

**Minnesota West Community & Technical College**  
**Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**April 11, 2018**

Members present: Dusty Neugebauer, Dave Soderholm, Brad Meester, Andrew Bents, Kile Behrends and Slade Harder (student representative). Jeff Rogers was also in attendance on behalf of the Minnesota West Agricultural Faculty.

Members absent: Mark Bents and Joe VanderKooi

Dr. Gallswyck was in attendance to introduce himself and thank the board for their service to Minnesota West. He also gave an update on the Blue Jay Villas and how they will help Minnesota West students.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 am by Dusty Neugebauer.

Previous meeting minutes were emailed to all members and approved.

Old Business:

1. Ralco Shrimp Certification/ Training – Discussion about the ongoing potential for MN West to provide training for Ralco. Jeff Rogers has been in contact with Paul Lanoue, Agriculture Dean of Minnesota West, to further develop the program. The board still strongly supports moving forward with the program.
2. Articulation Agreements with Minnesota State University, Marshall - Discussion was held on MN West continually looking at ways to assist in the ease of transfer credits and degrees to four-year institutions. Minnesota West is currently working with SMSU on a 2 to 4 year program in Agriculture Education degree. Advisory council supports this agreement and other further programs.
3. Crystal Valley Coop – Crystal Valley coop committed 2 \$1000 scholarship to Minnesota West foundation as Agriculture Scholarships. The board discussed internships and how to engage students to work with local businesses to further develop their experience in the Ag programs.

New Business:

1. Student Report – Slade Harder provided the student report. His experience has been very exciting and he has learned a great deal in his classes. He will graduate in May with an Ag Production Diploma and head back home to the family farm by Mt. Lake, MN. He was on the crops team that took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the state competition against other 2 year & 4 year schools.
2. Faculty Report – Jeff Rogers shared enrollment information and recruiting visits to local school districts. Enrollment steady to slight decrease for 2017-18. He has been to Worthington, Sibley, Jackson, and Luverne. Lake Park, Windom, Fulda and George-Little Rock are on the schedule for high schools to share with prospective students.
3. New Courses at Marshall High School – Jeff Rogers shared with board that Paul Lanoue – Dean of Agriculture was instrumental in developing 2 hands on courses through Minnesota West for

Southwest Minnesota State Agriculture education program. These are being taught at Marshall High school by their Ag instructors.

4. 5 year budget plan / Precision Ag – Minnesota West has a 5 year budget plan for enhancing programs and curriculum. Jeff asked for guidance and recommendations in developing new or adding to existing programs to better prepare students for workforce in the ag industry. Broad support from the advisory board is that precision agriculture is an integral part of today's agriculture and this is an area which will benefit student's preparation for the workforce as well as training for individual production farms. The board fully supported investment in equipment for hands on instruction, however, strongly encouraged developing relationships with industry to provide training. This will allow MN Wets to stay current with new technology and preventing education to continually fund updated equipment.
5. AAS Programs – Jeff requested to modify the AAS programs to make it easier for students to transfer in general education credits without petitioning process. The board fully supported the modifications for efficiency and controlling costs of education.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kile Behrends