

North Dakota State Electrical Board Minutes

July 15, 2026, Board 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, Jesse Larson, James Brandenburg, Gerald “Poke” Buck, and Dale Rubish. Also Present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Anna Jellesed; John Hoffman and Victor Schock, Director for the Public Service Commission (PSC). Christina Roemmich was not present.

Mayer introduces the new Board member, Dale Rubish with Ottertail Power in Wahpeton.

Schmidt talks about the organization of the board each year. Schmidt ask for nominations for President, Buck nominates Mayer, Brandenburg seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Mayer asks for nominations for VP. Brandenburg nominates Buck, Larson seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Mayer asks for Secretary nominations, Buck nominates Brandenburg, Larson seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Mayer asks for Treasurer nominations, Buck nominates Larson, Rubish seconds, Motion passes unanimously.

Mayer asks the names of the visitors in the gallery. Victor Schock with PSC introduces himself to the Board.

Mayer reviewed the agenda and asks if anyone has anything to add. Schmidt adds 4 items. Mayer asks for a Motion to approve the agenda as amended and to approve the consent agenda. Buck makes a Motion, Brandenburg seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Schmidt welcomes Dale Rubish to the Board, representing the investor-owned utility from Ottertail Power and thanks John Hoffman representing Excel Energy for serving out his term. Hoffman shares his thanks to the Board.

Utilities (Victor Schock, present), Schmidt gives an overview to the Board regarding the new power plant, Bison Generation Station, in Williams County and their push back on inspections, certificates, permits and licensures needed. Victor talks about the laws and codes that reference utilities and inspections. Victor states that when a company gets a permit from the PSC they will require that they follow the ND Electrical Code. Schmidt was looking for confirmation that the NDSEB is applying the law correctly in inspecting non-power-generating areas and items in power plants. Porsborg gave legal advice on how to handle licensure and inspections in buildings that don't allow the NDSEB to enter. Inspections would include the lights, outlets and fire alarm system.

(Adam Kidwell enters meeting)

(Victor Schock leaves meeting)

Contractor Concerns, Schmidt talks to the Board about his presentation to NECA in Fargo and the concerns he received after. Schmidt invited individuals to appear at the meeting to discuss their concerns with the Board. A big concern was the Apprentice to Journeyman ratio and the request

to up it. ArchKey stated the ratio complaint doesn't matter anymore but did discuss the desire for licensure examinations to be held in Fargo in addition to Bismarck. Mayer states the current ratio is 3 to 1 but heard the request for the ratio would be 6 to 1. Kidwell commented on the ratio as well. The Board discusses leaving the ratio as is and continuing with testing in Bismarck. Hoffman talks about the ratio and the intent being to help the Apprentice get better by hands on training and supervision, not to speed up a job.

Home Inspection, Schmidt talks about home electrical inspectors while selling a property and gives a current example that was brought to his attention. Schmidt talks about the build year of a property and that the inspection should be to code of the build year. Schmidt and Doug Grinde visited this current property for a first-hand inspection and the letter he drafted to the sellers' realtor. Porsborg tells the Board the law isn't clear on this issue but states that home inspectors should not be trying to interpret electrical code, because they get it wrong like this one did. The Board discusses home inspectors and their authority.

Schmidt explains to the Board his fiscal year spreadsheet. The Board discusses.

Tim Krommenhoek, Schmidt tells the Board that the hearing was canceled due to Krommenhoek and NDSEB coming to a 4th informal disposition agreement. Krommenhoek will continue to work as a W2 employee under a contractor and complete his probation terms as stated.

Strickly Nguyen (not present), Nguyen wanted to reciprocate from West Virginia. The Board does not have a reciprocal agreement with WV, so they denied it. Nguyen appealed the decision. Schmidt and Porsborg discussed the reciprocity rules and discussed offering him a placement exam and if Nguyen doesn't agree then the Board should stand on its denial. Nguyen has asked to appear before the Board, so it was agreed to do nothing until his schedule allows him to appear.

Chris Glenn, Schmidt tells the Board about Glenn and the letter NDSEB sent about disconnecting power in the improperly wired barn and an invite to attend an NDSEB Board Meeting. Glenn got an electrician to complete the corrections, so it appears this matter is resolved.

Shawn Owens (not present), Schmidt tells the Board about Owen's request to be a Master Electrician for Steve's Electric. Schmidt asked him to appear regarding the Board's denial. He did not appear.

Administrative Rules, Schmidt tells the Board that he appeared before the administrative rules committee on June 11th and the new admin rules were adopted on July 1. New code books are coming. Exam questions are being reviewed for code changes and those will be updated.

Reporting System, Schmidt discusses the new system – IMS. The rollout is going as planned. IMS will be present in a couple weeks from a Mon to Thursday for in-office training. Schmidt mentioned closing the office for this training. Mayer asks about execution and on-line deadline. Schmidt stated it was a 9-month estimated timeline. Schmidt talks about this system making all payments automatic and will lessen the workload on Janel and Allison. Schmidt talks about the computer change-out throughout the office and the 3-year lease agreement that accompanies them with Silicon Plains. Mayer asks about the current relationship with ITD and their assistance with

Silicon Plains. Schmidt states that he still gets a lot of questions and updates. Schmidt stated NDSEB will stay with ITD for phones as he doesn't want to give up the current phone numbers.

Board takes a break at 10:12 a.m.

Board reconvenes at 10:30 a.m.

(Allison and Janel enter)

Nick Montano (not present), Schmidt tells the Board about Montano's request to reciprocate from Wyoming. Janell tells the Board that he previously held an ND license, then moved to Wyoming, tested and got an electrical license there. He let his ND license expire in the meantime. Montano moved back to ND and requested reciprocity back to ND, but he hasn't held a license with Wyoming for one year, because he also let his Wyoming license expire. Schmidt asks the Board's advice. Buck makes a Motion to deny the request for reciprocity, Larson seconds, Motion passes unanimously.

Brandon Reese (not present), Schmidt tells the Board about Reese's journeyman application and his criminal history. Porsborg tells the Board about his crimes and the law regarding felonies, stating that Reese has been off probation since 2016. The Board discusses. Brandenburg makes a Motion to approve Reese's application for examination of his Journeyman's license, Rubish seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Alex Martushev (not present), Schmidt talks to the Board about revocation of his Master's Electrician license a few years back due to incomplete corrections. Martushev currently holds a Journeyman license in MN, and he is looking to reciprocate the license to ND. Porsborg asks if Martushev reimbursed the undertaking fund, as the board has always required that prior to considering re-licensure. The Board discusses and decides to have Martushev appear before the Board.

Joshua Wrigley (not present), Wrigley sent the NDSEB an Apprentice Application. Allison tells the Board about Wrigley's criminal history, Wrigley's Sex offender status and his probationary status until 2030. Allison states Wrigley works for Custom Agri-Systems out of Jamestown. The Board discusses. Buck makes a motion to deny Wrigley's apprenticeship application due to current parole status, Larson seconds. Roll call taken. Motion passes unanimously.

Tyler Satterfield (not present), Satterfield has submitted an Apprentice application. He is employed with Parsons. Schmidt states that Satterfield has been in communication with the office, and he has submitted letters of support. Satterfield was just released from prison in April 2026 with a current 10-year probation status. Satterfield has numerous felony charges. Kidwell tells the Board about the JTC Program's rule on felonies. The Board discusses. Larson makes a motion to deny Satterfield's application due to his current probation status, Rubish seconds. Roll call taken. Motion passes unanimously.

Janel finds that Martushev owes \$1,903.50 to the undertaking fund, paid to Able Electric on his behalf 12 years ago. Mayer requests that a letter be sent to Martushev requesting his appearance before the Board at the next Board meeting.

Raphael Cook (not present), Allison tells the Board about Cook's Apprentice application and his felony convictions. On probation until 2030 for a firearm charge. Allison has spoken with Cook, and he revealed an aggravated felony charge that he didn't disclose in his application. Buck makes a motion to deny Cook's application for Apprenticeship due to lack of disclosures on application, Brandenburg seconds. Roll call taken. Motion passes unanimously.

Brandenburg asks that an initial denial letter get sent if the applicant is still on parole or probation and asks that they can appear before the Board to appeal. The Board discusses this option. Schmidt will continue to bring these before the Board for discussion.

Expired Contractors, 54 Cease and Desists were sent and 5 remain outstanding. The inspectors are out in the field inspecting the outstanding corrections. Janell will stay on top of this and report to the Board in September.

Todd Volling (not present), Schmidt tells the Board that Volling had unsupervised apprentices. He was sent a Cease and Desist. These apprentices were employees from Steve's Electric. Volling is a Master Electrician doing work on Dollar Generals in ND. Volling stated that the contractor was installing conduits, not him nor his employees. Schmidt will continue to try and visit with him. Mayer asks that Volling appear before the Board.

(Doug, Wolfe and Scott enter meeting)

(Janel and Allison leave meeting)

Doug talks about active certs being at 7,759 currently. These all need inspections. Kendrick and Shawn helping in District 7 – Williams County. District 15 is slow, so Shawn is helping District 7. 93 request letters currently from MHA. Doug enjoys the relationship that has been built with them. 321 self-wire applications went out this year; 88 this last month with 28 being approved, but most canceling due to hiring the work out. Contractor orientation is done as they come in. Schmidt talks about Grand Forks city inspections and NDSEB's current relationship with the city. Schmidt talks about the new inspector in that District and his current orientation.

Wolfe Clark is introduced to the Board. Clark was hired as the Elevator Inspector. Clark talks about his current role and preparing the forms for elevator conveyance, mechanic licensure, permit application and accident reports. Clark has been working on proposing changes to law and Admin Rules, so they are clear and concise and then move to adopt them with legislature. Schmidt explains to the Board that this is all new and they are working hard to get everything together by the August 1st start date. Wolfe talks about his work experience and why he chose to undertake this extensive task. Wolfe talks about existing elevator codes and adopting them in ND. Wolfe talks about forms and requirements to log the test sheets into the new reporting system. Wolfe talks about his communications with the Fire departments and the city inspectors and their current inspections of the elevators and the relationship that the NDSEB will need to continue to have with them.

Scott tells the Board about the CEU classes. Class sizes were average. Heading to Devils Lake and Jamestown for CEU classes in the coming weeks. The Ramada damage has not been cleaned up yet, so the inspection has been moved out. He talks about the Bismarck Hotel remodel and the

inspections being carried out. Exams are coming up next week and they are going well. He proctors an exam coming up in the Fall. Scott is working on updating exam questions with the new codes.

Mayer thanks Hoffman again for his work on the Board. Mayer welcomes Rubish again. Mayer states the next Board meeting is September 23rd.

Buck makes a Motion to adjourn. Brandenburg seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Date _____

Date _____

Rodney Mayer, President

James Brandenburg, Secretary