

**IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Wednesday – January 24, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. (MST)**

**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 JANUARY 24, 2018 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. (MST)

**Board Members Present:**

Bob Scott, Chairman  
Jeff Wheeler, Vice-Chairman  
Rick Stark  
Dale Pippitt  
Joe Harbacheck  
Allan Perman  
Todd Feusier  
Jim Marchetti  
Greg Eagy

**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 Grace, Regional Manager, Region 2  
Jeff Egan, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1  
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3  
Shelly Farris, Regional Supervisor, Region 3  
Brad Myers, Regional Supervisor, Region 3  
Amy Kohler, Compliance Program Specialist  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Open Forum**

Contractor License Requirements – Scott Merrim, Rex Construction, was curious about the requirements to obtain an electrical contractor license. Chairman Scott suggested Mr. Merrim’s questions be addressed under agenda item 04 *Licensing Freedom Executive Order*.

Apprentice to Journeyman Ratio – Darryn Coburn, Powerhouse Electric, stated with a shortage of qualified electricians, and to meet the needs of the economy, the Board should make an emergency proposal before the legislature and/or governor to amend the ratio rule from two to one (2-1) to three to one (3-1) apprentice to journeyman. The Board and DBS must go through the negotiated rulemaking process; therefore, the earliest a proposal would go before the legislature is at the 2019 session. However, the industry can ask a legislator(s) to sponsor a rule change for immediate review and consideration. With additional questioning, the Administrator offered DBS staff to meet with Mr. Coburn after the meeting.

City and County Concerns – There were no new items or concerns to discuss.

◆ **Approval of the January 24, 2018 Agenda**

Chairman Scott stated the appeal hearings for Chad Aresvik and Grizzly Group LLC DBA Grizzly Electric, agenda items 03a and b, were both resolved prior to the meeting. In addition, the Administrator will present agenda item 05 *High School Apprentice Training*.

**MOTION:** Joe Harbacheck made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Allan Perman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the October 25, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Allan Perman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Rick Stark seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Licensing Freedom Executive Order**

In May 2017, the Lt. Governor signed Executive Order 2017-06. The Order requires state agencies issuing professional and occupational licenses to assess their license requirements and procedures and provide a report to the Governor's office by July 1, 2018. To obtain more information or submit comments, a link is available on the Division's website. For the April meeting, Regional Manager Patrick J. Grace offered to provide the Division's report.

**ACTION:** Regional Manager Grace will present the Division's report at the April 25, 2018 Board meeting.

**ACTION:** The topic *Licensing Freedom Executive Order* will be placed as an informational item on the April 2018 agenda.

Reciprocity Licenses – The National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) is comprised of states that have agreed to allow license holders to go to another state and get a license without testing. Currently, there are 18 states and DBS reciprocates with 13 of them. Electrical Program Manager Warren Wing became aware, through NERA; the Governor of South Dakota is pushing a bill called *Licensing Interstate Compact Agreement*. If approved, anyone licensed in any of the states in the Alliance will immediately receive an 18-month temporary license when entering another state. This will affect states in the northeast, with potential to spread across the country.

Scott Merrim, Rex Construction, stated he has been an electrician for 25 years, and licensed as an electrical contractor for 15 years in a state that does not reciprocate with Idaho. He has never held, nor been required to hold, a journeyman license as he had his contractor license prior to the issuance of the journeyman license. Mr. Merrim questioned if Idaho had a grandfather clause, as he did not want to start over as an apprentice. Electrical Program Manager Wing explained the requirements as outlined in the rules. Without a journeyman license from another state, the Division has no way to issue him a journeyman or masters license.

Chairman Scott suggested, and Mr. Merrim agreed, to meet with the Electrical Program Manager to discuss this issue and bring suggested statute/rules changes, if any, to the April Electrical Board meeting.

◆ **High School Apprentice Training**

Representative Wendy Horman is the sponsor of a bill that will allow high school students supervised by a journeyman to perform HVAC, plumbing, and electrical without the required apprentice registration. The bill will go before the 2018 legislative session.

◆ **Apprentice Work Experience**

As discussed at previous meetings, many contractors only perform one type of installation; i.e., residential, commercial or industrial. This makes it almost impossible for apprentices working for them to gain the required experience in all three categories. The Electrical Program Manager stated NERA is more concerned about inspections than the type of work an apprentice performs.

The Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry, lobbyists representing industrial accounts, came to DBS and wanted to create an industrial electrician account. There was never a consensus of whom the licensee should be; i.e., controllers providing high-end control work, maintaining saws (sawmills), etc.; therefore, the discussion did not advance.

Upon further discussion, it was determined DBS meets the requirements of the rule by necessitating employers provide notarized documentation evidencing the work maintained by their apprentices.

◆ **Apprentice Registration Renewal**

Electrical Program Manager Wing explained a proposed rule for an apprentice to renew his five-year registration. The first renewal, an apprentice has to provide to DBS sufficient evidence of successfully completing at least two years of an approved sequence of instruction OR 48 hours of continuing education credits for each year of schooling not attended during the apprentice registration period. To renew a second time, the apprentice would have to petition the Board.

There was concern an apprentice would not be able to work once his registration expired, and before the Board, which meets quarterly, had an opportunity to determine whether the apprentice was eligible for renewal. One idea was to issue a temporary 90-day license pending board approval or board action.

When asked, Chairman Scott informed the Electrical Program Manager to begin the process of negotiated rulemaking.

Although there has been much discussion on “helper” classification over the years, a suggestion was to have a lower pay scale for that classification, which could potentially generate a financial incentive to become a journeyman.

**ACTION:** The Electrical Program Manager will begin the negotiated rulemaking process on the topic *Apprentice Registration Renewal*.

**ACTION:** The topic *Apprentice Registration Renewal* will be placed as an informational item on the April 2018 agenda.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Washington and Reciprocity – The state of Washington has contacted DBS to discuss reciprocity. Electrical Program Manager Wing stated Washington’s Program Manager believes this year, through the legislative process, apprentices will be required to attend school similar to Idaho. Currently, Washington has two ways an apprentice can become a journeyman, on-the-job-training while taking continuing education unit (CEU) courses for four years or register and attend schooling through a union. Washington is concerned how the Division will look at their licenses, and whether it will reciprocate with individuals that went to school and/or individuals who had four years of CEU credits.

NERA Meeting – The Electrical Program Manager is working to find a venue in Idaho for the NERA meeting in August 2018.

Submersible Pumps – The submersible pumps rule went before the house subcommittee and full senate committee with no issues, and should become effective sine die of the 2018 legislature.

Master License Proposal – The legislative committee understands where the Division is going with the master license proposal; however, is concerned with the language. DBS pulled it from the 2018 session, and will work with committee members to reword the proposal for the 2019 legislature.

The Chairman asked, and the Electrical Program Manager agreed, to place the topic Master License Proposal on the April 2018 agenda as an informational item.

**ACTION:** The topic *Master License Proposal* will be placed as an informational item on the April 2018 agenda.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Program – To ensure the Division has solid cases prior to the issuance of Notice of Violations (NOV), Compliance Program Manager Amy Kohler continues to revamp the program’s documentation.

NOV Activity Report – Based on a request from the Plumbing Board, to identify where in the state a violation occurs, the Compliance Program Manager will add cities to the report.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – Addressed was the Electrical Board Fund, FY 2018 financial statement, as of December 31, 2017.

Budget – The Governor’s office, and Division of Financial Management, approved the Division’s budget request for fiscal year 2019. In the budget is the hire of six new inspectors.

New Construction – McCain Foods will expand its frozen french fry operations in Burley, FBI starts construction on a major data center in Pocatello, and a new extended core facility, to support nuclear reactor defueling and refueling schedules required to meet the operational needs of the U.S. Navy, to be built at the Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls.

Legislation – The subcommittee on the house side has reviewed rules, including electrical, and will report to the House Business Committee on Monday, January 29, at 1:30 p.m. The only rule of concern is tiny homes.

◆ **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Dale Pippitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Allan Perman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m. (MST)

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BOB SCOTT, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD

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CHRIS L. JENSEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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DATE

04/05/2018rb

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DATE