



MAY 5, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. EDT. Rodney Miller with FPL welcomed all as meeting host. Jennifer Grove called for self-introductions and reviewed the agenda.

SE CEWD Meeting – Take-Aways

Jennifer reported that CEWD would be providing a current job incumbent inventory in electrical utility occupations for Florida created by EMSI. The EMSI data on education resources for the energy industry needs to be “cleaned up” (perhaps by Betsy's committee) for more accuracy. Kurt Moraur offered his assistance in the review process as a representative of industry. At the CEWD meeting, Jennifer met Peggy Cook of the Florida Association of Science Teachers. Jennifer will be following up with Ms. Cook regarding FEWC's collaboration with the Association.

The Explorer's Post, "Learning for Life", is an offshoot from the Boy Scouts that provides character development and career overview training for boys and girls in secondary schools through college. FEWC will look into partnering/collaborating with this group.

Deborah Howell from GEICC (Georgia Energy and Industrial Construction Consortium) reported that through the USDOL grant they received last year, they would be developing a product for an online "Get Into Energy" course. Because the project is funded with USDOL dollars, it will be available for all to use. GEICC also publishes a newsletter titled, "GEICC Times". Jennifer would like FEWC to consider developing something similar and assigned this task to her committee.

Green Jobs for Florida

Andra Cornelius provided brief background on Workforce Florida and reviewed the agenda for the Defining Green Jobs Workshop hosted by WFI's Sustainability/Infrastructure Committee on May 8 in Tallahassee. WFI receives about \$350 million in federal workforce funds, the majority of which are distributed to the regional boards. Additionally, through the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, WFI received an additional infusion of funds in the amount of \$165 million focused on finding jobs for those who have adversely affected by the recession. These funds were also allocated to the regional workforce boards (per funding formulas). Additional information about the Workshop is posted on the WFI website.

As a member of the Sustainability/Infrastructure Committee, Jennifer shared that during a recent meeting the committee developed a process going forward out of the committee where information will be compiled and a recommended definition will be developed.

State Apprenticeship Program Overview

Jennifer introduced Rob Grisar, Director of the State Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Grisar provided a review of the program. It is a federal-state partnership that started in the 1930's. He defined the apprenticeship program as 1) on the job training and 2) related technical instruction. The program requires 2000 hours a year of on the job training and in addition 144 hours a year of related technical education. Participants in the program are registered with USDOL making the certification nationally recognized. Mr. Grisar provided detail on his meeting handouts and then responded to questions from members.

FEWC Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Jennifer reported on the draft FEWC Action Plan for 2009-10 that had been distributed to members for their review. Expectations for each committee are included in the plan. Each committee requested additional members to assist with activities. Open comments on the draft plan will be received for the next few weeks. Any feedback should be sent to Jennifer by June 10. The Action Plan should be finalized and ready for operation/distribution at the June FEWC meeting. Anyone wishing to join a committee should directly contact that committee chair.

State and National Outreach – Jennifer updated members on the activities of her committee. In the CEWD meeting, Deborah Howell from GEICC made a power point presentation that was on a GEICC template. Jennifer will develop something similar for FEWC presentations. The committee also plans to produce a newsletter modeled after GEICC's, to highlight best practices. Jennifer presented a report at CEWD on what FEWC is doing/accomplishing. The presentation will be available to members.

Andra added in direct relationship to the federal stimulus funds (\$165,000), Jennifer and her team developed a template for an energy-related summer youth program titled, "Power Up". The plan would enable WFI's regional workforce boards to partner with their utility to identify summer youth opportunities where stimulus funds could be invested in energy-related or science-related activities that would promote career awareness for the industry. Andra will provide members with an example of Jennifer's document.

Andra updated members on the implementation of a construction workforce development center by WFI. The idea has received unanimous support at the Council level along with pursuing funding to kick-start the activity.

Andra then brought up STEM (scientific, technical, engineering and mathematical) training. A proposal has been made to fund a council that would formalize STEM emphasis in training, education and workforce development. Jennifer added that one of the industry partners would be joining today's meeting. Key partners in the STEM effort are the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Florida and the Florida Department of Education. Jennifer recently submitted a proposal on STEM to WFI Board as a funding prospect.

Funding and Resources – Cindy reported FEWC budget would be updated to include recent contributions and disbursements. The cash balance as of April 30, 2009 is \$12,184.12. Current dues paying contributors include Gulf Power, TECO, CHELCO, Lakeland Electric, OUC, JEA, and from Progress Energy. Payments are pending from FPL and Henkels and McCoy. Invoices will be sent to contributors for second year dues. A category will be developed for non-utility partner contributions for year two.

Career Awareness – Betsy Levingston reported she attended Career Academies on the Hill in Tallahassee where she met Frank Fuller. He offered his assistance in helping to develop an energy career cluster in education. Kim McDougal added that they need to get their technical people together and will meet with Betsy and Frank to move forward. The committee hopes to develop some tools/handouts and science projects for science teachers to use at their November conference. Jennifer suggested using the NEED materials. Gulf Power is setting up 22 energy expos for middle schoolers with six stations students can rotate through. These are hands-on science activities geared toward alternative energy sources. The materials are free. Betsy's committee sent members information on the science fair. Let her know if you did not receive it. Andra requested Betsy add to her committee's action plan EMSI report vetting.

Career Awareness – Carol provided an update on her committee's activities. The committee exhibited the Get Into Energy Florida brand in a number of locations during the past year. The websites will be expanded. A host agency will need to be determined. The committee has purchased a "Get Into Energy Florida" tablecloth for displays as well as pens and highlighters for outreach. The committee is working with Doug Saenz, Palm Beach Workforce Alliance, on career ladder opportunities and partnership with EPCE and CEWD brochure that has been developed. Carol thanked all who assisted in the Skills USA competition.

Carol shared with members youth partnerships and opportunities in the energy industry utilizing regional workforce board (RWB) partnerships. RWBs have posted on their websites summer employment and work experience information with the application. Members summarized their summer youth programs.

The meeting agenda lists the link to the Governor's Florida Recovery plan that gives contact information for the 24 RWB's on summer jobs for youth assistance. It was mentioned that Gainesville Regional Utilities is partnering with the School Board of Alachua County and their local workforce board on sponsoring a summer youth program. They will be focusing on biodiesel technology, solar hot water, and pvc. Hampton Smith reported that in Brevard they have put together a brain storming session for mid-June to look at the green jobs issue. Doug Saenz shared they have launched their application and are working with FPL. Cindy Amor stated that in Tampa they are trying to place some students in internships. Kurt said they are working with Florida Works (regional workforce board in Alachua/Bradford counties) to develop entry-level energy auditor and entry-level weatherization training. A curriculum was designed in a joint effort between University of Florida and the regional community weatherization coalition. They are combining this curriculum with OSHA 10 training and NCCER green advantage training with the intent of producing entry level employees that can go into low-income housing to do audits followed up by entry level employees who can perform simple weatherization techniques. Kurt asked if anyone has any entry level-type of curriculums

that can be used toward a state model. Andra responded that just that morning she had a meeting with Department of Community Affairs, Statewide Weatherization Assistance Program. They currently have a contract with FESC (the Florida Energy Solar Center) housed at Brevard Community College to develop a short-term energy auditor training program that is directly tied to their 29 local weatherization providers.

Rodney Miller reported hearing about universities engaged in energy sustainability through the Florida Energy Systems Consortium (managed at the University of Florida). The presenter was from FSU, Rick Meeker. He is getting a lot of information from them and wanted to know what anyone else might know about this. Jennifer said that she and Andra had arranged for a meeting with the key principles of FESC shortly after they were formed to learn more about how the work of the FESC might connect with the work of the FEWC. She added that the FESC was established by the 2008 legislature with all 11 universities as part of it, largely funded through legislative appropriation to develop a more solidified focus on energy, education, preparation and research in the state of Florida. She noted that the FESC was primarily focusing on education initiatives post-secondary and beyond. Talent pipeline development, or building career awareness of jobs in the energy sector, and secondary training, was not a focus of FESC.

FEWC DOL Grant Application Update

Andra reported listening to Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis' testimony on April 21 before the Senate Health Committee. She mentioned the upcoming solicitation of grant availability and emphasized collaboration, and targeting those most in need, which she defined as population segments of interest: youth, disabled, African-Americans and Hispanics. The first round of solicitations would be available June 2009. Andra has asked the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Labor Market Statistics Center to develop maps to show areas of greatest poverty in the state and highest areas of unemployment. This data will help drive, in part, the most competitive areas for a grant application.

Upcoming Events

Jennifer reviewed upcoming meeting dates and stated that a place needs to be found for the face-to-face meeting in August. Jose Farinos volunteered Indian River College for the August meeting.

The meeting adjourned around 2:50 p.m.