

North Dakota State Electrical Board Minutes

May 21, 2025, Meeting

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Rodney Mayer at the Electrical Board office at 1929 N. Washington St., Ste A-1, Bismarck, North Dakota. Members Present: Rodney Mayer, Jon Hoffman, James Brandenburg, Gerald “Poke” Buck, Christina Roemmich. Also Present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Paige Bergquist; Clay Nagel; Curt Kasper; Nathan Hammarsten; Hayden Bauer

Mayer asked for additional Agenda items. Schmidt would like to add 3 items. Buck makes Motion to approve. Roemmich seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Tim Krommenhoek, Schmidt talks about how Krommenhoek has appeared multiple times before the Board and how he has met all requirements for his informal disposition. Krommenhoek told his current contractor he was licensed when he was in fact not. Nevertheless, Schmidt believes Krommenhoek should receive his journeyman’s license. The board agreed by consensus.

McFall, Schmidt states there is nothing to talk about and to take it off the agenda for now.

Steven Heussner, Schmidt visited with Heussner about attending the meeting, but Heussner was told not to pursue his license until the lawsuit over the Underwood matter was finalized and done with.

Legislative Updates, Schmidt is on his 3rd draft of creating administrative rules to add conveyance inspections to the board responsibilities. Porsborg talks about putting all elevator related rules into a new Title 24.2. Legislative council did not think there would be an issue with this. Schmidt has been visiting with Ryan from Minneapolis that is associated with the elevator union, for feedback on his 3rd draft and will work with the conveyance industry to adopt the proper elevator codes. Porsborg says the primary issue with codes is going to be enforcing them. Porsborg says we should put a statute in place during the next legislative session to give the board more legislative authority to enforce elevator codes. Schmidt states the vision would be to hire someone specifically for working on elevators to work at NDSEB. Schmidt will create an inspection form for elevator maintenance which the elevator inspector will collect/file and decide if a reinspection is necessary from whoever did the initial maintenance. Schmidt talks about putting the inspection label in each ND elevator confirming there has been annual maintenance conducted.

Schmidt reviews his legislative tracking list and comments that a number of bills were signed and passed this year that will affect NDSEB.

Education Committee, Schmidt talks about how ND College of Science applied for the PEAP Program, and the committee advises the board to approve this. Schmidt says that BSC has hired a 2-year journeyman to be their main instructor at BSC. Schmidt says the education committee does not have a formal curriculum standard. Roemmich comments that BSC’s electrical program could be the strongest when they have backing of industry partners. 18 students have signed up for their fall program with not receiving board recognition/approval and Roemmich and Schmidt says this needs to be solved ASAP. Schmidt asks the Board if they have any questions regarding NDSCS and Roemmich supports the committee’s recommendation to approve NDSCS application for the PAP Program. Hoffman makes a Motion to approve a 1-year probationary period for the PEAP Program, Roemmich seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Schmidt reports that Scott Halle went out and looked at H & H Electric classroom in Williston. They will be invited to the next committee meeting. Education Committee Audit was done for JATC classroom facility in Fargo, ND, which all was in order and went well. Then the committee continued to Magnum Electric classroom for their audit which also went very well. It was noted that both JATC and Magnum Electric answered all questions asked to them to the committee's satisfaction. Schmidt talks about whether the board would continue to approve the PowerHouse Program at Magnum Electric for a 1-year provisional period.

Buck makes a Motion to approve and Brandenburg seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Justin Fitzsimmons, Schmidt talks about how Justin wants to reciprocate an expired Wyoming journeyman's license. Staff told him no, but he could be a candidate to come take the exam but not reciprocate his license. Justin just got his master's May 1st and must have it for 1 year in continuous good standing. In one years', time, he could reciprocate down. The Board does not reciprocate Colorado masters. Justin is appealing to the decision of the board's office reciprocation to the board.

Buck makes a Motion to deny the reciprocal, Roemmich seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

ND Building Code, Schmidt is on the State Building Code Committee and has a meeting on Thursday, May 22nd, in which the committee will review the approximately 160 proposed building code amendments. Schmidt talks about how the state adopts international building codes as its state building code and they are amended to fit ND.

Self-Wires, Schmidt states when someone self-wires at home for themselves, each inspector has their own process for inspection. Schmidt has created a new process for issuing self-wire certificates. Jon Saylor will send out the applications and instructions to applicants wanting to self-wire and then review the app with the inspector and collectively decide to approve or deny self-wire application. Schmidt believes the board should have a policy adopted to maintain consistency in how self-wires are handled. Schmidt states homeowners should be fully aware of what they are doing if wanting to self-wire and that an inspector should not be doing it for them. If the denial of an application is challenged, it goes to Saylor, then Schmidt, and then the Board approves or deny again. Schmidt is aiming to take some weight off the inspectors, such as reviewing applications so that they are strictly only doing inspections. Roemmich and Buck discussed that upon completion, an inspection must be done, and any code violations must be fixed in a timely manner which Schmidt confirmed.

Buck makes a Motion to approve the new self-wire policy, Brandenburg seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

[Hayden Bauer and Nathan Hammarsten enter meeting 9:49am]

Nathan Hammarsten states he was an apprentice electrician for 12 years and did not get his journeyman's license or take related training because he was too busy. He got out of the trade and started teaching at Wachter Middle School. He wants to start educating students in 8th grade about becoming electricians. Nathan is looking for a way to forego the schooling hours and just write the journeyman's test. He does not have any electrical certificates of completion. He went to NDSU for mechanical engineering but did not complete this degree. Hammarsten talked to the Wachter groundskeeper, and was told that the kids cannot touch anything electrical if Nathan teaches them how to wire or any other type of electrical lessons/projects, without a journeyman's license. Schmidt recommends he look into the PEAP program to complete the required apprentice education, so he is eligible to write the ND journeyman exam. Schmidt further recommends he

gather his hour verification for the time when he was registered as an apprentice so that much is ready when he receives his required training certificate.

Porsborg pointed out the N.D.Admin. Code § 24.1-03-01-07 which requires related training to be eligible to take the journeyman's test. This would prohibit both Hammarsten and Bauer from being eligible for the exam.

Hayden Bauer states he has 260 hours of book work completed from NDSCS and has 2 kids but has no time to complete the full number of hours. BSC will not hire him because he does not have a journeyman's license. Hayden has been an apprentice for 11 years, this coming August. He has been registered with the NDSEB office and is currently working at Electric Systems. He was hoping working hours would count towards educational hours.

The board discussed their options with both Hammarsten and Bauer and told them what they need to do to most efficiently become eligible for the journeyman's exam.

Board takes break at 10:12am Board reconvenes at 10:29am

Reciprocity, Schmidt is questioning if we can continue having journeyman reciprocity with Idaho since they currently do not require continuing education for licensed electricians. If any electrician comes to ND from Idaho, they will have to have 8 hours of continuing education to keep their license from the several approved classes offered online. Schmidt wants to add new language to the reciprocity application to say that an applicant would need to prove 8 hours of ND approved continuing education in the last 24 months, or to take the ND exam. Schmidt says there is a code change every 3 years which is why continuing education should remain in place. Mayer thinks continuing education is very important and should stay as well.

Marketplace for Kids, Schmidt talked about the email from Darby sharing the results of students that attended the Electric Motors and Electric Circuits class which totaled 241 students. Schmidt will sign up for next year when dates become available.

Expired Contractors, Schmidt reports that 43 cease and desists were sent out to ND electrical contractors, 20 of which had open certificates which Schmidt made calls those 20. They are now down to 35 and are not renewed as of yesterday.

Inspections, Tom Crawford came out of retirement and is now performing electrical inspections for the board in the City of Grand Forks. Schmidt has been in discussions with Brandon Boespflug, who heads the Grand Forks inspections department, on this matter. Schmidt talked about a former South Dakota inspector who has an interest in coming to work for the NDSEB in the Williston area; more details to come.

Stuart Brunsvold, Schmidt talked about Stuart being an expired contractor and having talked to our training director last winter and was told not to renew his license to achieve non-contracting status. He had an open certificate and turned it in back in January. Schmidt told him to fill out the contractor exemption form, but it was not filled out promptly, so he was sent a cease-and-desist letter because the exemption form was not received until last Wednesday. The form and letter crossed paths in the mail, resulting in some confusion.

[Inspectors, Doug Grinde, Jon Sayler, and Scott Halle enter meeting]

Directors of Inspections, Doug talked about numbers regarding open and expired certifications from over the last few years. This year and last year have a higher certification average than in the last 9 years. Doug also contacted a few carnivals and is waiting on their itineraries.

Jon talked about Marketplace for Kids and how 8 classes were held totaling 70 kids and concluding the season. There was 1 career fair put on by job service totaling 33 people. There have been 19 new contractors since the last meeting.

Scott talked about the CEU classes starting next Thursday. This year, the numbers are about 20 people in Fargo and 40 people in Bismarck, which is lower than the average numbers. Scott is working on putting common corrections into PowerPoint.

[Inspectors Doug, Jon, and Scott leave meeting]

Next board meeting July 23, 2025, at 8:30am

Buck makes a Motion to adjourn. Hoffman seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 11:25am.

Date _____

Date _____

Rodney Mayer, President

Jon Hoffman, Secretary