

**Center of Excellence for Clean Energy**

**Fall Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 8, 2018**

**1217 Mellen St., Centralia**

**Troy Nutter (Chair), Puget Sound Energy**  
Bonneville Power Administration – P.J. LeCompte

Energy Northwest – Glenn M. Pierce  
IBEW 77 – Sean Bagsby  
Lewis County PUD – Cecile Bamer

PacifiCorp - Stefano Schnitger  
Snohomish County PUD/IBEW 77 – Jackie Rae  
Tacoma Power – Alice Massara, Sara Bowles  
Washington State Department of Commerce – Brian Young  
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO – Kairie Pierce

**Clean Energy Advisory Board Members not in Attendance:**

Avista – Jeremy Gall

Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council – Sean Murphy

Centralia City Light – Micah Goo, M.L. Norton  
Chelan County PUD – Brian Odell  
Corps of Engineers – Jay Pickett

Regional Education and Training Center – Bob Guenther

**Educational Partners**  
Regional Education and Training Center – Bob Topping  
Washington State University Energy Program – Todd Currier and Alan Hardcastle

**Ex-Officio**Centralia College – Rulon Crawford  
Center of Excellence for Clean Energy – Barbara Hins-Turner, Executive Director

**Additional Guests**

Avista – Eric Rosentrater

Corporation for a Skilled Workforce – Ryan Davis

Hydro Research Foundation – Bree Mendlin

**9:00 - 9:10am – Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes – Troy Nutter, Chair**

* Call to Order – Troy Called the meeting to order
* Roll Call – Troy took attendance of the attendees
* Safety Moment – Troy started the meeting with a warning about freezing fog and cold weather. Troy advised the board to be sure to have a functioning ice scraper, windshield deicer fluid, and tire chains.

**9:10 – 9:30am – WISE TAACCCT Grant Report – James Hovis**

James reported on WISE Grant outcomes and deliverables. The presentation included a demonstration of the WISE data dashboard (http://cleanenergyexcellence.org/projects/wise/wise-statistics/) and a summary of the data found there. The data dashboard allows users to sort and analyze data depending on their needs. In general, the WISE grant exceeded its target goals for number of students participating and completing grant supported programs, while the grant did not achieve its goals in wage increases or newly employed students (by the DOL definition). James also demonstrated features in the dashboard that examine demographic information.

James described Skillscommons.org Online Educational Resource (OER) repository where WISE Grant created products have been uploaded for public use onto SkillsCommons.org (https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/1532). SkillsCommons is funded by the Department of Labor and operated by the California State University System. The presentation included a brief demonstration of SkillsCommons.org (attachment 1), why the grant used SkillsCommons, and what is available on the website.

**9:30 – 10:30am – High School Energy Program Models:**

**Hydro Research Foundation, Think Tank and Hiring for Hydro – Bree Medlin**

Bree presented two upcoming events offered by the Hydro Research Foundation (attachment 2). The Hiring for Hydro event will be offered for the 3rd year in Portland Oregon (https://www.hydrofoundation.org/hiring-for-hydro--student-page.html) on Feb. 20th 2019, during the NW Hydro Electric Conference. The event is designed to give students an opportunity to explore the hydro power industry. The Hydro Think Tank (https://www.hydrofoundation.org/hydro-think-tank.html) with Alabama Power is designed to bring students and the hydro power industry together and offers students the opportunity to solve real world problems with partner utilities. Bree described this program and how the program might be expanded to other geographic areas with new utility partners.

**FWEE/Chelan PUD STEM Academy – Barbara Hins-Turner**

Barbara presented the work that FWEE and Chelan PUD have done during the last 2 years at Rocky Reach Dam (attachment 3). The STEM academy brings students from across the Pacific Northwest to Rocky Reach Dam for a week of hands on learning. Students work with engineers, mechanics, linemen, and divers to learn about the hydro power industry and careers.

**Avista Pathways Program - Eric Rosentrater**

Eric presented information on the Avista Pathways Program (attachment 4). This program was created by Avista and first run in July 2018 as part of Career Connect WA. The 2018 class contained 17 students from high schools in Arista’s service territory. The program is a 1-month program. The program contains a range of classroom and hands on modules including, ohms law, gas service, linemen, grid design, and system constraints. Students were exposed to many parts of the energy industry and Avista Employees working in those fields. The final week of the program, students were able to select a job to shadow. Students received $2,000 at the conclusion of the program and one college credit awarded by Spokane Community College.

**10:30-10:45am – Break**

**10:45 – 11:00am – Leadership in the Trades Utility Foreman Project, Alan Hardcastle**

Alan presented an update to the board on the status of the Leadership in the Trades (attachment 5) Utility Foremen Project. The project is working to create a Skills Profile of a successful Utility Foreman. Earlier in the year, Alan facilitated a focus group of 12 highly skilled and qualified utility foremen from across the state. Alan collected input from these foremen, compiled data, confirmed its accuracy, and is now in the process of seeking input from additional foremen in Washington State. Topics during the focus group included workforce generational differences, communication, safety, security, and compliance with regulations. The study seeks to identify a core group of competencies that is shared across the majority of foremen positions.

The results of this initial focus group were recently sent to a broader utility foremen population in order to verify the findings. Troy Nutter mentioned that the survey format in google forms does not work with many security systems and Survey Monkey should be used instead. James agreed to create and distribute a new survey within Survey Monkey. The new online survey and its results will be used to confirm data from the foremen focus group and included in the final report.

Bob Topping suggested that Alan create a new definition for what a “competency” is.

**11:00 – 11:20am – Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW), Cyber Security Report and Dept. of Labor Expanding Apprenticeship Grant Application– Ryan Davis**

Ryan briefly mentioned 4 major efforts relating to what CSW does: 1. The competency project, 2. workforce benchmarking, 3. Sector strategies, and 4. Rebuilding Detroit.

Ryan presented on the topic of Cyber Security Workforce in general, and as it relates to the Energy Sector in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). Ryan described 2 major problems facing Energy Utilities in Cyber Security workforce: 1. Utility companies are often lower on the desirability list for Cyber Security Experts, and 2. Utilities require a mixture of informational technology and operational technology. Ryan presented data that summarized Cyber Security job demand, hiring by PNW utilities within IT, and in-demand credentials.

Ryan also updated the board on a new grant that the PNCECE and CSW have applied for with the US Department of Labor. The Consortium for the Deployment of Energy Cyber-Security (CODEC) grant partners include Southern Utah University, EnergySec, Centralia College, Whatcom Community College, Mott Community College, WSU Energy Program, and WestCAMP. The grant application leverages existing college programs and incumbent utility workers as entry points to develop Cyber Security professionals.

Troy Nutter mentioned that in the interest of aligning with Labor partners in the State of Washington, the proposed project would not be led in Washington. Instead of implementing new unregistered apprenticeships in Washington, the outcomes of the grant could be applied to existing registered apprenticeships and a federally registered program.

Todd Currier asked if the proposed project expects to develop new curriculum modules that could be attached to existing registered apprenticeships. Ryan said that modules would be borrowed from existing programs where possible and created where needed.

The CODEC grant application was submitted on October 16th, 2018 and grant awardees are expected by February 2019.

**11:20 - 11:30am - Director’s Report - Barbara Hins-Turner**

Barbara added that during the last year she traveled to Washington D.C. and met with representatives from the Department of Energy who were interested in the smart grid grant (2010-2013). She also briefly summarized her work since the last board meeting to keep up with developments in Energy Workforce, such as the work that the Hydro Research Foundation, FWEE, and Avista have been doing.

**11:30 - 11:40am – Solar Project Update – Bob Topping**

Bob announced that the RETC project with Energy Northwest, Department of Commerce, and BPA, has progressed to the construction phase.

**Good of the Order, Adjourn**

Troy Nutter asked for any corrections to the previous meetings minutes (4/12/2018). There were no correction and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.