

Minnesota West Community & Technical College  
Jackson Campus  
Powerline Program  
Minutes of October 12, 2016

Members present: Mark Anderson, Chad Nelson, Lyle Lamote, Roy Peterson, Pete Wyfflels, Joe Marthaler, and Tim Braulick

Instructors: Doug Schuett and Brian Binnesbose

Reviewed old minutes and approved

New business was discussed and included:

1. Summer climbing class was held at the college behind the school
2. MREA held a hotline school at the Jackson Powerline Field on October 2 – 6, 2016
  - Minnesota Rural Electric Association felt they had a good turn out and would like to hold more hotline schools here in the future.
  - Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) was happy with all the acres or space that MN West College has to hold a hotline school, space to hold different stations throughout the field. There was concern if Minnesota West College was to get rid of property (line field) if there would be enough room at the college being it is smaller in size for outdoor work.
  - Minnesota Rural Electric Association was happy to see a new, bigger indoor climbing lab for the college and this will give the school a better training facility if there is bad weather or if there was bad weather during a hotline school that MREA was holding there would be space available.
3. CDL License Information
  - It was discussed that Minnesota West is no longer having the CDL driving portion of the class.
  - The class room portion for the written test is still being offered.
  - Working with Northland CDL training & licensing for driving part.
4. Fall Arrest Belts
  - Talked about the new fall arrest belts and the kinds of belts being used by lineman
  - Recommended that all the students purchase whatever fall arrest belt they want, companies are replacing their belts with whatever the lineman is using.
5. Locator
  - The lineman program purchased a locator from ditch witch last year at the end of the year.
6. Donations- Brian talked about some of the donations that we got from companies
  - Waseca – fiber glass arms (narrow construction)
  - Nobles- Hot sticks, wire, other material
  - Great River- Switches
  - Kandiyohi – reels URD wire (1 new wire) (1 old wire neutral outside)

7. Update on New Indoor Climbing Lab

- Showed the advisory board the plans for the new building and answered questions on it.
- Advisory board asked if we were still going to be outside working in weather and we told them yes.
- Advisory board was here for the ground breaking for the new Powerline Lab on October 12, 2016 the same day as advisory board meeting.
- Building is scheduled to be completed next June of 2017.
- Advisory board expressed concern on getting rid of the power line field that Minnesota West currently has, because there is enough room now to do training for powerline and storage of the trucks and equipment, and material that they currently have down by the river. Their concern is moving up to the college rather there would be enough room for outdoor training with building lines and powerline work.

8. Other Business

- Talked about cell phone use in our industry and that there are some policies that are in place for when to and not to use the cell phone.
- Cell phones being used in school or class and how we go about handling the use of cell phones.
- New electronics being used out on the power line field and what we should be trying to stay up on such as metering, relays, and substation controls.

Respectfully submitted,

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