



**JUNE 15, 2010 MEETING  
EMPLOY FLORIDA BANNER CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY  
FSEC, COCOA, FL**

**SUMMARY**

Members in attendance: Shelly Aubuchon, Marilyn Barger, Audrey Brown, Kevin Cooper, Andra Cornelius, Dr. Jim Fenton, Ron Goss, Jennifer Grove, Colleen Kettles, Ivan Mesa, Ed Prevatt, Susan Schleith, Hampton Smith, Peggy Stanford, and Susan VanBuren.

Participating by conference call were Rosanne Heard, Carol Higley, Kim McDougal, Fred Morgan, Sharon Patterson, and Patti Weasel

Guest: Cheryl Awtonomow – Brevard CC

After self-introductions, Jennifer Grove reviewed the agenda.

Dr. Jim Fenton, Director of the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) welcomed all to the Center and provided an overview of the FSEC and responded to questions and comments from members. He also showed a video detailing the development of the FSEC. His presentations are posted on the FEWC website.

Colleen Kettle, Industry Advisory Council Chair for the Employ Florida Banner Center for Alternative Energy provided a presentation on the banner center which is also posted on the FEWC website. The Center will be changing its name in the next contract period (July 1, 2010) to the Banner Center for Clean and Alternative Energy.

Jennifer mentioned that her local IBEW 676 has recently taken a strong turn toward solar training and they are looking for a pilot partner. She offered to introduce Colleen and Susan to Dale and Regan at IBEW Local 676 regarding potential apprenticeships. Jennifer would like to see a list of the curriculum being offered at high schools, as FEWC manages a list of courses that are industry-endorsed.

**FEWC Committee Reports**

Executive Committee – Jennifer announced that FEWC bylaws state that the organization be led by two co-chairs who would rotate every three years. Andra Cornelius will step down as FEWC co-chair after four years of service. The group formally recognized all of Andra's contributions to the organization and presented her with a token of their appreciation. Carol Higley, JEA has been approved as the new co-chair. Jennifer will remain as co-chair for the next term at which

time a new industry person will be named co-chair. Dr. Audrey Brown, OUC will chair the Career Awareness Committee. Carol thanked everyone for their confidence in her ability.

Jennifer also announced that Progress Energy Florida has decided to suspend their FEWC partnership. Kevin Gay is no longer employed at Progress but did convey how much he enjoyed his time with FEWC. It may be difficult to find a new industry partner. We are hopeful that Progress will turn the tide. Their foundation in Florida alone, has donated over \$600,000 in the last calendar year to education institutions for energy related training programs. Progress is working on naming a new staff person to represent them on the FEWC.

Rodney Miller is no longer with FPL due to significant funding challenges. His counter-part from North Carolina remains a member of FEWC.

Statewide and National Outreach Committee – Jennifer reported on the recent Get Into Energy Workforce Development Southeastern meeting hosted by Alabama Power. Several FEWC members attended. Using the \$1 million grant Alabama Power received from USDOL, they are turning themselves into a shop for energy workforce development with the program ENERGE. They will be developing a brand for sale on their website. FEWC may want to consider what types of products we might be able to sell on our website.

Jennifer reported further on what other state consortia are doing.

Regarding FEWC, the top three activities and plans for this year are:

1. The development of curriculum materials for the first two courses in the Energy Curriculum Framework
2. The creation of the Florida Energy Teachers' Network
3. Continue career awareness efforts

The Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) site will soon be changing and organized into different buckets, adding youth, military and engineering. USDOL has asked CEWD to develop a green portal on their website. A copy of CEWD's presentation will be made available to members and posted on our website. CEWD's national summit will be held October 26-28 in Alexandria, VA. Prior to that (August 12) a state team lead national forum will be held in Columbus, OH.

EEI held their National Executive Conference on June 14 in Hollywood, FL. For the first time ever, a critical issues forum on workforce development was included.

Jennifer provided an update on STEM Florida. This is an initiative to brand and improve STEM talent for Florida. A business and education conference will be held July 25-27 in Orlando where the foundation for the STEM strategic plan will be built. There will be an opportunity for input. More information can be found at [stemflorida.net](http://stemflorida.net).

Jennifer announced that Ben Imaba with IBM in Orlando is helping bring the International Conference on Management of Technology to Miami Beach in 2011. The focus of the

conference is Technology and the Global Challenges: Security, Energy, Water and the Environment. Mr. Imaba suggested FEWC look at presenting what the energy industry is doing.

Funding & Resources Committee – Susan Van Buren reported that the current balance is \$25,893.89. Expenditures since the last meeting include the purchase of FEWC shirts and shipping, as well as updates to the website and additional give-aways with the FEWC logo. Invoices for annual dues will be sent out in August. She also encouraged members to submit names/companies of those who are not members but should be members for follow-up.

Policy & Education Committee – Jennifer Grove provided this report for Betsy Levingston. One of the main focuses of this committee has been the development of the new energy course frameworks. Future work includes the development of instructor guides, participant guides, power points, written test databanks, skills tests, etc. The Energy Foundation course is being picked up as tier 4 of the national competency model and we will work with CEWD in creating the curriculum. Since it will be a national course a partnership with CORD (Center for Occupational Research and Development) is being considered. The first course will be ready for use in 2011 by the 26 energy-related career academies in Florida, among others.

Betsy has a middle-school science teacher that will start an externship with her on June 21. They will begin working on the energy career cluster guide and develop middle-school teacher tool kit for integration of energy into the science curriculum.

The committee is drafting a Governor's proclamation for Energy Career Awareness Week in October. This is being done in conjunction with Georgia.

Career Awareness Committee – Dr. Audrey Brown reported that the committee's goals are centered around increasing collaboration from a local, regional and national partnership.

After committee reports, Jennifer called members attention to the meeting schedule for the remaining of the year, and asked for location suggestions for the face-to-face meeting in December.

The group broke for lunch, followed by a tour of the FSEC/Employ Florida Banner Center for Alternative Energy.