



FEBRUARY 5, 2010 TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

Present on call were Jennifer Grove, Andra Cornelius, Rosanne Heard, Betsy Levingston, Kevin Gay, Carol Higley, Susan VanBuren, Kim McDougal, Marsan Carr, Shunae Thomas, Erica Feltz, Janay Thomas, Sharon Patterson, Jeanie McCall, Patti Weasel, Kevin Cooper, Marilyn Barger, Erica Feltz, Toni Scholze, and Jackie Skyrd.

Andra gave a welcome. All on the call self-introduced. Jennifer overviewed the agenda.

Update on BCE Smart Grid Focus Group - Kevin Cooper

Kevin reported they held a very successful meeting two weeks ago. This focus group was attended by six utilities and seven community colleges. The purpose was to understand the training needs for Smart Grid. Bob Triana, FPL presented the Energy Smart Florida program. FPL. This presentation explained the components of smart grid from the residence all the way back to the generation source. Bob is seeking approval for IRSC to share his presentation more widely. Kevin reported that there are many training opportunities associated with Smart Grid implementation, including those that provide cross-training between engineering and the information technology sector. The majority of the training will be skills upgrade training for existing utility workers (such as line technicians) and to add customer service skills/ data analysis training. Kevin remarked that a key role for educational institutions to play in these smart grid grant implementations is in public awareness, which is a set-aside portion of most of these type grants. Kevin also noted that the majority of the smart grid jobs being created are in the manufacturing sector, with GE having recently located the largest smart meter plant in the world in Bradenton, Florida.

Update on January 29, 2010 STEM Business Roundtable - Carol Higley

Carol reported that she represented JEA and the utility perspective at the STEMFlorida Business Roundtable on 1/29/10 in Jacksonville. Carol indicated that she had reported on the critical nature of having a STEM workforce – engineers and technician-level employees – and promoted the career academy experiences that provide rigor, relevance, and work-place real-world learning opportunities for both students and teachers. In her presentation, Carol also stressed the importance of student competitions to bring hands-on experience and inspiration to students. Carol thanked Workforce Florida for their leadership on this initiative and for the Banner Center programs which are targeted directly toward our target industries for the state. STEMFlorida requested participants enter any successful best practice programs in their database (www.stemflorida.net) and welcomed participation from all roundtable participants at the March 1st summary roundtable and webinar.

Florida Energy Systems Consortiums (FESC) Update – Marilyn Barger

Marilyn Barger gave a report on the recent FESC (Tim Anderson, Director) presentation to the House State Universities and Private Colleges Policy Committee. During this two-hour update,

Dr. Tim Andersen, Dr. Pierce Jones and Marilyn gave updates on (1) the research and tech transfer initiatives going on with FSEC; (2) the FESC public/community outreach piece underway in partnership with the Banner Center for Construction for energy efficiency and helping communities be “smart” about applying for grants and optimizing opportunities to create jobs; and (3) the FESC efforts for community college energy career pathway development and deployment. Three action items for the FESC leadership are to include information on the private institutions; provide information about K-12 efforts; and forward a report that is being developed for a state energy committee. Marilyn was encouraged to reach out to the Banner Center for Energy for their research to date on energy-related training programs throughout Florida (a task that the FESC was charged to do). Marilyn will forward the presentation to Jennifer for distribution to the full consortium.

USDOL Energy Grant Status – Andra Cornelius

Andra gave an update on the USDOL Energy Grant Status and the LMI Green Jobs Survey. Andra reported that Florida did quite well. The USDOL set aside a total of \$495 M in Recovery Act funded green job grant opportunities nationwide. Of the five separate grant opportunities, Florida received funding in three. The most significant amount of funding into Florida was through the Pathways Out of Poverty grant program with awards to the following:

- Boley Centers (St. Petersburg--WorkNet Pinellas a partner) – \$2,300,678
- Citrus Levy Marion Regional Workforce Board -- \$2,985,175
- Florida State College at Jacksonville (Duval County) -- \$2,229,642
- Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc (national grant serving Asheville, NC; Broward County, Florida; and Phoenix, AZ) -- \$4,900,000

In the Energy Sector Partnerships grant program, the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition received \$3,280,656. In the Green Jobs Survey grant program, AWI’s Labor Market Statistics Center received a \$1.25 M green jobs survey grant. In total, Florida netted just over \$13M. Although Florida was not successful in obtaining the coveted \$6 M State Energy Sector Partnership grant, overall the state and its partners did quite well.

The green jobs survey is under review by USDOL, with hopes to get the survey out to targeted respondents as soon as March. The FEWC can provide support by getting the word out on the importance of targeted respondents providing full responses to this survey.

FEWC Committee Reports

Executive Committee - Jennifer reminded everyone that the Executive Committee is comprised of the two Chairs of the Consortium and each Committee Chair. The Executive Committee meets monthly via conference call to attend to the business of the FEWC. The Executive Committee is in the process of rolling up each committee action plan to develop the 2010 FEWC Action Plan. The Executive Committee will approve a budget for 2010 on the next scheduled call and will share that plan and budget when approved.

Jennifer also reported that the Executive Committee provided a letter of support on behalf of the FEWC to Commissioner Eric Smith in support of Florida’s Race to the Top grant application.

Andra reported that both Florida State University--CAPS (March 2010) and the Banner Center for Alternative Energy (June 2010) are very excited about hosting future FEWC meetings at their facilities and look forward to providing us tours of their operations.

State and National Outreach - Jennifer reminded everyone of Ann Randazzo from CEWD's report in our December meeting of the Gates Foundation funding they have received for a planning grant for the Energy Career Pathways Project for at-risk youth. Jennifer reported that Florida is currently being evaluated (as are eight other states that the Gates Foundation heavily funds in) for inclusion in the implementation pilot which would occur later this year. Betsy Levingston reported that she will represent the FEWC in a presentation in Orlando in March to the MidWestern Energy Association. This presentation will cover the history, organization and purpose of the FEWC.

Funding & Resources - Susan Van Buren reported we are doing quite well. We currently have only one outstanding invoice for annual dues.

Policy and Education - Betsy Levingston reported that an additional energy cluster was added to the Florida Department of Education (DOE) industry clusters on their website. The Committee came up with five courses: Energy Foundations, Introduction to Alternative Energy (in that order as prerequisites), Power Generation Technician, Power Distribution Technician, and Solar Technician. Since we were not able to garner grant funds through the State Energy Sector Partnership grant opportunity to develop the course materials for these courses, the Committee is in the process of gathering all existing resources we can use to build these courses. The Energy Working Committee will lead this effort, but will need the assistance of other utilities throughout the state to develop these curriculum materials. Betsy reported that the goal is to have the Energy Foundations course ready by May of 2010 so that instructors can prepare for delivery beginning August of 2010. Betsy will share the request to provide resources with utility and post-secondary FEWC partners.

Career Awareness - Carol Higley reported that thanks to Nathan at WFI the www.getintoenergyflorida.com website is now up and running with the design of Team Andrea who won our student branding competition. Carol encourages FEWC members to visit the website and provide her comments about content upgrades that are necessary.

Carol reported that up and coming career awareness events are the state Science Fair on April 8 – 9. The Executive Committee discussed providing an FEWC recognition at this event. Also the state Skills USA competition in Bradenton is on April 18 – 19. Carol is soliciting assistance in providing a presence at this upcoming event. She would welcome any and all suggestions for how we can engage in these events. She noted that the national Skills USA competition will be held the week of June 26 in Kansas City. Carol has also been working with Kim McDougal at DOE on opportunities to present to Florida science teachers, school counselors, and administrators later in the year.

Carol also requested input on content to put together on our website that shows our history of development in the FEWC with specific best practices highlighted. Carol requested content from FEWC members – presentations, internal newsletter stories, etc.

Untapped Labor Pools - In Kevin's absence, Patti Weasel reported that the committee held a call to follow up on some items from their previous committee meeting.

Jennifer concluded the meeting by reminding everyone of the scheduled upcoming dates.