

Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Wind Energy Technology Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, July 1, 2010
10:00am - 12:30pm



Members Present:

Chris Burch, enXco; John Dunlop, AWEA; Jaci Weber and Greg Crowser, EMS; Deb VanDerostyne & Jeremy Krug, Outland; Aaron Thompson and Mike DeVries, AES; Loren Hacker, CHS; Jim Nichols, Independent Owner; Dan Juhl, JuhlWind; Jeff Peters, Missouri River Energy; and Minnesota West Faculty/Staff: Gary Olsen, Brad Bolluyt, Duane Carrow, Katie Delaney, Rebecca Weber, Richard Shrubbs and Jeff Williamson.

Meeting Minutes:

1) Introductions

Gary Olsen opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions were made.

2) Wind Energy Curriculum Review

a. Course Descriptions and Credit Value Modifications

Gary Olsen reviewed recent curriculum modifications and why there were made. (See attached Program Plan.) He informed the board that all three instructors completed OSHA 30Hr. Train-the-Trainer training and will incorporate that into our safety courses to keep safety as our #1 priority. Future graduates will now leave Minnesota West OSHA certified through the MN Safety Council. Dan Juhl commented he was happy to see a communications course requirement within our program. John Dunlop asked how we measure the quality of communication skills. Duane Carrow explained that Minnesota West utilizes the Accuplacer Assessment to determine an incoming student's skill level and course placement. We then look to required course outcomes that are taken from the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum for our general education courses. Discussion on how students access the testing followed.

b. AWEA Skill Set Standards

Brad Bolluyt introduced the AWEA Skill Set Standards and how our courses were meeting those standards. (See Attachment) John Dunlop added that AWEA is still working on the application process, as well as, how to evaluate programs that apply for the 'Seal of Approval'. AWEA plans to begin receiving applications by September 2010. All submitted materials will then be reviewed by a review board made of industry professionals. Only programs that are at least one year old, are AWEA members (\$250 yearly cost, and are two year A.A.S Degree programs will receive the 'Seal of Approval'. And those that are awarded the 'Seal' will be highlighted by AWEA going forward. Jaci Weber commented that when EMS receives calls from prospective students, they always recommend colleges that are associated with AWEA and are known within the industry.

3) Update on Grants

a. MN Renewable Energy Marketplace

Brad Bolluyt gave details on each of the MNREM grants Outland and Minnesota West were awarded. Our students have benefited greatly from this collaboration as they will now receive Infrared Training, Tower Rescue Training in our new Training Tower, and access to hands-on training equipment. There was good discussion on the use of Infrared training within the industry. It was deemed valuable as many insurance companies do require infrared testing. Dan Juhl questioned if our program covered condition monitoring as that is an important part of future maintenance. Duane Carrow stated those topics would be a good fit for our Mechanical Systems course.

b. Wind Energy Development Coordinator (WEDC)

Katie Delaney updated the board on her role as Wind Energy Development Coordinator and explained the grant is now complete and there is no longer anyone in the WEDC capacity. Katie has returned to her previous position as Canby Campus Marketer. Therefore, going forward contacts for equipment are to be directed to Gary Olsen and inquiries regarding our Training Tower will be handled by Brad Bolluyt. As per the grant requirements, a long range plan for sustainability for the Wind Energy program was written. Marketing & recruiting duties will be taken care of by college wide Marketing & Recruiting staff, industry connections will be left to the Wind Energy Instructors and collaborations with high schools and industry will be a joint effort between the Campus Marketer and Wind Energy Instructors. Duane Carrow thanked Loren Hacker for his work to make this position a reality. It was very successful and he has suggested to MNREM that a like position could be duplicated to any renewable energy program.

c. Pathway out of Poverty Grant received by the White Earth Band of Ojibwe

Duane Carrow explained that the White Earth Reservation received a 3 year, \$3 million Pathway out of Poverty grant from the Department of Labor. Minnesota West's involvement includes providing wind energy training to participating tribal members on the White Earth Reservation. Minnesota West will be working with Minnesota State, utilizing some of their faculty as well as ours to deliver courses. Therefore, the college is currently advertising for a Wind Energy Instructor to teach on the White Earth Reservation. One of the challenges Duane cited, was funding for training equipment. He explained Minnesota West has applied for other grants for the purchase of training equipment. If those are not awarded, he will request a budget modification within the Pathway out of Poverty Grant. Duane also informed the Board that students may be required to travel to Canby to complete ELWT 1160 and 1170 utilizing our Training Tower unless there would be a tower available at Fergus Falls or Wadena. There was large opposition to Fergus Falls or Wadena receiving a Wind Turbine, until there is one for our program. Duane went on to say these possible towers would be erected for energy savings not Wind Energy Training. After further discussion the Board was in favor of duplicating the Wind Energy program at the White Earth Reservation for two cohort groups.

4) Enrollment Update

Katie Delaney reported enrollment was strong for 2010-2011. To date there were 87 new applicants for the Diploma or A.A.S. Degree, in addition to the 41 returning students. There were 9 applicants to the Windsmith Certificate online. There are 16 applications for Fall 2011 and 17 applications for Fall 2012. She explained the large number for Fall of 2010 is due to the number indicating their interested in pursuing the double major in Wind and Electrical.

5) Graduate Placement

Gary Olsen reported that of the 15 graduates in May 2010, 11 had full time employment within the industry (73%), one had an internship, and three were working outside the industry.

6) Equipment

Gary Olsen acknowledged all equipment donations received within the last year and also distributed an updated 'wish list' for the program citing current needs. (See attachment)

7) Wind Energy Training Tower

Katie Delaney and Brad Bolluyt discussed the use of our Wind Energy Training Tower by industry and an appropriate cost associated with use. Minnesota West is looking to those within the industry for feedback on what would be an acceptable. It was suggested payment be made in the form of scholarship donations or industry interactions with students. As most of those in attendance didn't have a need to utilize the Training Tower, the issue will be worked out one-on-one with industry.

The meeting was adjourned followed by a tour of our Wind Energy Training Tower and lunch.

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