



JULY 21, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. EDT. Jennifer Grove welcomed all, reviewed the agenda and called for self-introductions.

After self-introductions, Jennifer Grove asked participants to review the committee lists and volunteer to serve on at least one of them.

FEWC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Jennifer provided an update of this committee’s actions. The last meeting focused on the USDOL solicitation for grant applications for green worker training and associated proposals. Further reporting on this issue will occur in the Funding & Resources Committee report.

State and National Outreach Committee – Jennifer provided updates on two previously mentioned projects. They have both been funded by WFI. One project is the Florida STEM Council. This is an industry-driven collaborative that participates with education and workforce to guide an increase in STEM-oriented program offerings and the number of students pursuing STEM-oriented degrees – both secondary and post-secondary in Florida. Science, technology, engineering and math – and in the Florida Chamber’s definition, additional “m” of medicine – are the underpinning of the talent required to grow the targeted industries for our state – aerospace/aviation, information technology, homeland security, manufacturing, energy, etc. This project will try to create the story of STEM for the state of Florida. Andra announced there has been much interest in this project.

The other project is for the Construction Workforce Development Center. The organization is led by Daniel Grove and the purpose is to ensure there is enough heavy craft or industrial skilled labor to meet the growing industrial construction demand through the U.S. In achieving those goals, two areas have been emphasized. The first was the purchase from Canada a real-time, project based, labor supply demand forecasting tool that has been modified for use in the U.S. with the industrial construction sector. The tool is being piloted with owners and contractors. The purpose is to attain accurate demand and supply for industrial construction workers. The second area of focus is the “Choose Construction” marketing campaign. It is not about residential construction, it is about heavy craft and the value to individuals and society. It will also advertise the programs available to obtain the skill level required to perform the work. Jennifer’s proposal combined these two components and added a third element of bringing a CEFGA-like, or Construction Education Foundation of Georgia-like organization to the state of Florida. Those RFP’s will go out this week from WFI for applicants to manage the implementation of those deliverables that will include creating this collaborative organization between the FEWC and FCURT (Florida Construction users Roundtable) plus other heavy industrial construction users. Jennifer asked members to direct interested parties to the WFI website where the request for proposals are posted and encourage them to apply.

Jennifer also reported on the August 5, USDOL State Energy Workforce Consortium Leadership meeting in Atlanta, where every state energy workforce consortia (20) chairs and committee chairs will discuss their committees' work and share best practices. This meeting is a first of its kind. In preparation for the meeting, state consortiums were asked to complete templates/forms on their work. Jennifer will share the completed Florida forms with members. At the meeting, they will receive the same information from the other states which will also be distributed to FEWC members. From the FEWC, Andra Cornelius, Jennifer Grove, Betsy Levingston, Carol Higley, and Jose Farinos will attend.

Andra Cornelius added that WFI Board member Lila Jaber has been invited to speak at the Florida Energy and Climate Commission to present the findings and recommendation contained within the Green Jobs for Florida report.

J. B. Clark provided an update on the Florida Energy and Climate Commission activities. He reported that the next day's Commission meeting could be accessed by conference call and gave the information. He gave a brief review of the meeting agenda.

Funding & Resources Committee

Andra Cornelius reported on the discussion of the green jobs grant during the Executive Committee call. The USDOL set aside \$500 million in five different buckets. Two of those, we intend to aggressively apply for at the state level. One is for a State Labor Market Information grant which will be applied for by Becky Rust at the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The other opportunity is the State Energy Sector Partnerships and Training grant that is only open to state workforce investment boards in concern with the state labor market agency. A grant team has been established and a website has been developed to post materials along with a timeline. Florida will apply for the maximum amount (\$6 million). Those funds would be distributed through a team approach – local partners, local regional workforce boards working with their local partners). The team divided the state into four sub-state regions: northeast, northwest, central and south, and have identified co-leads in each of those sectors. A charter is being developed as a requirement under the grant opportunity.

Jennifer reported that we currently have 11 dues-paying FEWC members. The beginning of the fiscal year is near so invoices will be issued. If a member recently paid, the invoice will indicate a date due closer to a year from original payment.

Policy and Education Committee

Betsy Levingston asked Jennifer to give this report in her absence. Betsy has been working with Kim McDougal at DOE to being working on the energy technician certification project. An energy technician curriculum workshop is scheduled for August 10, 11:30 – 3:30 at the FLDOE in Tallahassee. Members should let Betsy know if they would like to attend. Conference call-in will also be available.

Career Awareness Committee

Carol Higley reported that one of the committee's main focuses is to get ready for the August 5 meeting in Atlanta and preparing best practices for sharing. The Committee is planning to man a display at the meeting also.

The Committee is also working on the career ladder visuals. Carol has also had significant communication with Niceville High School regarding finalizing posting of the website. She has drafted a summary of information about the website with recommendations to include a poster and video linkage.

Jennifer responded to a question about the upcoming Southeastern Manpower Tripartite Alliance in Panama City Beach at Edgewater Beach Resort on August 27 & 28. The hotel has a special room rate for attendees.

She also reported on an update from NCCER on curriculum for power generation. The first meeting is set for October 21 and 22 in Savannah to develop a power generation orientation module and a power generation safety module. Information on this meeting will be sent to the membership.

Upcoming Meetings

It was agreed that the face-to-face August meeting be postponed until September 24 at Indian River State College in Ft. Pierce. Rodney Miller offered to host the December meeting at FPL, realizing that the group may want to go to a different part of the state than his location in Juno Beach. Other suggested locations were OUC or JEA.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.