by the legislature: “The rule may provide for an earlier effective date if the commissioner ~~or board~~...” Bierman added that in the department’s proposed legislation it will be asked that the deletion of “or board” be reversed.

**A motion was made by Freichels to support the department’s efforts to restore the language “~~or board~~” back, seconded by Karow. A roll call vote was unanimous; the motion carried.**

**VIII. Committee Reports**

Nothing to report.

**IX. Complaints**

No complaints brought forth.

**X. Open Forum**

Nothing brought forward.

**XI. Board Discussion**

No discussion.

**XII. Announcements**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings (subject to change) – Tuesday @ 9:00 a.m., Minnesota Room, DLI

- January 12, 2016
- April 12, 2016
- July 12, 2016
- October 11, 2016

**XIII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Freichels, to adjourn at 9:53 a.m. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Huxford*

Kim Huxford  
Secretary

## NERA Bylaws change

### Article VI Membership

Appoint one voting member to represent the member state in a voting capacity at all meetings;

The appointment will be made in writing by the member state to the Secretary;

If the member state chooses to terminate the appointment, the member state will notify the Secretary, in writing, of the termination and who is being appointed as a replacement ~~within thirty (30) days after~~ termination;

If the voting member cannot attend, the member may provide a written, signed proxy authorization on member state letterhead to the Secretary at the Annual Meeting or other called meetings, allowing an alternate representative of the voting member's state to carry out all duties of the actual voting member.

**From:** [Anthony Toft](#)  
**To:** [Michael.Berndt@Wisconsin.Gov](mailto:Michael.Berndt@Wisconsin.Gov); [Matt.Pulda@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Matt.Pulda@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
**Cc:** [Sampson, Sam \(DLI\)](#); [Lutz, Lyndy \(DLI\)](#)  
**Subject:** Minnesota License Reciprocity  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:00:31 PM

---

Dear Mr. Berndt and Mr. Pulda,

The Minnesota Board of Electricity discussed the electrical license reciprocal request with Wisconsin at the last meeting on October 13, 2015. Mr. Sam Sampson asked that I notify you of the status of the request and where we are at this point.

A board vote will likely happen at the next meeting on January 12, 2016.

Some of the discussions and concerns brought up were that Wisconsin is still testing on the 2011 NEC and Minnesota tests on the current code which is the 2014 NEC. Other discussions were on some of the approved continuing education classes allowed for license renewal. Wisconsin has approved classes that are still based on the 2005 NEC and approved classes that are not based on the electrical code at all. Understanding that if reciprocal with Minnesota the ceu classes would have to be approved by Minnesota DOLI.

Discussions also covered electrical work that is exempted from licensing and questions on if certain municipalities can be exempt from inspection.

Those were some of the discussion topics and some may be brought up at the next Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Anthony C.Toft  
MN Board of Electricity, Chair



**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

Department of Safety and Professional Services  
1400 E Washington Ave.  
Madison WI 53703

**Governor Scott Walker      Secretary Dave Ross**

Mail to:  
PO Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708-8935

Email: [dsps@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dsps@wisconsin.gov)  
Web: <http://dsps.wi.gov>  
Phone: 608-266-2112

March 31, 2015

Minnesota Board of Electricity  
Andy Toft, President  
c/o Lyndy Lutz, CCLD  
Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry  
443 Lafayette Road North  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Reciprocity with Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Toft:

The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services regulates the licensing and the practice of electricians in Wisconsin. The Department requests to enter into a reciprocity agreement with the Minnesota Board of Electricity regarding the licensing of electricians.

Recent changes in Wisconsin law now allow for a reciprocity agreement and have made the Wisconsin licensing standards compatible with Minnesota's licensing standards. The Wisconsin law authorizing reciprocity is Wis. Stat. sec. 101.874.

Under the revised laws, Wisconsin master electrician requirements are now comparable to the Minnesota Class A master electrician requirements and the Wisconsin journeyman electrician requirements are now comparable to the Minnesota Class A journeyman electrician requirements. The Wisconsin master electrician requirements are set out in Wis. Stat. sec. 101.868 and the Wisconsin journeyman electrician requirements are set out in Wis. Stat. sec. 101.87. The Department seeks to enter into reciprocity agreements for those specific types of licenses.

I look forward to your response and hope that I can work with a representative for your Board to prepare agreements for formal approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Berndt', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Berndt, Chief Legal Counsel  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
608-267-2914  
[Michael.Berndt@Wisconsin.Gov](mailto:Michael.Berndt@Wisconsin.Gov)

**EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This section is effective August 1, 2015, and applies to all model code adoptions beginning with the 2018 model building code.

**Sec. 7.**

**Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 326B.13, subdivision 8, is amended to read:  
Subd. 8.**

**Effective date of rules.**

A rule to adopt or amend the State Building Code is effective ~~180~~ 270 days after publication of the rule's notice of adoption in the State Register. The rule may provide for a later effective date. The rule may provide for an earlier effective date if the commissioner ~~or board~~ proposing the rule finds that an earlier effective date is necessary to protect public health and safety after considering, among other things, the need for time for training of individuals to comply with and enforce the rule. The commissioner must publish an electronic version of the entire adopted rule chapter on the department's Web site within ten days of receipt from the revisor of statutes. The commissioner shall clearly indicate the effective date of the rule on the department's Web site.

**Note from Bill Bierman: This section is effective August 1, 2015.**