

North Dakota State Electrical Board Minutes

November 20, 2024 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 “Jim” Brandenburg, Christina Roemmich. Also Present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Anna Heinen; Scott Halle, NDSEB Training/Compliance Administrator; and Curt Kasper, assistant executive director Dakotas chapter NECA and Clay Nagel IBEW. Not present: Gerald “Poke” Buck.

Mayer asked for additional Agenda items. Schmidt would like to add BSC to the Agenda.

Mayer asked for a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Roemmich makes the Motion to approve. Brandenburg seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

2025 Calendar - The Board looked over the proposed meetings for 2025. Hoffman made a motion to approve the 2025 meetings as proposed. Roemmich seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Conveyance Equipment - Schmidt talked about his meeting between him, the Elevator reps., and Porsborg. Porsborg talks about the issue with enforcement of older elevators not being up-to-date. Porsborg asks the Board if they would prefer that he write the proposed Bill for legislature. Schmidt discusses that ND is one of only two states (the other being WY) that do not inspect elevators. Schmidt states that the NDSEB can take it on, but it would need to create a separate division and add a separate inspector. The Board discusses the process. Brandenburg makes a Motion that Porsborg draft the bill for legislature. The Board discusses further and Brandenburg withdraws his Motion. The board consensus was that Schmidt and Porsborg continue to work with the elevator representatives to see if this legislation is workable.

(Paula Glass enters meeting)

Delbert Lutz - Glass discusses Lutz’s history with the Board and his current Cease and District that was issued by NDSEB. Lutz is not licensed and his apprentice registration expired years ago. Porsborg states that the Board has no authority over an unlicensed individual and that it will need to be turned over to the State’s Attorney for prosecution. The Board approves for Schmidt to proceed to send the information to the State’s Attorney.

(Inspectors Rich and Doug enter meeting)

Stephen McFall - Krause tells the Board about the explosion of two 13.8 KV transformers at the powerplant data center in Underwood. Krause went to the inspection and was told that McFall’s company was fired and asked to leave the site. Schmidt suggested the Board revoke McFall’s Masters license. Krause talks about the lead journeyman Steven Heussner on the site and that he was the individual that flipped the switch for the power. The Board discusses the reprimand of both individuals in relation to this job. Schmidt suggests that both McFall and Heussner license bet put on “hold” for now. Hoffman makes a Motion to Put Stephen McFall’s Master license on

hold and proceed with formal revocation of his license. Brandenburg seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Hoffman makes a Motion to put Steven Heussner's license on hold and proceed with formal revocation of his journeyman's license. Roemmich seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Schmidt requests that the inspectors get statements and put together affidavits on the incident for Porsborg.

(Rich and Doug leave meeting)

City of Minot - Schmidt talks about the meeting held with Minot city councilmen and the sending a photos of the inspection stickers to their building official. Schmidt keeps records of the final inspection and rough-in stickers for wiring jobs in Minot.

Alex Sele - Schmidt tells the Board about Sele. Sele is from MN, does not have education requirement, and the majority of his time worked has been in ND, so Sele would not be able to reciprocate to a ND journeyman's license. Schmidt asks the Board whether he should offer Sele the placement exam even if he doesn't meet the minimum requirements. The Board agrees to maintain the consistency of having the applicant meet the minimum requirements.

(Jon enters meeting)

Contractors - Jon gives the Board an update on Dion Oscarson out of Rugby. Oscarson owes admin fees but has not been heard of or seen in some time. Schmidt states that it is just a wait and see.

Jon gives the Board an update on David Patrick from Fargo. Patrick has 6 open certificates and each certificate has corrections and fees assessed. Patrick is in legal trouble currently and facing some prison time. Schmidt states that he will leave these on the agenda for updates at the next meeting.

(Jon leaves meeting)

Reciprocity - Schmidt talks about Texas looking over our Reciprocity Agreement and will be getting back to us.

(Paula Glass leaves Meeting)

NDSCS Alumni Foundation - Schmidt states that NDSCS is requesting the NDSEB makes a donation to their foundation. Porsborg reads the Electrical Rules and Statutory Authority and states that the money should go toward students or training programs. The Board discusses and decides no donation can be made.

Board Survey - Schmidt discusses the licensing survey sent out. Schmidt gave the survey to the Board to look over at their convenience.

Employee Service Awards - Schmidt talks to the Board about the recent Employee Service Awards.

District 12 - Schmidt stated that district 12 inspector, David Jaeger, resigned on Oct 24th. NDSEB has placed an ad for a new inspector for NW North Dakota plus a statewide inspection position.

(Porsborg leaves meeting)

Board takes a Break at 10:53 am.

Board reconvenes at 11:09 am

(Inspectors Jon, Doug, and Scott enter the meeting)

Director of Inspections - Doug updates the Board on District 12 self-wires. He is working on getting through them all before the end of the year. Sean is covering residential, and Tom is covering the oil in district 12. 38 new MHA certs, 355 in total (since 2017) and 89 in 2024. Doug has a total of 14 inspectors. Doug discusses SKIDs and how many are out of state and talks about the incoming certs that will be coming in from Ellendale for the projected housing project they will be putting in (approximately 500 houses and a few large apartment buildings).

Jon updates the Board on the marketplace for kids' program. Dec 4 in Bismarck is the next upcoming marketplace for kid's event. He talks about the Minot career fair and how they get a great turnout. Contractor orientations are going well. Jon is working on the proposals for the new ND building code adoption, and he will get those to Schmidt. Schmidt tells the Board more about the electrical plan reviews.

Scott updated the Board on his Williston and Dickinson classes last week. Numbers between the two were around 72-86 in each. He will hold classes in Bismarck and Minot in December and Grand Forks and Fargo classes in January. Around 100 in attendance at each of those. Scott talked about the career fair and that he saw a good amount of interest in the electrical field.

Jon and Scott update the Board on grading exams. Jon states that a lot are not passing and he is unsure whether individuals are studying enough or not. Scott states that individuals are missing reading through the ND Wiring Standards and they seem to focus more on the NEC. Schmidt asks the Board if the Journeyman exam should be all open book. The Board discussed and would like to defer that decision to the education committee.

(Inspectors Doug and Jon leave meeting)

BSC - Schmidt tells the Board about his meeting between BSC and Scott to discuss their 2-year program. The education committee will review those plans and then it will be brought before the Board.

(Inspector Scott leaves meeting)

NDSCS Scholarship - Schmidt talks to the Board about the "thank you" note received. NDSEB gave \$32k for 2024 fall semester of 65 students. The NDSEB has given scholarships over \$1m to students and apprentices since the fall of 2020.

Professional Licensing Board Training - Brandenburg talks about learning more about the legislature and how to make laws. Hoffman talks about Board Member voting and how it truly does affect the outcome. Hoffman states there was a lot of information that was covered but the information was excellent.

Mayer states the next Board meeting is January 29, 2025, at 8:30am. Roemmich makes a Motion to adjourn. Brandenburg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 12:21 pm.

Date _____

Date _____

Rodney Mayer, President

Jon Hoffman, Secretary