



## Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy

### Governance Board Meeting (Virtual)

February 21, 2012, 9 – 11 am

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#### **In Attendance:**

**By phone:** Lawrence Beaty, Terrence Browne, Karen DeVenaro, Alan Hardcastle, Troy Nutter, Vicki Oakerman, Kairie Pierce, Diane Quincy, Kevin Schneider, Dennis Skarr, Collin Sorensen, David Sorensen and Sally Zeiger-Hanson; Peter McKenny

**In person at RETC:** Ryan Davis, Kathryn Fredrick, Bob Topping, **PNCECE:** Monica Brummer, Barbara Hins-Turner and Jamie Krause.

#### **Call to Order and Introductions, Troy Nutter, PSE**

Minutes dated December 8, 2011, were approved without revisions.

#### **Grant Principal Investigator Update, Barbara Hins-Turner**

*Staff transition update:* Yvonne left PNCECE to finish her master's program. Her duties were re-distributed to Monica Brummer, Jenni Bitner and the RETC. A half-time position is open and will be filled at a later time.

*It's spring conference season. Upcoming conferences include:*

**CEWD conference, March 6 – 8, Alexandria, VA.** Deborah Buterbaugh, DOE federal project officer, selected PNCECE as one of four projects across the country to serve on a panel. Ryan and Barbara are attending.

**Good Jobs/Green Jobs, March 14 – 16, Los Angeles, CA.** Barbara will moderate the panel session, titled "Developing a Pacific Northwest Smarter Grid Workforce." Panel will consist of Arlene Abbott, Kairie Pierce, and Sally Zeiger-Hanson.

#### **Project Manager Update, Jamie Krause**

- *DOE Smart Grid Project Match/Leverage Training, Dec. & Jan.:* Bob Topping led trainings with partners at Avista, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Conservation Corps and Seattle City Light.
- *Spokane- Avista, Jan. 12, 2012:* Jamie traveled to Avista in Spokane to participate in match training, a site-visit of the training substation, and meetings with project partners.
- *Quarterly Report Update.* The sixth quarterly report was submitted. We are halfway through the grant. Highlights: Project goal of 1,215 trained individuals: 2,577 have been trained. Project goal of 234 new hires: 113 have been hired. We're on track to meet or exceed target training and new job creation numbers.
- *Year 2 contract updates:* All are in place. Montana State University has submitted a draft concept and will create a consumer focused Smart Grid 101 module. Collaboration between CoE and General Physics resulted in the Smart Grid 101 for college and utility training programs.
- *Evaluation by Saflund Institute.* Between Nov-Dec. 2011, Pete Saflund conducted 17 one-hour telephone interviews with project stakeholders. 100 percent of the interviews have been completed. Preliminary comments: Interview subjects were able to provide multiple ways that the CoE project was providing value - including job skills definition, curriculum focus on education, training and career familiarization, and educational pathway maps. Interviewees felt this was an effective and safe forum to share ideas. Data analysis is ongoing.

*Terrence Browne:* Distribution and substation construction activity resumed. Structural pole completed last week; substation voltage regulator rack and bus tie rack have been installed. Panel house is under construction.



*Construction at Avista,*

### **Utah Partner Tour, Jan. 30 – Feb 1, Barbara Hins-Turner**

A small sub group of Governance Board members and staff - Barbara, Ryan Davis, Kairie Pierce, Jamie Krause and Bob Topping - traveled to Salt Lake City for a project partner tour and site visit. Dave and Collin Sorensen were incredible hosts.

- ***Manufacturing Taskforce, Ryan Davis***

We saw eye-opening projects involving innovation and creative ideas with manufacturing that will have applicability to energy sector. ***Brigham Young University*** has a rapid prototype lab, a student organization which gives entrepreneurs a product-building outlet. Entrepreneurs submit an idea, concept or full set of engineering drawings and if selected, students build a finished prototype with no cash up front. Students are paid a royalty if product is introduced into the commercial sector. Creates opportunities for engineering students, community (economic development) and inventors.

The ***Manufacturing Taskforce*** held its first full meeting at Intermountain Electronics, in Price.

***WestCAMP business incubator:*** Traditionally, an incubator has been a place for cheap office space and shared administrative support. Here, they are focusing on being a value-add. Not just a place for a business to locate but a place where a business can connect to resources. Intellectual property, IT resources, consulting resources, software tools are located in one place - which helps companies to excel, get to the commercial stage, hire more employees and promote growth.

***Wayne Brown Institute.*** A non-profit organization which helps companies apply for venture capital. They have a proprietary model that helps new companies advancing new technologies in energy and other technology sectors. They found that 10 years after companies receive funding, 80 percent are still in businesses.

- ***National Energy Foundation, Kairie Pierce***

NEF is developing energy focused curriculum for K-12 systems across the country. Kairie is interested in how they disseminate information through their school system.

- ***Hazard Information for Industry (HIFI) Library, Bob Topping***

Bob shared how he has used the HIFI Library as a research and content tool when designing job hazard analysis curriculum. The library has an amazing amount of information that has been organized to include a focus on smart grid technology. Deliverables will be completed for the HIFI Library by end of this fiscal year. We need to choose the documents that we can carry over to design future safety training and are creating a digital formats for distribution.

- ***Intermountain Electronics, Ryan Davis***

IE is an international power distribution manufacturing facility that provides substations and other electrical distribution systems to remote locations with a focus in mining operations. They are making portable substations and fabricating transformers in-house which are exported to Mexico, Latin America and Asia. They are a prime example of how advancing energy technologies and smart grid manufacturing is creating jobs.

*Bob Topping:* The control systems are state-of-the-art and will certainly be a part of smart grid as we move along. IE has 25 job openings that include electronic technicians, electrical engineers, sales with technical knowledge – all with good pay. Those job descriptions really lined up with meter techs.

**Job Hazard/Safety Training:** Bob has traveled to eastern Washington, Idaho, Utah and Oregon conducting Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) training. He will visit facilitate a three-day JHA workshop for the College of Southern Idaho in March. Bob hopes to have a webinar format for the JHA training developed by the end of this year to reach more colleges and utilities.

### **Fiscal Report, Vicki Oakerman**

- *Mid-course review:* Sixth quarter financial report was submitted early January. We are halfway through the three-year project. Reviewed all partners including Centralia; and reviewed all programs and financial goals. Contacted partners with specific questions and are receiving feedback. Goal: identify any concerns (financial or program) and create solutions. Match numbers look good: 2-year accumulative through Jan. 31 = 51% (\$3.8 million).
- *Restructure of staff/budget impact:* Yvonne received \$5,400 from the DoE grant when she left Centralia College for vacation time that was rolled in from prior state employment.
- *Fiscal Internal Audit:* The state fiscal auditor was on site for four days in November. The official document and Centralia's responses will be posted on Sharepoint. The auditor tested a number of processes which all passed the audit process. The auditor tested a number of processes which all passed the audit process. All findings had easy fixes.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Energy & Construction Best Practices Summit, Ryan Davis, Chair**

#### ***Announced dates and events:***

- **Summit, Signature Crab Feed & Scholarship Auction, June 21**
- Pre-summit Educators Institute, June 20 – *Alison Pugh, Edmonds Community College is leading the Institute.* The day will be supported by Edmonds NSF grant.
- Post-summit Smart Grid Manufacturing Roundtable, June 22 – *Ryan Davis, RETC, Lead*
- A block of rooms have been reserved at the Microtel Inn and Suites in Elma. Visit [http://www.microtelinn.com/hotels/washington/elma/microtel-inn-and-suites-elma-aberdeen/hotel-overview?hotel\\_id=29874](http://www.microtelinn.com/hotels/washington/elma/microtel-inn-and-suites-elma-aberdeen/hotel-overview?hotel_id=29874) or call 1-360-482-6868. Also waiting to hear back from Red Lion in Olympia.
- Looking for sponsors – Sean Bagsby and Ryan are the lead contacts – packets are available.
- Save the date announcements went out via email February 14.
- Register for the summit at <http://cleanenergyexcellence.org/summit>
- Partnering with Construction Center of Excellence  
*Monica:* One of the panelists will include Chris Stockner of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry who will present information about their energy efficiency projects and future energy exhibitory.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- **Governance Board, April 10, virtual**
- **PNW Apprenticeship Education Conference, April 17 & 18**  
*Kairie:* partnership with British Columbia, events will be in Bellingham, WA; K-12 focus groups will meet during an evening dinner on April 17
- **Curriculum Development and Manufacturing Taskforce, Billings, MT, April 18**  
Hosted by Northwestern Energy; Curriculum Development meeting will be held concurrently with Manufacturing Taskforce on April 18, 2 – 4 pm;  
*Education Taskforce* will meet April 19<sup>th</sup> at Northwestern Energy. There are limited flights in-out of Billings, so meetings will be scheduled around flight times.
- **Try-A-Trade at RETC, May 3(Ryan):** 500 -600 high school students will participate in hands-on skill trade activities. Event is funded by the Smart Grid grant; \$10,000 grant from Association for General Contractors Foundation; plus \$4,000 in additional community sponsorship contributions.  
*Bob* –Robin Podmore's Light Up the Village project should be considered as an add-on

## **Other Business**

- *Barbara*: Website: need photos, stories, feedback. Please look at the website and give us your input. <http://cleanenergyexcellence.org>
- *Monica*: In order to finish the interactive career lattice page, we need to secure photos of people doing demand-side and supply-side jobs.
- *Dave Sorenson*: National Institute for Standards Technology Manufacturer Extension Program Annual Conference is May 5-9 in Orlando. Dave, Collin, Bob, and the Wayne Brown Inst. are going...here's really where our issues are raised nationally.
- *Alan Hardcastle*: Saflund's evaluation will provide substance for the area of sustainability beyond the grant's three years and the role of manufacturing and where to go with that.
- *Alan Hardcastle*: Snow caused us to cancel our Customer Service Representative (CSR) skill standards meeting. We were able to recover every participant and reschedule for March 6-7 at Tacoma Power.
- *Diane*: Avista is exploring local opportunities to develop data analysis skills. Energy management data specialist. This new position should be brought up with the sustainability committee.
- *Dennis Skarr* – Community Energy Solutions would like to add a veterans program. Working on RFP.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:15 am**