

**IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Wednesday – October 30, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. (MDT)**

**Division of Building Safety  
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian  
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d’Alene  
2055 Garrett Way, Building 1, Suite 4, Pocatello**

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2019 MEETING**

**NOTE:** The following report is not a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting; however, is to record the significant features of those discussions.

Chairman Bob Scott called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (MDT)

**Board Members Present:**

Bob Scott, Chairman  
Jeff Wheeler, Vice-Chairman  
Todd Feusier  
Jim Marchetti  
Greg Eagy  
Rick Stark  
Casey Wilson

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

Chris L. Jensen, Administrator  
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator  
Spencer Holm, Deputy Attorney General  
Warren Wing, Electrical Program Manager  
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Patrick J. Grace, Regional Manager, Region 2  
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Amy Kohler, Compliance Program Specialist  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Open Forum**

City/County Concerns – There were no new issues to discuss during open forum.

DBS Electrical Masters Exam Procedures – Ryan Miller, journeyman electrician and journeyman HVAC, has taken the Electrical Masters exam several times and noticed questions marked wrong on his exam either did not provide him with enough information, were worded incorrecction or the right answer was not there. When asked, DBS has a process to look at tests of applicants that are short up to three questions of reaching the 75% pass rate. At the request of the Chairman, Electrical Program Manager Warren Wing will update the Board on the Division’s exam procedures at the January 2020 Board meeting.

**ACTION:** The Electrical Program Manager will address the topic *DBS Electrical Masters Exam Procedures* at the January 2020 Board meeting as an informational item.

College of Western Idaho (CWI) Updates – Marc Swinney, Director, Business & Manufacturing Programs for CWI, informed the board of the following:

- State Standardized Tests – At the 2019 Idaho Career-Technical Education (CTE) Development Conference in August, Jim Webb, Electrical Apprenticeship Program Coordinator participated in the improvement of the state standardized tests for years one, two and three.
- Construction Career Launcher Class – The Idaho Governor’s Workforce Development Council has partnered with “We Build Idaho”, a program that offers an eight-week training program; equipping participants with knowledge and practical skills in various construction career pathways. The class, Construction Career Launcher, is being held at the West Ada Renaissance CTE Center in Meridian, Idaho, and currently has 22 students. Mock interviews for the students will be held November 20, 2019, if anyone would like to participate.
- Job Fair – The CWI will host a job fair for all its students on November 21, 2019, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the West Ada Renaissance CTE Center in Meridian, Idaho. Contractors looking for good help are encouraged to attend.
- U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program – The law has changed to allow higher education institutions, like CWI, to host apprentices that were federally registered. Contractors do not have to keep a relationship with the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Bureau as it is now the responsibility of the colleges. If a contractor bids on a federal project, and has a registered apprentice in the federal program, then the Davis-Bacon wages do not apply.

2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) Collaborative Meetings – Kelly Lamp, National Electrical Contractors Association of Idaho-Chapter Manager, announced the industry and DBS are working together to schedule meetings for the Idaho State Code Collaborative. Besides looking at the option of the 2020 NEC forthcoming, the Collaborative will meet in 2020 to determine the current extensions Idaho takes to the NEC to see if they are still valid and need to continue, as well as any additional changes to the 2020 code. The tentative meeting dates are January 6, 2020, April 6, 2020, and June 8, 2020, and will be held at the Division’s Meridian office with videoconferencing to the Division’s Coeur d’Alene and Pocatello offices.

◆ **Approval of the October 30, 2019 Agenda**

**MOTION:** Todd Feusier made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Rick Stark seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the July 24, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Jeff Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jim Marchetti seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Schedule 2020 Board Meetings**

The proposed 2020 board meeting dates are January 22, April 22, July 22, and October 28. There was a conflict with the April meeting; therefore, the Board agreed to change the date to April 29.

**MOTION:** Rick Stark made a motion to approve the 2020 board meeting dates as presented and amended. Todd Feusier seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Vote on the Pending Rules for Docket Number 07-0101-1901**

The background on this topic has been addressed at previous board meetings. A handout was distributed of the draft proposal showing the changes made as requested by the Division of Financial Management and Office of Administrative Rules. The Board must approve the pending rules prior to being submitted to the 2020 legislative session.

**MOTION:** Greg Eagy made a motion to approve the pending rules for Docket Number 07-0101-1901. Jim Marchetti seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Licensing Freedom Act Proposals--Approve or Disapprove**

Based on the Licensing Freedom Act, issued by the Governor a couple of years ago, DBS presented a list of recommendations to the Board to eliminate/reduce barriers to licensing, overregulation, and outdated or unnecessary items that have prevented individuals from practicing professionally in Idaho. Recently, the Division of Financial Management contacted DBS; asking for a definitive answer from the Board on whether to pursue action on the following suggestions: 1) Extend one to two years to renew a license without having to test, 2) Require every contractor employ a master, and 3) Practical element to the journeyman exam. After a brief discussion, it was determined no further action was required on the three ideas.

**MOTION:** Jeff Wheeler made a motion to discontinue any further discussion on the above-mentioned suggestions. Jim Marchetti seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Apprentice Ratio Adjustment**

In support, Board Member Todd Feusier brought forth, and read, an apprentice “weighted” ratio proposal established by Jim Thorpe, Thorco, Inc. The proposal is a formula to establish a journeyman to apprentice ratio based on an apprentice’s schooling and training with up to a one to four ratio. In addition, the proposal would be for all electrical installations; i.e., residential, commercial and industrial. A legislator has agreed to draft a bill of the policy for the 2020 legislature. When asked, the proposal was introduced to the Board since it is the governing body that ultimately enforces statute and rules.

Three industry-related audience members spoke to the Board; stating they were not in favor of the proposal for the following reasons: 1) Lack of production/accountability of journeyman while training four apprentices, 2) Inspection enforcement, 3) Lack of education/training, 5) Detract from inspector’s time/how would inspectors keep up with their work schedules, and 6) Contractors not pulling permits and have apprentices doing the work, which is detriment to the electrical industry and citizens of the state of Idaho.

Joe Maloney, Idaho AFL/CIO, addressed the federal side of ratios and recommended meeting with the Board to further discuss ways to get more apprentices to work/apprentice utilization.

Tom Brown, B & B Electric, expressed for a one to three or one to four ratio to work, there needs to be restrictions to include not allowing first-year apprentices in the higher ratios.

With no action presented to the Board, a motion was not necessary.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Training – Electrical Program Manager Wing has been conducting training to contractors and journeymen in eastern Idaho on statute and rules; as well as statute, rules and policies to apprentices, and service connection policies to power providers and utility companies.

National Electrical Reciprocity Alliance (NERA) Conference – In August 2019, the Electrical Program Manager attended the annual NERA Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, which is comprised of 16 states. To reciprocate, an individual must meet the journeyman requirements of the state it wants to obtain the license.

2020 NEC Code Adoption/Collaborative – The Division has been working with the industry to adopt the 2020 codes. As of September 2019, the 2020 NEC books will be available for purchase. The dates of the 2020 NEC Collaborative meetings will be posted on the Division’s website, and a flyer will be sent to all interested parties.

Exam (Cont’d) – If a tester is within three points of the required 75% passing grade, DBS will review their questions. A group of industry-related individuals is being assembled to review and generate new test questions.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Outreach – As of October 1, 2019, DBS has hired a new compliance officer for Region 2. More investigations are being conducted on solar contractors.

Master Electrician Licenses – Issues with master electrician licenses are: 1) Living out-of-state but representing companies working in Idaho, and 2) No workman’s comp or liability insurance; however, “farming out” their licenses.

Exam Report – Based on the Journeyman First Exam Attempt Report, Board Member Jim Marchetti would like to see a pass/fail report on master electricians for 2019.

**ACTION:** For the January 2020 Electrical Board meeting the Compliance Program Specialist will provide a pass/fail report on master electricians from January 2019 to current.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Budget – The Division has requested two additional compliance positions in its new budget; which is currently at the Governor’s office.

Financial Report – The Board’s finances are in good condition.

Permits/Inspections – The Division is seeing no sign of construction slowing down. Within the last six to eight weeks there have been several days where there have been over 300 permits issued and over 600 inspections completed.

Construction – 1) University of Idaho Basketball Arena, Moscow; 2) Idaho State University has several projects, Pocatello; 3) \$130 million project, Rexburg; 4) Two Idaho National Laboratory buildings, completed on time and under budget, Idaho Falls; 5) Expedited Core Facility, ramping up soon, Idaho Falls; 6) Skilled nursing facility, Blackfoot; and 7) Amazon 650,000 square foot automated building, Nampa.

New Office Location – The Idaho Department of Labor has closed 14 facilities statewide. DBS is buying the Blackfoot building; locating its Pocatello and Idaho Falls staff to one central location.

◆ **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Jeff Wheeler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Marchetti seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m. (MDT)

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BOB SCOTT, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD

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RON WHITNEY, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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