



Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy (PNCECE)
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
June 2nd 2016, 0900-1230 hrs
The Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy Centralia, WA

Clean Energy Advisory Board Attendees:

Pat McCarty, Chair, Tacoma Power
Troy Nutter - Phone, PSE
Jeremy Gall, Avista Utilities
Shana Peschek - Phone, Construction COE
Daniel Kay, Lewis County PUD
Travis Kinney, Lewis County PUD
Kairie Pierce - Phone, Washington State Labor Council
Micah Goo, Centralia City Light
Chuck Higgins, TransAlta Centralia
Todd Currier, WSU Energy Program

Clean Energy Advisory Board Members not in Attendance:

ML Norton, Centralia City Light
Sean Murphy, Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council
Bob Guenther, IBEW Local 77
Jay Pickett, Northwest Territories Power Company
Jim Lowery, Centralia College Trustee
Keith Gulley, Seattle City Light
Matt Matayoshi, Lewis Economic Development Council
Mike Kelly, Grays Harbor Community College
PJ LeCompte, Bonneville Power Administration

Additional guests:

Rob Comer, Camo 2 Commerce
Lee Taylor, Centralia College Applied Physics and Engineering Club (APEC)

Education:

Bob Topping, RETC
Rulon Crawford, Centralia College
John Steidel, Centralia College
Barbara Hins-Turner, PNCECE
James Hovis, PNCECE

0900 hrs - Call to Order – Pat McCarty, Chair

Introductions

0910 – 0930 hrs – “Why are we here?” – the role of the Center of Excellence Advisory Board – Pat McCarty

Discussion covering the mission of the Washington State Centers of Excellence and specifically the Center of Excellence for Clean Energy (PNCECE). The board shared their motivations and goals in participating in the PNCECE.

The major theme revolved around the challenges associated with the so-called “silver tsunami”. Bob Topping emphasized the importance of succession planning in the industry. Daniel Kay described a difficulty in placing students in appropriate jobs. Todd Currier described the importance of accurately tracking and recording student data, including employment data.

0930 – 1000 hrs - Centralia KNOLL Hydro project – Travis Kinney, Centralia Applied Physics and Engineering Club, James Hovis

Travis Kinney described the history of the energy project on Centralia College’s KNOLL. The KNOLL currently has 6 grid-tied solar panels and a disconnected wind turbine. Travis described an add-on to this equipment that would allow for collecting data on generated electricity. Lee Taylor, APEC, described plans for to construct a model hydro dam in the KNOLL that uses solar energy to circulate water. James Hovis explained the overall goal of the project is to demonstrate different clean energy technologies, as well as to advertise the new hydro power class at Centralia College.

The advisory board expressed an interest in the project and offered some support, but they would like to see a more developed project plan first.

1000 - 1030 hrs – Hydro Training Plan – Rulon Crawford, Energy Tech Faculty

Rulon Crawford updated the board on status of the new Hydro power class at Centralia College. The course is on track to be offered as an elective in fall 2016. The class would then need to be approved through instructional council to be made a required course in winter 2017.

Rulon asked for feedback on the course outline, as well as recommendations on material sources. Pat McCarty mentioned that feedback from him and Troy Nutter is on the way.

Barbara asked the board for opinions on releasing the classes’ curriculum to GPiLearn so that the course is available in an online LMS. Troy Nutter expressed an interest in making the hydro class material available online. Daniel Kay expressed a concern in the quality of GPiLearn’s programs, not standing up to the quality of Rulon’s teaching. Jeremy Gall, mentioned that Avista Utilities uses GPiLearn to cover basic and introductory level material.

Bob Topping mentioned Hydro course materials that exist on NTER, an online course material repository.

1030 – 1040 hrs – “Washington Works” - Karie Pierce, WSLC

Karie Pierce described an ongoing project to profile select Washington occupations. Karie Pierce is working with Chelan County PUD to videotape Hydro Mechanic Divers. Chelan PUD maintains the only standing Hydro Mechanic Dive team in Washington State.

1040 – 1140 hrs – PowerPathway/Bates Technical College/JBLM Program – Rob Comer, Camo2Commerce

Rob Comer updated the board on the status of the PowerPathway Program. Rob covered a difficulty in achieving the expected employment outcomes for the class. Rob asked the board for input on how to best improve the program. Rob’s suggestions included: using the NCRC as a candidate screening factor, math requirements as a screening factor, adding math coursework, and including electrical construction as part of the coursework.

The board discussed the difficulty in teaching students to do higher level math without the use of a calculator. The board also discussed what level of candidate the program should focus on (entry-level, supervisor-level, etc.). The board also discussed possible problems with the last course. Some problems included: engaging the students, emphasis on supervisor level material, classroom accommodations at Bates Technical College, and the emphasis of natural gas coursework.

The board agreed to run another class in the coming year, with the next step to be coordinating with administration at Bates Technical College.

1140 – 1150 hrs - Lunch Break

1150 – 1230 hrs – Directors Report, Summit Debrief – Barbara

Barbara updated the board on the COE's activities. This included hiring a WISE grant data manager, Scott Wageman and updating the COE's website.

Barbara also reviewed the Construction and Clean Energy Summit that occurred in May 2016. Pat asked what the future of the Summit would be. Barbara explained that the Summit was funded by the WISE grant for one more year and would continue for at least that long. The board discussed themes for next year's Summit, including the theme of apprenticeship. The board provided feedback on the summit presentations. The board also expressed an interest in hosting next year's summit at Centralia College.

1230 - Adjourn