

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Electrical Commission meeting held on January 19, 2012 via conference call.

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Cam Becker at 8:00 AM.

The following members were present: Jesse Smith, Steve Nielsen, Robert Cronin, Cam Becker, Duane Mergen, and Tim McIntyre. A quorum was present. Steve Arne joined the call at 9:00 A.M.

Others present were: Todd Kolden - Dept. of Labor & Regulations, JJ Linn – Executive Director and Diana Peterson – Office Secretary.

Motion by Nielsen; Seconded by Mergen to approve the minutes of October 20, 2011. Motion approved by roll call vote.

Inspectors report:

- Reviewed minutes of the inspectors meeting
 - Members discussed the Self-Contained Devices (SCDs)
 - Members discussed the requirement for four wire conductors
- Director Linn noted the inspectors remarked that this was one of the best meetings they have had.

Old Business:

- Director Linn reported on the status of the new database.
 - The Commission has been informed by BIT that there are approximately 800 hours remaining to finalize the project resulting in an estimated overage of 40%. BIT attempted to justify the overage was due to turnover of employees and scope creepage.
 - Director Linn expressed his dissatisfaction with BIT's performance. Their lack of oversight and poor cross training will result in extra expense for the Commission. Multiple times in the past year Director Linn requested updates from BIT and was informed by BIT that the project was on time and within budget in August. All additional requests for status updates were not completed by BIT until January due to turnover and insufficient staff.
 - Todd Kolden oversees the Department of Labor and Regulation IT projects with BIT. Mr. Kolden confirmed Director Linn's repeated efforts to assure BIT was being accountable.
 - Member McIntyre questioned the quality of the database.
 - President Smith requested that the Commission concerns be forwarded to Secretary Roberts and to the BIT Commissioner. Mr. Kolden assured the Members Secretary Roberts is aware of the situation and will be briefed regarding the Commission's disappointment and dissatisfaction with BIT's performance.
- Director Linn presented and reviewed the reciprocal agreement status report. The Arkansas agreement will be presented to President Smith for execution.

New Business:

- T.R. Arnold & Associates, Inc. has requested to be a third party inspector. A discussion was held. Motion by Mergen; Seconded by Nielsen to approve T.R. Arnold & Associates, Inc. as a third party inspector. Motion approved by roll call vote.
- The reports were reviewed by the Commission. Director Linn reported that Casey Kebach retired and is going to work as a Seasonal Inspector. Motion by Cronin; Seconded by Mergen to approve the reports. Motion approved by roll call vote.

Code Committee: No report.

President report:

- President Smith again expressed his disappointment in BIT.

Director report:

- Director Linn reported on a concern that President Smith received on the service in the office. An Inactive Electrical Contractor applied for his Electrical Contractor's license and received it to reciprocate to Alaska. Throughout this process a question was raised to the clarity in our law to allow an Electrical Contractor the ability to be issued a Journeyman license he received by exam prior to attaining the Electrical Contractor level of licensure. The Commission policy has been to allow an Inactive Electrical Contractor the ability to be issued a Journeyman license as it is part of their Electrical Contractor license. Director Linn confirmed other surrounding states conduct business in the same manner. Director Linn will assess the need for a change in SDCL or SDAR to clarify the law.
- Director Linn read the thank you from Harlan Nielsen's family.
- Director Linn read the thank you from Union County for our work at Dakota Dunes.
- Director Linn updated the Members as to the outstanding invoice from Dakota Dunes Community Improvement District.
- Commission did not submit any bills to legislature this year. Director Linn is monitoring other bills that may affect the Commission.
- The Commission has offered to subsidize one of the speakers at the upcoming IAEI meeting.

Upcoming Commission meeting dates:

March 2-3, 2012 - IAEI Meeting - Aberdeen

April 19, 2012 – Commission Meeting – 8:00 AM – Conference Call

May 4-5, 2012 – SD Electrical Council Meeting - Pierre

Motion by McIntyre; Seconded by Nielsen to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved by roll call vote.

Cam Becker, Commission Secretary