

Meeting Minutes
SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION
Microsoft Teams Meeting
February 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m. CDT

President Lyons called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Director Overweg called the roll. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Sean Lyons, Rick Cronin, Dave Eide, Doug Fuerst, Tor Sorlien

Members Absent: Russ VanDerWerff

Others Present: Pamela Overweg - executive director, Jerry McCabe - DLR division director, Brent Schoulte - lead inspector, Rachel Dix – SDHBA, Jodi Aumer - director of professional licensing

Dave Eide requested the commission add Disconnect Notices to the agenda as the new letter I. Tor Sorlien made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Rick Cronin seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Rick Cronin made a motion to approve the October 24 hearing minutes. Doug Fuerst seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

President Lyons opened the floor to public input. Rachel Dix spoke on behalf of the South Dakota Home Builders Association thanking the commission for including them in the process and discussion.

Director Overweg presented the board with a request from someone to achieve the license of inspector based on a previous test score without taking a new test. The board discussed the rule and agreed that any license must be obtained within 90 days of taking the test or the test score is forfeited. If an individual takes the test and obtains a contractor license, they would still have 90 days to obtain an inspector license without retaking the test.

Director Overweg presented the board with a proposed policy for interpreting ARSD 20:44:20:10 in regard to requested inspections and reinspections. The board discussed the rule. Tor Sorlien made a motion to adopt the proposed policy with an effective date of March 1, 2024. Rick Cronin seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Dave Eide presented the board with discussion on how disconnects are currently handled and proposed the commission look at a new process. The board discussed different aspects of disconnects and asked Director Overweg to obtain more information on the commission's authority to have inspectors lock out installations for the next board meeting or to charge fees for sending disconnects.

President Lyons reported to the board on his attendance at the annual meeting for SDHBA and his discussion with them on how the electrical commission is self-funded. The SDHBA shared

with him their concerns on a need for inspectors on the western side of the state, and the varying interpretations of code between inspectors.

Director Overweg reported to the board on the progress SB 81 regarding homeowner wiring and the passing of SB 57 regarding the consideration of criminal histories. The commission currently has two openings for inspectors that they are trying to fill. The new database is progressing with goals of having it in place before the 2024 renewal. Billing continues to make progress with an increase in the overall cash balance since the last meeting. Director Overweg also introduced Jodi Aumer as the director of professional licensing starting February 9th.

Brent Schoulte updated the board on the current volume of permits leveling off and the inspectors held a meeting February 1st.

The next Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2023.

Tor Sorlien a motion to adjourn the Commission meeting. Rick Cronin seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.** The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.