



**Center of Excellence for Clean Energy  
Spring Advisory Board Meeting  
April 29, 2020  
Web Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Troy Nutter, Chair, Puget Sound Energy  
Brian Young, WA Department of Commerce  
Alan Hardcastle, WSU Energy Program  
Todd Currier, WSU Energy Program  
Jeremy Gall, Avista (via phone)  
Sara Bowles, Tacoma Power  
Cecile Bamer, Regional Education and Training  
Ben Feliz, Clark PUD  
Jim Lowery, Centralia College Trustee  
Alice Massara, Tacoma Power  
Kelly Fujimoto, Pacific Mountain WDC  
Bob Guenther, RETC

**Ex Officio**

Rulan Crawford, Centralia College  
William Westmoreland, Center of Excellence for Clean Energy  
Jake Fay, Centralia College

**Absent**

Kairie Pierce, Washington State Labor Council  
P.J. LeCompte, Bonneville Power Administration  
Jay Pickett, Corps of Engineers  
John Steidel, Centralia College  
Micah Goo, Centralia City Light  
M.L. Norton, Centralia City Light  
Brian Odell, Chelan PUD  
Dan Kay, Grays Harbor PUD  
Travis Kinney, Lewis PUD  
Louise Petruzzella, Shoreline Community College

**10:00am - Call to Order & Approval of the December 2019 minutes**

The minutes were approved as written.

**10:04am - Operations Update**

Director William Westmoreland updated the board on the relocation to campus, which is now complete. Due to travel restrictions resulting from the lockdown, the money from the travel account was used to fund a technical update to the PNCECE website and to purchase a Contact Management System for tracking Center activities.

The PNCECE website is built upon an outdated web template that was designed for desktop use. The update to the site will include a mobile friendly template, a more contemporary architecture

that is audience focused (Industry, Job Seeker/Student, & Educator), and dated material being relocated to a newly created archive, which will keep this information accessible. These updates will also allow the site to tie directly to our social media outlets, which will drive traffic to the site. It is scheduled to be live by June 30th.

Launchpad CRM, a Salesforce based product, was purchase and is currently being configured to manage Center engagement, program activity and job activity, and industry/education contacts. This system will eventually be tied to the PNCECE website which will keep the website information as current as possible.

#### **10:10am - Tenino Status**

The application that was submitted to the TransAlta's Centralia Coal Transition Grants group was not funded. While there is a strong desire to keep the project moving forward, Tenino School Superintendent Joe Belmonte asked to delay any new effort until December of 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19 on their operations. BEF & PECE are willing to reengage once the school is ready to proceed.

No news at this point on the Commerce/PSE micro-grid project.

#### **10:14am - ECMC Grant**

Several COEs formed a consortium to apply for grant funding available from ECMC in Los Angeles. Also included in the consortium are the Seattle Jobs Initiative (fiscal agent) and the RAND corporation (research). The project will fund an expansion of the new COE CRM system to the state workforce system (Local WDCs). This expansion would greatly increase data sharing amounts the different agencies funded to do business engagement. It would also create a closer relationship between local Business Services team and the COEs. Brian Young of Commerce encouraged the group to connect with his and other agencies as the project develops to gain maximum input and support from the state. The letter of intent is due in early May and with notice of move forward due before the end of the month.

#### **10:20am - Covid-19 Impact Discussion**

Troy Nutter shared that PSE got a jump on work from home (WFH) plans & currently have staff on WFH until September. Contract work has slowed so those workers have reduced work. Revenue and liquidity are big concerns as many generators slow or stop revenue generating activities.

Avista is experiencing similar changes in operations. Customer service reps are service customers from home which has allowed Avista to keep that team employed. They're also taking advantage of training and modified work efforts to keep the business moving forward.

Troy also noted the success of limiting who was in a storm base, traditionally those workers and contractors are all on location. Using remote tools, they were able to complete the work with most of the team working remotely. This will result in revisiting storm response.

Clark PUD moved most office staff to WFH and had field workers in training being dispatched as needed. Long-term, they are looking at how to maintain Customer Service and training efforts as WFH. This could include apprenticeship efforts.

Alice reported that Tacoma Power move much of their staff to remote right away, with the exceptions of customer service and a few other roles. This proved to be problematic and resulted in moving customer service to WFH. Field service had an alternating schedule - one week in the field the other in the office. As a municipal utility, the financial impact may result in to furloughs and layoffs, but they didn't expect it to impact the utility. WFH has proven to be successful, resulting in potential long-term changes. Alice raised a great question in terms of how internships will work in this new normal. Troy spoke to the fact that PSE is doing virtual evaluations as a part of virtual (Remote instructor lead) apprenticeship training.

Jake Fay provided an instruction update for Centralia College. With in-person classes on hold until at least the fall session, the college shifted its focus to remote delivery and virtual training for the summer session. Some in-person classes have been given the green light to convene on campus under strict rules provided by the state. Welding and Nursing classes amongst those allowed to return.

Many students face technology challenges related to lack of equipment and WIFI. The college has begun offering free WIFI in public areas of the college, mostly in parking lots, and providing equipment such as laptops whenever possible.

Jake also spoke to the fact that many of these changes are likely to be long-term and potentially permanent. As the safety recommendations change, the college is in a good position to react and adjust to ensure that daily operations are in compliance.

Todd Currier spoke of similar changes and to lower revenue for WSU. The university is already taking action to adjust to the expected budget reductions and has moved most staff to remote operations.

#### **10:36am - Career Connect Washington (CCW) WSU application**

WSU is leading a consortium of PNCECE, RETC, and FWEE to expand FWEE's successful summer academy to the west side of the state. The week-long STEM academy focuses on hydro and renewable energy and is an opportunity to bring 20 students to a hydro facility to learn about employment opportunities in the industry. CCW has developed a network of intermediaries across the state to fund work and learn opportunities using Federal funds made available by Gov. Inslee. The program has three levels in its structure - Expose, Prepare, & Launch. The consortium's approach is founded in the Prepare module, and will lead to Launch in year two.

Bob Guenther suggested that we connect with Alice Phillips who would be an excellent connection to Labor for the Tacoma location. Additionally, Cecile raised the issue of what emerging technologies should we be looking at in terms of developing skills standards.

#### **11:05 Skills Standards Refresh & Strategic Plan**

William will survey board members on the validations of the existing standards and a plan to prioritize the updating those identified as out-of-date. We'll use a similar approach on the Strategic Plan.