

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Electrical Commission meeting held on July 21, 2011 at the State Capitol Room 412, Pierre, South Dakota.

The meeting was called to order by President Jesse Smith.

The following members were present: Jesse Smith (via phone), Duane Mergen (via phone), Steve Nielsen and Robert Cronin. Absent: Cam Becker, Larry Simonson, and Tim McIntyre. A quorum was present.

Others present were: JJ Linn – Executive Director and Diana Peterson – Office Secretary.

Motion by Cronin; Seconded by Nielsen to approve the minutes of May 19, 2011. Motion approved.

Inspectors report:

- Discussed lighting change out policy.
- Discussed inspections of flood damage.
- Addressed the creation of an Inspector's manual.

Commissioner Cronin questioned how Contractors know what procedures to follow when assessing and repairing flood damaged properties. Director Linn stated the Commission has released public service announcements stating the 2008 National Electrical Code requires replacement or reconditioning of all electrical equipment damaged by flood water. The Commission will require all permitted installations comply with the NEC.

Old Business:

- Director Linn reported on the status of the new database. A spreadsheet was presented and reviewed noting the current expenses to date. Director Linn noted the database has been delayed as BIT employees are being utilized on projects with a higher priority than the Commission's. Director Linn has developed short-term reports in the interim to analyze Inspection costs.
- Director Linn presented and reviewed the reciprocal agreement status report. Director Linn is currently in discussions with Texas and Arkansas. The next National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance meeting will be August 1st and 2nd in Iowa.
- Director Linn reported the Governor has recommended all agencies review their Statutes and Administrative Rules for changes or elimination. Director Linn has requested the Commission and the industry let him know of any changes.
- President Smith announced nominations are now in order for the office of President. Commissioner Cronin nominated Jesse Smith. President Smith requested additional nominations. Seeing none President Smith declared Jesse Smith elected to the position of President by acclamation. President Smith announced nominations are now in order for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Nielsen nominated Cam Becker. President Smith requested additional nominations. Seeing none President Smith declared Cam Becker elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation.

New Business:

- A discussion was held on approval of entities requesting to do Certification and Field Evaluations in the State of South Dakota. Director Linn noted a list of Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories

("NRTLs") are provided on the OSHA web site. The Commission will continue to recognize NRTLs as being approved to conduct Certification and Field Evaluation in the State of South Dakota.

The reports were reviewed by the Commission. Motion by Nielsen; Seconded by Cronin to approve the reports. Motion approved.

Code Committee: No report. Duane Mergen, Steve Nielsen and Robert Cronin currently make up the Code Committee.

President report:

- Thanked everyone for their vote.
- Pleased with the direction the Commission is going.
- JJ and the Inspectors did well at Dakota Dunes.
- Please help JJ with the review of the Statutes and Administrative Rules by providing comments.

Director report:

- Provided a background and update on Dakota Dunes. Director Linn praised the outstanding performance of the Inspectors at Dakota Dunes. The Commission's approximate expense of conducting the assessments was \$16,000.00. Mid-American informed the Commission of their refusal to pay any amount to the Commission for Commission expenses. Currently the bill has been forwarded onto the Dakota Dunes Community Improvement District for payment.
- The flood policy will be finalized and sent out to the Inspectors.
- Director Linn is currently in discussion with the Department of Labor & Regulation in regards to the digitalization of licensee files.
- The inspectors agreed to forego travel to IAEE in Louisville, KY. The Commission plans to provide inexpensive training with nationally recognized speakers for all Inspectors and Licensees with these funds.
- Director Linn plans on attending the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance meeting in Iowa on August 1st & 2nd.
- Post cards were mailed to licensees documenting the availability on the website to view 2011 Administrative Rule changes, the 2011 NEC adoption effective date of 7/1/11, the utilization of the 2011 NEC on the exam effective date of 9/1/11, and the request of the Commission for all licensees to provide an email address to the Commission.
- Director Linn informed the Commission of concerns raised regarding the quality of the ICC exam as a result of a panel review conducted by Inspectors in Wyoming and South Dakota. Director Linn will address the concerns with ICC. Commissioner Cronin stated that he has had individuals state that they were not given enough time to complete the exam. Director Linn will follow-up on the concern.

Upcoming Commission meeting dates:

October 20, 2011 – Commission Meeting – Conference Call Meeting – 8:00 AM

Commissioner Cronin thanked JJ and the Inspectors for a job well done at Dakota Dunes.

Motion by Nielsen; Seconded by Mergen to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

Cam Becker, Commission Secretary