

Manitoba Electrical Advisory Committee (MEAC)

Minutes of Meeting

August 27/21 @1:00 pm (Teams Meeting)

Members in attendance electronically:

Todd Kjartanson, Chairman , Chief Electrical Inspector, Manitoba Hydro

Marty Gorman, West Supervisor Commercial, Manitoba Hydro

Serge Vincent, East Supervisor Commercial, Manitoba Hydro

Don Hallock, de facto Secretary, Training Officer, Manitoba Hydro

Wallace Christensen, Chief Electrical Inspector, City of Winnipeg

Ian Robinson, Senior Housing Electrical Inspector, City of Winnipeg

Conrad Asmundson, P.Eng., AMPS Services Inc.

Jason Geddes, Owner, Southside Electric

Ron Nault, Project Manager, Wescan Electric

Chris Taran, Director of Apprenticeship and Training, Vice-president, IBEW 2085

Bryan Trottier, Owner, Trotco Electric

Absent- Paul Chartier, Owner, P.J.'s Electric

Jason Huley, Customer Service Center Supervisor, Manitoba Hydro

Gary Jones, Electrical Instructor, Assiniboine Community College

Matt Krahn, Project Manager, McCaine Electric, member of the Canem Group

Todd opened the meeting with an acknowledgement that minutes were taken previously but not sent out to the members for review prior to posting.

Don acknowledged that this was due to an error in communication between the Chair and Secretary, as well as extremely busy schedules. This will be done in the future in a timelier manner prior to posting on the Manitoba Hydro website.

Ian requested that the minutes and an agenda would be sent out before the next meeting.

Todd confirmed that this would occur. Next meeting proposed for September 23/21. Members are encouraged to present agenda items for discussion to the Chair or Secretary prior to that date.

Follow up to previous business:

Item 1.5 Rule 12-020 Underfloor wiring in computer rooms

Ron Nault and the sub-committee of Himself, Matt Krahn and Conrad Asmundson have submitted a preliminary code change to Todd for review. After review, the change was returned with minor modifications for Ron and the others to review. This will be presented again next meeting.

Ron Nault, Conrad and Matt Krahn to meet on this again before the next meeting.

Item 4.1 Use of ACIC cable.(Smart cable for led lighting).

Last meeting an informal inquiry was made regarding the use of ACIC hybrid cable for LED lighting use. Additional information has come to light from CSA regarding the manner in which this cable is being marketed. CSA indicates that the cable is not approved for use as power wiring cable. The advertisement from some manufactures gives the wrong impression that it is acceptable. CSA is going to contact these manufacturers directly. The Manitoba Hydro T.I. indicates it cannot be used. Wally from the City of Winnipeg confirms that this is their position also.

Don indicated that there were challenges preventing a Manitoba amendment to accept the use of the cable, and that a presentation should be made to CSA directly for a rule change. Several existing CSA rules would still prevent it's use where lighting branch circuits are involved.

(Later in the meeting it was suggested that local industry draft a code change request directly to CSA on the issue of removing lighting branch circuit wiring from the rules involved).

Item 4.2 Update Bill 38. General business from last time.

Don gave an update on the passage of Bill 38 and inquired if Bryan Trottier. had heard anything from the Winnipeg Construction Association. Don indicated that the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board was now out and the Province was going to be directly in charge of the MEC. Don advised that Manitoba Hydro and the City were in discussion with the Province about service delivery times and a potential arbitrator for Code disputes.

Don confirmed that Manitoba Hydro has trained an additional 40 residential inspectors as an aid to improve service delivery times. Everyone acknowledges that the current waiting period for residential inspections is not acceptable.

Don offered to send all the MEAC members posted info regarding these changes and the legislation.

Don indicated that the adjudicators, possibly as many as 12, would be chosen by a new provincial Director.

Bryan indicated that he had a recent issue with a code requirement and that he received contradictory information. This could be the type of situation that could be referred to the arbitrator.

When talking about the WCA, Bryan indicated that Electrical Association of Manitoba was now going to be part of the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association, and that a new MB organization was forming. They could also be part of a code change application to CSA.

Item 4.2 Code feedback

General discussion regarding any feedback or comments received on the 2021 CSA Code or the MEC. The MEC is posted on the Manitoba Website for review and comment. No major feedback comments received to date.

It appears from internal feedback within Manitoba Hydro that the CSA definitions and requirements for flood hazard are going to be a challenge for permit applicants. This led to a vigorous discussion on where we can find flood levels and flood hazard zones.

Ian Robinson described his efforts to get this info from the MBOA. It appears that each municipality must be contacted. Ian offered to share the info from the City of Winnipeg.

Bryan Trottier and Ian offered to work together and see if they could find a central source for this flood hazard information from the Province.

Don was going to check and see what Manitoba Hydro could post on their ePermits system to aid contractors regarding flood hazards.

Todd and Jason Geddes agreed to work on an Informative note regarding the flood hazard requirements for posting on our website.

Bryan advised that he had concerns about other provincial changes recently such as the apprenticeship ratio.

Don advised that he has heard some contractors in other provinces commenting that the Microwave circuit no longer requires ACFI protection. This is not true and is based upon a misprint in the CSA codebook. This led to a vigorous discussion regarding ACFI protection for microwave circuits. They are leading to a large number of call backs for contractors.

Suggestion was made that this is another example of a code change that should go directly to CSA for revision at the national level. While previous lobby efforts from the Canadian Homebuilders Association were successful in mandating these rules originally, this problem is only getting worse.

Don suggested that while Manitoba Hydro could not approach CSA directly, local industry could put forward this change and we could provide technical assistance in this regard.

Bryan suggested that the hallway receptacle and the washer receptacle should also be exempt from the ACFI requirements.

Chris T. also offered to assist in drafting a submission to CSA on these matters.

New business

Ian asked if we were going to go through the new MEC changes that were posted.

Todd advised that they are on the website and comments were welcomed but no plans at present to go over them again in MEAC. The code is posted and the feedback form is available online.

Todd wrapped up the meeting with a reminder that the next one is scheduled for September 23/21, and any agenda items should be forwarded before then.

Available in accessible formats upon request