

## **North Dakota State Electrical Board Minutes**

January 29, 2025, 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, Gerald “Poke” Buck, Christina Roemmich. Also Present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Anna Heinen; Janel Redinger, Adam Kidwell, JATC; and Clay Nagel, IBEW.

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

Mayer asked for additional Agenda items. Schmidt would like to add Dan Fontaine, Trevor Dutka, and Casey Hoskinson to the Agenda. All in favor.

[Tim Krommenhoek and Iris Krommenhoek enter]

Dan Fontaine - Schmidt talks to the Board about his Apprenticeship renewal with Fontaine’s recent felony conviction. He has been an Apprentice since 2022 with no gaps in his renewal. Board discussed. Buck made a Motion to approve his Apprenticeship Application. Brandenburg Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Trevor Dutka – Dutka, a Canada Red Seal License Electrician, failed his placement exam and would like to retake the test. Porsborg stated it is an Electrical Board Rule to only allow one placement exam BUT it states the examinee can appeal the Board within 30 days. Schmidt states that the next steps would be starting an Apprenticeship program for four years and 8,000 hours. An electrical company out of Williston is pulling the Canadian workers to the US. Although Dutka doesn’t list an employer in his application. Buck makes a Motion to deny Dutka’s appeal to take the placement exam a second time. Brandenburg seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Casey Hoskinson - Schmidt explains to the Board that Hoskinson was a non-contractor working on a site that is approximately 95% complete. Hoskinson agreed to go on probation and complete the job. He did set up his contracting documents with the Board. Roemmich made a Motion to Approve an Informal Disposition with a 1-year probationary period. Buck seconds the Motion. Motion passed unanimously.

[Inspectors Doug, Jon, and Sean enter meeting]

Tim Krommenhoek (Present with wife Iris) - Schmidt has a summary spreadsheet for the Board to review of Krommenhoek’s work, requested corrections, and cert. fees going back 3 years. Mayer sets some ground rules and asks Krommenhoek for a statement. Krommenhoek states he is 57 years old and been an electrician since 1996. He states he has health issues and been running his business alone since 2016. He lost a son in August of this year and he is grieving. His wife has begun to help with his books this year due to his lack of book keeping and he has an accountant that is looking into his financials. Schmidt asks about cert fees on a particular project and

Krommenhoek states that he has gotten lazy in his paperwork. Mayer asks about falsifying his job costs. Krommenhoek stated the owner supplied the building materials and he didn't think he needed to include those costs in his certs. Krommenhoek reciprocated his journeyman license from Idaho and then did his 2,000 hours to take his Masters. Schmidt asks the inspectors for their insight. Doug stated that Krommenhoek kept certifying that his corrections were done and they had to visit locations 3-4 times to reinspect, finding the corrections were not done. Krommenhoek stated that he now has an apprentice for 4 months that has been helping him.

Roemmich makes a Motion to go into executive session for purpose of attorney consultation. Hoffman seconds the Motion. Mayer asks for a roll call vote and Motion passes unanimously.

[Tim, Iris, Adam, and Clay leave the meeting]

*Enters executive session at 9:30am*

Roemmich makes Motion to end executive session. Buck seconds. Mayer asks for a roll call vote and Motion passes unanimously.

*Executive session ends at 10:14am*

*Board takes a short break and reconvenes at 10:20 am*

[Tim, Iris, Adam, and Clay enter the meeting]

Porsborg gives Krommenhoek the Board's two options that were discussed, (1) go formal or (2) offer an Informal Disposition Agreement. Porsborg outlines the terms of the Informal Agreement that the Board has agreed to give Krommenhoek. Porsborg reiterated that any violation of these terms of this Agreement and your license will be pulled. Krommenhoek and Iris ask a few clarifying questions. Porsborg asks Krommenhoek if he agrees to the terms of the Agreement as outlined -He agrees. The Board members gave their comments to Krommenhoek.

[Tim, Iris, John, Sean, Doug and Janel leave meeting]

Delbert Lutz - Schmidt asks if the Board would like him to continue to pursue Lutz's violations of wiring without a license with the State's Attorney's office. The Board decides to not have Schmidt pursue anything at this time.

Reciprocity - Texas has been in communications and has the agreement to review. Iowa has revised its journeyman and entered into Masters reciprocity for both licenses now with North Dakota.

Conveyance Equipment - Schmidt was up at legislature to testify with Senator Kessel on the Senate Bil 2336l. Schmidt felt the meeting was positive. Schmidt states that there was no opposition and many questions were asked. Porsborg tells the Board that there are 6,000 elevators in ND at this time and that 2 or 3 inspectors may be needed to inspect. Schmidt talks about certifying the manufacturers and adding them to the licensing system to help keep track and have some overview on the inspections.

Occupational Licensure Report - Schmidt tells the Board about the SB 2395 that Senator Hogue brought before legislature. A similar bill, SB 2249, failed last session. Porsborg states that the NDSEB would want to weigh in if needed later. Buck makes a Motion to oppose the SB 2395 as written. Hoffman makes a second. Motion passes unanimously.

Schmidt talks to the Board about Legislative bills that the NDSEB is following. See handout. Adam weighed in on his thoughts on apprenticeship programs.

Steve McFall & 7f Steven Heussner - Doug was in communications with the contractor that took over the mess at the powerplant data center in Underwood. No one wants to cause waves. The two are no longer in ND and Schmidt thinks they won't come back. The Board discusses how to proceed. The Board asks Schmidt to be in friendly communications with Arkansas about the incident. Schmidt verifies that the licenses are on hold. Hoffman makes a Motion to reconsider going formal immediately on McFall and Heussner and maintain their licenses on hold and if they choose to renew, they must appear before the Board to explain their actions. Buck seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Recruitment/ Retention Policy - Mayer talks about the new Basin plant and how we can retain our inspectors. Schmidt gives a handout for the Boards review. NDSEB has an ad out for 3 inspectors, and it expires on Friday. Schmidt asks the Board to review and approve the revised Policy for Recruiting/Retaining Employees and the Retention Bonus Agreement. The Board discusses a retention bonus for current employees and to roll it out next pay period. They discussed the retention for a year or the employee pays back the bonus. Roemmich makes a Motion to approve the Policy for Recruiting/Retaining Employees as written. Hoffman seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Roemmich makes a Motion to provide a retention bonus with a 2-month salary bonus with a 12-month claw-back. Brandenburg seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Inspector Interviews - Schmidt tells the Board they have seven interviews on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Mayer and Brandenburg agreed to sit in on the interviews.

*Board takes a break at 12:33.*

*Board reconvenes at 12:56 pm.*

TSA - Schmidt talks about the TSA wanting a donation to support students who participate in STEM related competitions. The Board decides to pass on the request.

Education Committee - Schmidt discussed the applications that were reviewed at the Education Advisory Committee meeting last week. Schmidt states that the committee found that H&H Electric needs to resubmit their application with revised information. The committee will also meet with BSC next month regarding their request for a 2-year electrical program. The committee suggested the board approve the JATC PEAP education application for their program to educate and train apprentices. Adam Kidwell spoke to the Board about the program. Buck made a Motion to approve the JATC PEAP program. Roemmich seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Marke Bogle - Schmidt talks to the Board about his journeyman application. Bogle is reciprocating from Colorado. Bogle lied on his application by answering “no” to any felony convictions. Court documents explain that Bogle was convicted and served his time for murdering his wife. The Board discusses the lie on his application. Roemmich made a Motion to deny his application. Hoffman seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Schmidt asks Porsborg to draft and send the denial letter.

[Inspectors Jon, Doug, and Scott enter the meeting]

Contractors - Jon talks to the board of rouge contractors and the work they are doing to remedy these.

Scott Halle updated the Board on his classes 1,096 people attended the classes. Getting dates set up for 2027 and arranging the venues. Scott talked about the Marketplace Kids events and the fun the kids have. Scott talked about the CEU classes picking up.

Doug Grinde updates the Board on Krommenhoek (from earlier in the meeting) and the certs they reprinted and discussed the work needed to be done by Inspector Sean Allen. Doug assisted Sean in arranging the re-inspections. Doug talked about the data center at Ellendale and how they worked through the work that was done there and Magnum taking over the certs. Doug talks about his work in Williston checking the old self-wires and he is almost caught up. Schmidt tells the Board that Doug is doing a lot of clean-ups of old certificates left by the previous inspector in District 12. Doug talks about the MHA Certs and that there is one new one in 2025. Doug also discusses the self-wires in Bismarck. Doug says there were 16,514 incoming new certs in 2024 and he thinks 2025 is going to be bigger.

Jon Sayler updates the Board on NDSEB (Marketplace for Kids). 5 classes with 44 students in Bismarck was held. There are upcoming marketplaces in Minot and Mayville. Jon talks about older SKID corrections and the slow progress. Schmidt discusses the SKIDs and the struggles with having current contacts. Jon said almost 200 are over 5 years old.

Mayer states the next Board meeting is March 26, 2025. Hoffman makes a Motion to adjourn. Buck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Rodney Mayer, President

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Jon Hoffman, Secretary