

Powerline Advisory Board Committee Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2021

Jackson Campus

Members present: Brian Binnebose, Judy Tebben, Eric Stoll, Eric Hamm, Brad Carlson, Doug Schuett, Brandon Lundgren, Joe Riess, Mike Willetts, Lidia Jacobson, Scott Luberts, Brent H., Ryan Craig

Members absent: Dennis Clifford, Pete Wyffels, Tim Braulick, Greg Dent, Jeff Benson, Chad Nelson, Lyle Lamote, George Madden, Troy Blankenhagen

The meeting was called to order at 12:02

Went over old business from last year's meeting. Talked about last year possibly going to a 9 month program and that we were not able to do that because of we need to have 6 credits for the summer program to qualify for financial aid. Mike Willetts said he liked the 10-month program. Brian and Doug talked on keeping it a 10 month program it works for them and other powerline schools are doing the same thing a 10 month program.

Judy Tebben talked on Program modifications with the powerline program and adding a CDL permit prep class to next year for the one credit elective class that is required for the students taking the diploma class. The committee also approved adding the math class for both the diploma and AAS degree to meet Ness Legislation requirements. A waiver will be required as the program will exceed the State System 60-credit limit. The advisory committee was asked to review the curriculum to determine if there are credits/courses that they would want to eliminate from the AAS program.

Judy T. also talked on the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation process. Mn West visit on HLC would be Nov 8th and 9th of next year.

Doug brought up about getting a subcommittee together within the advisory board so that they could bring things up to each other throughout the year before the next advisory board meeting next year. Maybe they would have ideas or some connections to help the school out in some training or working with industry partners. Eric Hamm, Mike Willets and Lidia Jacobson said they would serve on the committee and if anyone else was willing in the future to get ahold of one of them or Brian and Doug or Eric.

There was talk of safety and safety guidelines to look at the APPA manual for guidance on that. There was discussion on safety procedures that the powerline program does like tailgating, job briefing, pole top rescue, working in trenches, proper body mechanics

There was some discussion on new technology and the I Pads and the use of them out in industry and that possibly the program could look into getting some I pad or some industry partners could come to the school and share what they have a show the students how it works for them.

Eric Stoll asked about mapping the line field and if anyone would now of a company he could get put into contact with that would do that digital mapping. Star energy was brought up to come in contact with.

A wish list was reviewed for the program and discussion on equipment, tools, hardware, URD equipment, Truck, trailers. Get ahold of Brian, Doug or Eric if there was anything that someone would have for Mn west.

Judy talked about leveraged equipment with the advisory board and how it works and how it can benefit the powerline program.

Judy, Doug, Brian, Eric thank the Advisory Board for attending the meeting and for all that they do for the industry and our program here at Minnesota West.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schuett

Recorder.