

North Dakota State Electrical Board Minutes

September 25, 2024 Meeting

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:32 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; Adam Kidwell, JATC; and Curt Kasper, NECA. Not present: Gerald “Poke” Buck.

Mayer asked for additional Agenda items. No items to add. Mayer asked for motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Roemmich makes the motion to approve. Brandenburg seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Dustin Desjarlais, Mayer asked Porsborg for an update on Desjarlais. Porsborg said that Desjarlais did give up his Master’s license and he did reapply for a Journeyman’s license. Porsborg also received a Notice of Bankruptcy, although it doesn’t affect the NDSEB as he doesn’t owe them money.

Education Committee, Schmidt talked to the Board about the \$979,000 in scholarship to apprentices since the program started in the fall of 2020. Schmidt also talked about the apprentices/students received reimbursed up to \$500 per semester. Mayer asked Adam Kidwell for his input on the program.

Schmidt talked about the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton (NDSCS) and the Education Committee’s meeting regarding improving their electrical program. Students didn’t have anyone to consult with, they weren’t getting previous credits applied, and the students were getting frustrated. They asked the college to come up with a new plan for the program by September 1st. The program was revamped and Schmidt asked that the Board approve the revised program. Schmidt asked Adam to add input. Adam talked to the Board about the program they rebuilt. How they are raising the bar and adding subject matter. Schmidt talked about one hurdle being current students and how this revamped program would affect them.

Schmidt asked the Board to entertain a Motion to Accept NDSCS revised training program. Mayer also asked the Board for a Motion. Roemmich made the Motion to accept North Dakota State College of Science’s revised training program as presented. Brandenburg Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Schmidt talked about the newly created related training program, Professional Electrician Apprentice Program (PEAP). The IEC Dakotas Professional Electricians Program (PEP) was reviewed by the Education Committee and suggested to the board to approve a 1-year provisional on their program. Schmidt talked about all other programs having this provision. Schmidt asked Adam for his input. Adam talked to the Board about this program and the Board’s ability to recognize glass ceilings. Brandenburg makes a Motion to give a 1-year provisional for the IEC PEP program. Hoffman seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Schmidt talked about the six individuals that sent applications for the Education Committee as follows.

Ivan Maas Power Limited Representative expiring 12/31/2028.

Zach Sheeley On Campus Representative expiring 12/31/2028.

Nicole Wischank reappointed Off-Campus Representative expiring 12/31/2028.

Brian Poykko ND Professional Engineer Representative expiring 12/31/2027.

Tim Pull ND Master Electrician Representative expiring 12/31/2027.

Steven Mundahl Journeyman Electrician Representative expiring 12/31/2027.

A motion to appoint these six individuals to the Education Committee by Brandenburg to accept the six individuals to the positions and terms as stated. Roemmich seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Victor Wardle (not present), Schmidt gives the Board an update on Victor Wardle. Victor failed the placement exam the Board offered. Wardle would like his marked exam paper returned to him. Schmidt explains N.D.C.C. 44-04-18.8 on Examination Questions and Procedures Exemptions. The Board discusses the situation and whether the placement exam is a one-time offer. Porsborg tells the Board that our administrative rules state the Placement Exam is a one-time offer. Mayer asks for a motion. Hoffman makes a motion to deny Victor's request for a copy of his exam based on N.D.C.C. 44-04-18.8. Brandenburg seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Board takes a Break at 9:44 am.

Board reconvenes at 9:56 am

Reciprocity, Schmidt states he is still working on adding a new state and looking to add a Master license option with Iowa and Journeyman with Texas.

City of Minot, Mayer and Schmidt attended a meeting in Minot with Minot Representatives regarding the NDSEB inspections within the City of Minot. Schmidt stated that NDSEB will now treat Minot like all other Cities in ND. NDSEB will stop sending daily inspection reports. Minot thinks NDSEB needs to be stricter on its City Ordinances which corrections were sent out to the contractors that we not licensed with the City of Minot. Schmidt explained to Minot the inaccuracies in their electrical ordinances and provided the City with examples of jobsite inspection documents that other cities use. NDSEB will restore the reporting system on their computers so they can better tract their contractors.

(Clay Nagel, IBEW, entered meeting)

Conveyance Equipment (a/k/a Elevators), Schmidt had a third meeting with elevator reps. Schmidt would like to hire an elevator expert (in-office and out-of-office) in the future to license the companies through NDSEB that handle the inspections. The licensed companies would then forward their reports to NDSEB for record keeping. Schmidt and Porsborg would assist with legislation regarding creating elevator licensing and inspections code. Schmidt states Wyoming and ND are the only states without elevator licensing.

Michael Goltz submitted an Application for Electrician's License by Reciprocity. Reciprocity is with Utah, although his felony is from Oregon 27 years ago. He is requesting Reciprocity for a

duration of a job in ND that his company has acquired. Board discussed. Brandenburg makes a motion to approve Michael's Application. Roemmich Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

(Paula Glass and Jon Sayler enter meeting)

Contractors, Schmidt talked to the Board about the contractors that are expired but have outstanding fees and corrections. On May 1st, NDSEB sent out 134 letters to contractors that did not renew their licenses. On May 15th, Schmidt sent out 56 Cease and Desists Orders. Schmidt talks about three expired contractors with outstanding fees and corrections, with one getting everything cleaned up last week. Dion Oscarson has outstanding fees on corrections on a cert that has now been taken over by another contractor. David Patrick has 6 active certs with fees and corrections needed on all certs. Patrick was recently incarcerated, and the board discussed the allegations against him. Eric Peterson owes admin fees. Schmidt asks the Board for input on how to handle the two contractors with certificate corrections needed. Board discusses. Hoffman makes a Motion to proceed with the two contractors as NDSEB has in the past by sending a letter to the expired contractor and property owners. Brandenburg seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

(Paula and Jon leave meeting)

Proposed 2025 Calendar, Schmidt offers to table the proposed calendar to November meeting so everyone can check their calendars. The Board is given a proposed calendar to review.

Professional Licensing Board Training, Schmidt stated that Hoffman and Brandenburg are registered for the training.

(Porsborg leaves meeting)

(Doug Grinde, Jon Sayler, and Scott Halle enter meeting)

Reports:

Jon talked to the Board about the outreach program -Marketplace for kids; Career fairs in Fargo and Minot; Office duties regarding 71 new contractors with 40 being out of state; and updated Exam questions regarding Code changes.

Scott talked to the Board about Continuing Ed. Same class for all cities with attendance numbers ranging from 40 to 100 (about the same as last year). Education Committee has met and they have follow-up on apprenticeship programs. Scott talks more on the Marketplace for kids and the positive feedback from the kids in the program. Schmidt asks Scott to bring the project from Marketplace for the Board to see.

Doug talked to the Board about the new inspector, Sean. Doug moves Sean to different Districts where needed as certs come in. Doug talked about 696 certs being the average per inspector. 9,000 active certs in the state, 8 active self-wires in Bismarck, and 21 new MHA certs. Incoming certs are high with 1270 - close to a 4-year high.

(Doug, Jon, and Scott leave meeting)

Mayer states the next Board meeting is November 20th. Brandenburg makes a Motion to adjourn. Roemmich seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 11:37 am.

Date _____

Date _____

Rodney Mayer, President

Jon Hoffman, Secretary