**Renewable Energy/Wind Advisory Board Meeting**

**March 4, 2009**

Lynn Library – Rm. 113

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Current Student Enrollment

3. Waiting List

4. Status on hiring full-time instructor

5. Update on new labs and classrooms

6. Wind classes in Dumas – Moore County Campus

7. Co-op and jobs future

8. Equipment – Purchase & Donations

9. Climb Test

10. Open Discussion

11. Adjournment

**Present from AC:**

Ron Faulkner, Jack Stanley, Dr. Paul Matney, Jerry Moller, Dr. Doug Pickle

**Present from Wind Industry:**

Monte King (Shell Oil), Tylan Shelton (RD Wind Development), A.J. Swope (Class 4 Winds), David Stidham (EON), Terry Wellborn (EON), Dennis Owens (Upwind Solutions), Terry Ralston (Edison Mission)

**Summary of Meeting**

I. Stanley welcomed everyone and introduced the participants.

II. Stanley indicated that currently Amarillo College has 150 majors enrolled in the Wind Energy certificate or degree program. The alpha listing of students (dated 2/20/09) has 522 names on the waiting list. Probably another 100 have already entered names on the list since the last report was run. This a unique challenge because of the number of individuals applying and we want each person to get an education. Ages for students are from 18 – 61, and we have received phone calls from people in Wisconsin, Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma. We built the curriculum for this program in August 2008 and sent it to the Coordinating Board by Thanksgiving. This has all happened without advertising. Buzz David thought we might have 2 classes of 20 students, and 5 classes of 24 students. The key is that people are looking for jobs in this new industry and future job opportunities. Red Cross CPR training has already started and the First Aid class will follow, so that the students will have their cards.

Stanley stated that news stations and newspapers have done several articles and interviews. Dr. Matney mentioned that other colleges worked with Amarillo College on this program. Colleges include Clarendon, Texas Tech University and West Texas A&M. Texas Tech will be offering a four year degree in Renewable Energy. Amarillo College will train local high school teachers in this field by providing online training.

Dr. Matney asked when will the first class in renewable energy be graduating from the wind energy program? Stanley said that the Level 1 certificate students will graduate at Christmas. He said the requirements for the Level 1 certificate is 25 credit hours, Level 2 – 36 hours, and the Associates of Applied Science Degree – 66 credit hours. This program shows that community colleges are able to meet industry needs in a short turn- around time.

III. The waiting list has over 522 students.

IV. Currently getting ready to add a new instructor. Full time teacher with a work study in the summer. However, there may be a situation with a hiring freeze. The new faculty will hopefully be hired by May and the first three months will be paid by the AEDC grant funds. The job will be posted on the AC website and will require a instructor with a bachelors degree for the associate degree program.

V. The new labs and classrooms (30’ x 40’) are next to the robotics labs on the East Campus. These rooms are in the process of being renovated, which will include PC’s, simulation software and Smart Classroom. The lab will have trainers for hands on training for the students. Currently in the process of ordering the equipment for the classrooms and labs. Will be buying 3 trainers and 1 turbine so that the students can monitor the turbine from the classroom. Some equipment will be ordered after Board of Regents approval. The rest of the equipment will be ordered in the short term. BP has a large wind (60 ft.) turbine that they will be donating to the college. Monte King asked what type of simulation software? Stanley stated that there are 4 companies that produce trainers and we will be looking at their software. Dennis Owens wanted to know if it could be used as an on-line course? That is something that will be done online in the near future. You could have feeders from the high school levels, and then go onto courses at the college levels. Stanley indicated that he would like to have 4 mobile trailers to go to rural areas after students had completed online theory courses in small groups of 10 and 12.

VI. Stanley mentioned that around the Dumas area there are 7 to 11 wind farms (John Deere). They have been very aggressive on renewable energy. At the Amarillo College – Moore County Campus the Wind Energy Basic Technician - Level 1 certificate will be offered. The DEDC (Dumas Economic Development Corporation) awarded the Dumas campus a $69,000 grant and the City Commission approved the money to be spent. White paper is going to be considered by the State Legislature for funding for students at the high school level, and then bring them into the community colleges for technical programs. The City of Dumas will have 4 wind turbines on city land and Amarillo College will be partnering with them on these projects. West Texas A&M University will have turbines on the Nance Ranch that we will have access to.

VII. CO-OP: Students should be in the program for at least a year before going into co-op. Companies will visit with students (in association with Amarillo College) for three months with the possibility of hiring these students. ELE – External Learning Experience is something that Ron Faulkner is in the process of working on for the wind energy Co-op/Internships, 3 credit hours to 320 hrs to meet criteria for graduation (2 to 3 months of on the job training). Monte King stated that they should have at least one year on the job (Summer/Spring/Fall program), along with paper and pencil testing and interview, and a job would be contingent upon graduating. Ron Faulkner went over the ELE papers for Co-op. The student is actually hired by the company – if there is a problem with the student, you contact the Amarillo College advisor and the student is subject to termination and can fail the course. 1) Training Agreement/Learning objectives at the first of the semester, 2) Student Objective Report – Student Evaluation form at the end of the semester. The student could possibly fill out an on-the-job training log and the employer will help with assessing what the students are learning. Are we missing something in the teaching the courses? Monte King asked when the co-op courses may be ready? Possibility of being ready in summer 2009 or summer 2010.

VIII. Stanley stated that the $300,000 simulator and trainers, and outside wind unit is being purchased. He would like to have pieces of equipment that students can work on – the equipment doesn’t have to work. Types of equipment like a gear box, breaking system, etc. could be used for hands-on training. We currently have funds to pick up equipment that no longer work. The classroom and dirty lab should be ready in 45 days or so. I will be sending out emails to companies to request equipment for the program.

IX. Climb Test: Stanley indicated that he is not sure how and when the climb test will be administered. AC will need help from industry on this situation. How can we do it? The OSHA regulations for training were handed out and are to be used for training in theory class. These regulations will be taught in class for certification for Wind Turbine Technicians. Rescue training isn’t listed. We can possibly build a tower section mock up for training on the East Campus. At some point we will need a complete criteria list, and we hope to hire someone that will be on staff that can teach it instead of outsourcing (i.e. CPR training).

**X.** Ty Shelton wanted to know if we were going to teach a Wind Business course. Stanley stated that this type of course will be taught. In addition, he would also like to have a wind energy continuing education (CE) course to take to the communities in the area. **David Stidham indicated that there will be approximately 20 types of jobs in the wind industry at some point in the future.**

Meeting Adjourned.