



## Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy

**Governance Board Meeting: Virtual**  
**February 19, 2013**  
**10:00 am – 11:30 am**

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### Attending:

Lawrence Beaty, ISU/ESTEC

Brian Dale, VetCorps

Candice Bluchel, NUTEC

Ryan Davis, RETC

Mike Hanson, Avista

Alan Hardcastle, WSU

Troy Nutter, PSE

Kairie Pierce, WSLC

Diane Quincy, Avista

Collin Sorensen, WestCAMP

Dave Sorensen, WestCAMP

Bob Topping, RETC

PNCECE: Barbara Hins-Turner, Jamie Krause, Monica Brummer

Board Chair, Troy Nutter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken. Minutes from the December 18, 2012 were reviewed and adopted as submitted.

Barbara Hins-Turner updated the Board with highlights of key activities taking place at PNCECE:

- National Governors Association Center for Best Practices releases report: State Sector Strategies Coming of Age: *Implications for State Workforce Policymakers*. Written by Lindsey Woolsey of the Woolsey Group, LLC, and Garrett Groves of the National Governors Association, the report highlights state strategies that use industry sectors as an organizing principle for workforce development.  
<http://cleanenergyexcellence.org/pncece-included-in-national-state-sector-publication/>  
see page 6 for highlights of our very first skill panel project.
- Troy, Alan and Barbara testified before both the House Higher Ed Committee on HB 1823 concerning expansion of the role of Centers of Excellence. Alan testified on behalf of PNCECE before the Senate Higher Ed Committee showcasing the Centers of Excellence and industry partnerships.
- DOL TAACCCT grant concept paper is being developed. The call to apply has been moved from November to December and now will occur in April – with funds to drop in October. PNCECE will pull together another group in March. Jamie is on standby to write the grant with help from Melanie Kincaid, RETC. Barbara invited folks to participate in the development of the concept paper.

- Barbara participated in Portland State University's National Policy Process seminar in Washington, DC. The week-long professional development opportunity was led by PSU professor and smart grid project partner, Jeff Hammarlund. The National Policy Process offers professionals and students from the Pacific Northwest an opportunity to visit the sources of national policy with live case studies.
- SBCTC has asked all CoEs to hold industry sector Skills Gap Forums. WSU Energy Program is in the process of conducting a labor market study for PNCECE, which is further ahead than the other CoEs in this area. We are looking to tag the Energy Skills Gap Forum on to the March 20 Education Taskforce meeting at Seattle City Light. We need our industry partners to attend this meeting to inform SBCTC on the depth and maturity of the PNCECE/Employer partnership. Please send a representative if you cannot attend. Alan expressed concern that we've already asked the same questions of our employer partners for the WSU study and don't want to burden employers with a re-ask of the questions. There are already so many requests for this information. We don't want to break trust with our partners. Barbara indicated she would like the Skills Gap Forum to center on a strong discussion around Apprenticeships to avoid a duplication of Alan's work. SBCTC sent out a series of questions they would like us to use as the basis for the Skills Gap Forum discussion. Diane and Lauren will be at the Education Taskforce meeting. Barbara will forward the survey onto Diane and Micah – perhaps they can add to it (something we haven't thought of). Barbara will attend the aerospace Skills Gap Forum to see how it all works (first of March) and thanked everyone for making an effort to attend the March 20 Energy meeting at Seattle City Light.
- Barbara asked the Board members to please continue to review the website and give feedback. It's always amazing how much work this turns out to be.  
[www.cleanenergyexcellence.org](http://www.cleanenergyexcellence.org)

Jamie Krause updated the Board on project and fiscal activities related to the DOE Smart Grid project:

- **Smart Grid Grant reaches mid-point**—January 31, 2013 marked the midpoint for the final year of the grant. Budget Director, Vicki Oakerman and Project Manager, Jamie Krause conducted a comprehensive review of budgets and program activities. One-on-one follow-up was conducted and strategies implemented to ensure all sub-recipients remain on task and on time for project deliverables, expenditures and match.
- **Training Targets**—The project has exceeded the target of 1,215 individuals slated for training under the grant. Beginning August 2010, through December 31, 2012, **5,032** individuals have received smart grid related training. This includes pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and incumbent worker courses, as well as high school students participating in hands-on learning sessions and high school STEM teachers receiving in-service training.
- **New Hires**— The new hire target for the project is 234 workers. As of December 31, 2012, **221** individuals (94.4%) have found employment with organizations across the western United States in occupations such as ground crew, substation operator apprentice, plant operator trainee, boiler operator and hydro utility worker, at an average starting wage of \$15-24 per hour.
- **Fiscal Report**— Expenditures and match contributions are on track through January 31, 2013. Project partners have submitted invoices for a total of \$4,046,244 (80.9%) of total

grant funds (Total grant funds awarded for 3 years: \$4,998,859). Match submitted through January 31 is \$6,575,135 (89.1%) of the total pledge of \$7,381,096. The project is 83.3% complete and will end July 31, 2013.

- **Project Extension**—The U.S Department of Energy has granted Centralia College a budget/project extension to maintain staff positions for Vicki, Jamie and Monica through October 31, 2013 to manage the close-out of the project.

### **National Training and Education Resource (NTER)**

Bob Topping provided the Board with an update on the NTER portal that is being developed to warehouse all curriculum developed under the DOE smart grid project. Setting up a custom NTER “node” proved to be more technical than originally projected, but the portal is close to “going live.”

Lauren Huckaba, Avista curriculum developer shared with the Board that she is looking for photos of reactors in the field to use in the education modules she is developing.

### **Smart Grid Train the Trainer Workshop**

Led by Jeff Hammarlund, Portland State University, the Train the Trainer team has been working diligently preparing the Smart Grid Train the Trainer workshop to pilot across the region. The first workshop will be held at Edmonds Community College on Friday, February 22. Subsequent workshops are scheduled for Avista’s Jack Stewart Training Center, Spokane on April 26 and at Utah Valley University in Orem, UT on May 7. Bob Topping provided an overview of the workshop content, including:

- Module 1: Introduction and Overview
- Module 2: Current Grid Infrastructure & Opportunities for Change
- Module 3: Smart Grid Implementation Issues
- Module 4: Regulatory and Consumer Response to smart grid so far; *[how are consumers defining the smart grid – have they embraced deployment?]*
- Module 5: Three case studies – Case studies can be drawn from the Pac NW Demonstration project the largest DOE funded project in the country – 11 utilities; community mobilization side (Port Angeles); additionally, Denmark has some similarities to the NW related to alternative energy
- Module 6: Smart Grid Occupations and Career Guides
- Module 7: Conclusions & Wrap-up

The target audience for the Smart Grid Train the Trainer Workshop is community and technical college faculty, industry trainers and high school career and technical education instructors. Train the Trainer is a four hour course that will introduce the audience to online modules (one stand-alone module will be up to six hours long).

Bob noted that the Smart Grid Train the Trainer modules will be a rich legacy to leave behind after the smart grid project ends. He thanked Jeff Hammarlund (PSU), Kevin Schneider (PNNL) and Lauren Huckaba (Avista) for their work and noted – this is really elegant content that will be showcased at Edmonds on Friday. You will all be proud. The work will have an amazing impact.

Barbara shared that she and Jamie got a sneak preview last week. She stated that we are really looking for feedback. Please send industry folks to this training. We need to know from an industry perspective; Is this really the message we want to send? Does it best-fit the program?

Jamie: The next Smart Grid Train the Trainer Workshop is set for April 26 in Spokane. Barbara sent out a note to K12 teachers and workforce deans in Washington. Kairie sent information to OSPI and her K12 listserv. Industry outreach was facilitated through PNCECE partners. Mike Hanson asked about a head count for April 26. Jamie noted there will be an online registration. Presenters want to cap enrollment at 30. PNCECE is taking care of lunch arrangements. Jamie thanked Mike for allowing us to use Avista's Jack Stewart Training Center to host the Train the Trainer event.

Ryan attended a mini train the trainer session offered by Bob Topping (RETC) in Boise Idaho. The presentation was in conjunction with Safety Fest sponsored by URS Construction. The audience consisted of front line supervisors, construction and safety crews; safety curriculum instructors; students attended as well. They were all captivated. Manager levels and above were very positive.

### **Labor Market Study and Utility Customer Service Representative (CSR) Skill Standards**

Alan Hardcastle updated the Board on the status of the Labor Market study and CSR Skill Standards. Hard copies of the CSR standards were delivered to PNCECE two weeks ago. The document contains a section that looks forward – skills and responsibilities that are anticipated down the road as smart grid technologies are implemented. We are getting a lot of requests for the CSR Standards. The document is posted on the PNCECE website:

<http://cleanenergyexcellence.org>

Work continues on the labor market study – well over half of the targeted organizations have responded with dates to move forward. We have added other positions and states.

We have received completed info from PacificCorps – which we're very pleased to have. Puget Sound Energy, Energy NW, Avista, Army Corps, Bonneville Power Administration, NUTEC, Idaho Power, Portland General Electric – we've had to talk to far more people within each organization than anticipated. Alan noted we've received a lot of compliments. People are very enthusiastic to see results. Alan thanked Avista for contacts with Flathead Electric, BPA, transmission viewpoints – may need to connect with Bob and Train the Trainer. Scheduling is going well.

Diane Quincy asked if the new research has anything to do with shaping the TAACCCT grant. She noted we should connect whatever is emerging.

### **Future Meetings**

Troy encouraged all partners and chairs to attend the May 15 meeting at Centralia College from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Hanson Board Room. This will be the last opportunity to meet before the smart grid project ends in July.

Other upcoming meetings:

- Education Taskforce, March 20, Seattle City Light

- Energy Job Seeker Workshop/Mock interview day for students, March 22 at PNCECE.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Energy and Construction Best Practices Summit – June 19 & 20, 2013  
Consider helping with items for the scholarship auction. Contacts are Judy Guenther and Monica Brummer.

### **Good of the Order**

Bob Topping updated the Board on activities related to the Manufacturing Taskforce. The veterans' assessment piece is scheduled to take place at Joint Base Lewis McChord to certify military occupational specialties this spring. This work should be completed by May 2013. High school programs taking place in Oregon will come to an end in May. Students are following the Light the World project model by building light sticks and a portable charging station put together using Six Sigma principles.

Diane is going to Washington DC in early spring for the National Association of Workforce Boards forum with the president of Spokane Community College.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.