

Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Jackson Campus
Powerline Program Advisory Committee Meeting
February 13, 2019

Members present: Tim Braulick, Mike Willetts, Lyle Lamote, Troy Blankenhagen, Mark Anderson, Ryan Craig, Greg Drent, Dennis Clifford, Joe Marthaler, Doug Schuett, Bruce Peterson, and Brian Binnebose.

South Central REA presented Shalyer Beadle with a \$500 scholarship (Hunsted scholarship). Reviewed old minutes and approved 1st Greg Drent, 2nd Joe Marthaler

New Business was discussed and included:

Bruce and Doug talked about the tool day restructure- tool day will be June 11, 2019. Letters and a tool list will be sent out to student who need to attend tool day, talked about the tool list and any vendors that can participate.

Troy Blankenhagen asked if we had the students get steel toe or some kind of safety toe. There was some discussion on which one to have or if there should be a policy by Minnesota West to wear one of them. Mike Willetts asked what is done for a student who is unable to attend. Students are able to order directly from vendors with the same pricing on packages. The program also has some equipment available for use at the start of classes if delivery is late.

Doug talked about the three trucks that Minnesota West purchased last year (2018), one bucket truck from Benco, and two trucks from Steffes Equipment, Sioux City IA., (1 Bucket truck and 1 digger truck). Minnesota West also purchased two new rescue dummies for pole top rescue.

Troy Blankenhagen asked about CDL license. He would like to see if the students could get more drive time in the truck before they would come to work for a company. Troy also said that even though many companies have automatic transmission trucks the contractors still are using manual transmission trucks. Lyle L. asked if there was a random drug and alcohol test at Minnesota West for students. Joe M. said Federated Rural Electric was randomly selected for federal CDL drug and alcohol test for their employees.

Cell phone use was talked about. Brian B. asked how cell phones where being used in their companies. Tim stated that there is a time and a place for cell phone use, Tim asked how we could use it as a safety tool. Bruce asked the advisory board members if there where policies for their companies and if they could send Minnesota West a copy of their policies for Minnesota West to look at. Mike Willets also stated that there is a draft in the APPA Manual for us to look at.

Donations where discussed that Minnesota West received over the year, reel trailer and pole trailer donated by Benco. A substation, reels of wire overhead and URD. Greg asked if

Minnesota West could use some 600 amp elbows as Shakopee has a surplus of them. Doug asked what Minnesota West should be using, we want to keep Minnesota West inventory at a place where we do not have to have a lot of splices for every size wire out there. Doug asked if we could keep it to sizes like 1/0 or 4/0 and maybe something like 500 or 750 size. Tim said that most companies don't keep a big supply of the bigger size elbows or wire on hand. Bruce then suggested Brian and Doug should create a list of the things that Minnesota West would be looking for send it out to the companies so see if anyone could help out on the wish list.

Granite Falls- Bruce P. Talked to the advisory board and shared plans that Minnesota West will be starting a satellite of the powerline program in Granite Falls on the campus. It will be the ten-month program, (1 Year) and the substation will stay in Jackson. Bruce discussed the need for industry partners to continue helping Minnesota West in supporting the program at both sites. We will be looking to set up the Granite Falls site with needed supplies. Brian discussed desire to increase underground equipment. Bruce also thanked those who provide scholarships and encouraged others to assist with efforts to support students. This satellite is pending approval of the system office. The members attending supported this move.

Bruce asked what is coming up in technology, where should Minnesota West be heading with technology. Joe M. stated that electronic reclosers could possibly be for the 2nd year students. Greg D. maybe some Switzer relays that is what their company is using. Mark A. asked if it would be possible to send one of his guys or any company send one of their employees to Minnesota West and show the students how the new technology is working, whatever it may be. Tim volunteered to come down and do a presentation how Benco is using I Pads. Mike Willets talked about possibly having some students attending the MMUA metering school. We will work on identifying a schedule to coordinate these opportunities.

Mike Willets talked about the fishing tournament to be held May 31 to June 1 at Rush Lake. He also invited everyone to come and participate.

Meeting adjourned.