

Ohio GROWs Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 22, 2010
(Corrected version)

Present: Jason Szymanski, representing instructors in the program (Instructor, Toledo EJATC) : Michael Hines, Ohio GROWs Field Coordinator; Tom Stuckey, representing Ohio Board of Regents (President, Northwest State Community College); Diana Schwind, representing grant participants (member Local 8 IBEW); G. Paul Horst, representing Business (Entrepreneur in Residence with Rocket Ventures); Mike Hassell, Ohio GROWs Field Coordinator; Ed Emerick, representing the Ohio Electrical Training Directors Association (Training Director, Mahoning-Trumbull EJATC); Jim Burgham, representing Labor and Workforce Investment Act (Business Agent, IBEW Local 64); Judy Ennis, Ohio GROWs Project Director; and Marsha Kujawa, Ohio GROWs Administrative Assistant

Absent: Danal Neal, representing Contractors (Chapter Manager, Dayton NECA)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Judy welcomed everyone to the first Advisory meeting and thanked them all for agreeing to serve on the Committee. Judy had asked Dave Wellington, Training Director of the Toledo JATC, to stop in so he could be introduced and he welcomed everyone to his training facility.

Everyone introduced themselves and stated how they were representing the grant on the Advisory Committee (see above).

II. OELMCC

Jim Burgham, Co-Chair of the Ohio Electrical Labor Management Cooperative Committee (OELMCC) gave a brief history of the OELMCC and stated how this grant was a good fit for the electrical industry.

Judy stated how the Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet twice per year and involve our partners that are listed in the grant and then we talked about the "partner roles".

Judy also stated if we do well with this grant it is a good indication that the OELMCC could receive more grants. We were in the process of doing a modification to allow for training seminars for contractors but we just received word that the OELMCC has received a Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service grant (FMCS) for just over \$32,000 which will allow for five seminars around the state to be held for training Contractors, Estimators, Foremen, etc. in successful bidding of jobs. The OELMCC has a 10% match to this grant. This is a one year grant through October 2011 and Judy is currently working on a schedule. It was noted that contractors take all the financial risk and this training is needed to give them the comfort level to bid on jobs. It was suggested we include legislators in the seminars, maybe a list of other grants that would help customers/business/contractors with the costs of such installations.

III. Review of Grant

Judy did a review of the Ohio GROWs grant. This grant will pay for training of journeymen and 4/5 year apprentices who are residents of Ohio and work in Ohio. And for those not in the trade, this will be an incentive to get outside people in the apprenticeship program but unfortunately by the time they are 4/5 year apprentices, the Ohio GROWs grant will be finished (this is where the local WIA Boards come in to play with referrals). There are three areas of Training: Energy Efficiency which will be at all 19 JATC Training sites; Photovoltaic has only 9 sites listed in the grant but will be available to be held at more due to the mobile site

which the Columbus JATC (The Electrical Trades Center) can take to other JATCs; and the Wind Turbine training which will only be done at the Toledo JATC as they are the only JATC with a climbing tower. Participants will receive NJATC certification for training completed and will receive the Capstone Certification, if all three training areas are successfully completed. A participant can also receive college credit for these courses and this is where Tom Stuckey and NSCC come into play.

Ed Emerick stated he has received calls from contractors regarding solar and wanting to know what his people learned at the solar classes. Ed is glad to hear OELMCC received the FMCS grant and that summits will be held so that contractors/estimators can attend the training. It was stated that most estimators/contractors have been electricians before their current positions.

Diana stated that she has been asked if the wind turbine, photovoltaic, and energy efficiency training will continue after the grant has ended. Yes, because the JATC's have lots of money and time invested in the equipment, trainers, etc so this is an incentive to continue the training.

Judy stated again that the Ohio GROWs grant will pay for participants living and working in Ohio. Others from Michigan, Kentucky and Pennsylvania are able to take the training but would not be able to be reimbursed through the grant; reimbursement would be up to the JATC's where the participants belong.

III. Financials

Marsha gave a financial update on the training dollars spent by each JATC, number of classes held, and number of participants who have gone through the program. Items attached to the minutes.

QUESTIONS:

Diana stated the wind turbine class was really interesting and fun after the climb was completed and stated the solar class was very tough with all of the formulas that are not relevant to electricians such as roof loads/truss set up, etc and the electricians are not familiar with the math portion.

It was noted that electricians will not check the stress load but the question was asked "how many times have you found a mistake on a job site?"

Mike Hassell interjected electricians take care of the placement of the solar panels and orient them and then NABCEP certification can be purchased.

Tom Stuckey wanted to know what NSCC could do to help the members with the math. A cheat sheet of the formulas would be great and it will be distributed through the training directors.

When a person completes the wind turbine training they will receive an NJATC certification and receive a license number and will need it to work on a wind farm. Members can "jump up on the book", if they are wind certified. This procedure was explained to those members not familiar with the "jump up on the book" term.

It was also noted the three areas of the Ohio GROWs training is providing training and certification that will go way beyond the scope of the grant such as first aid, cable splicing, climbing, etc.

Diane stated that she had taken the solar training here at the Toledo JATC and then took the one day training at Owens Community College. There were about three electricians in the class and the other 20+ had no electrical training at all...those people had no idea what they were doing and someone is going to get hurt...those people did not know what they can and cannot touch. Ed stated that in his area the need to have qualified workers to perform these installations is recognized.

Paul, from Rocket Ventures, stated that at DTE Energy, they had not done any solar or wind installs but they only used licensed contractors for other onsite generation projects. It will take some time to get some contractors and local investors comfortable to get on board these projects. Having experienced contractors and trades will reduce the risks and make financing easier, which can lead to more projects and more jobs. (Corrected 9/30/10)

V. Marketing

Judy went over the web site, brochures; posters/mail inserts which were just created so that locals can add their own pertinent information and showed off the display board. Judy talked about the documentary being created by WBGU TV and how we are looking for a title for the final product.

We need help with getting people into the training with the grant so we can spend this money. Also, we need help from the WIA to get people into the apprenticeship program. Jim stated they are calling their members on the "out of work" list to see if they will take the training. It was noted that some Training Directors do not have access to the "out of work" list. Judy wondered if a mailing could be done to those members on the "out of work" list. It was suggested pictures of solar or wind farm installs be inserted in the local newsletters stating yes, this is coming here to our area.....are you prepared to work on this project??

The question was asked if contractors push their workers to take training. Yes, if it will benefit the contractor. It was stated that electricians are their own best marketing tool and they are transit by nature....they can take those licenses and tools with them wherever they go.

Jason thinks the training will pick up this winter

Jim thinks the FMCS grant will help contractors' bid/market/sell and then this will reflect in next year's count of members taking training

Discussion was had regarding some contractors requiring the NABCEP certification compared to the NJATC certification....it was stated is it compatible. NABCEP does recognize NJATC education but you need 2 installs to sit for NABCEP with one being JATC and one install you designed. It was noted that solar needs to be done by a qualified installer. Need to get the zoning boards on board.

It was noted you do not have to be NABCEP to get grant funded or to do residential install, only commercial.

Ed said NABCEP is the stamp of approval on project drawings. People/employers should not be fearful of bidding on a job because NABCEP certification can be bought/hired.

Ed stated that he had sent 6 of his members to the wind turbine training and they were all impressed and he is hoping to get many more of his members through the training before winter and yes, the training will run all winter long.

It was noted that Rhode Island has been sending groups of electricians to the TEJATC for wind turbine training and hope to have 148 people trained by the end of the year. Rhode Island put their participants through a stress test before they can take the training.

We need to get the state of Ohio to recognize the NJATC as being equal to the NABCEP training and we would like to have a co-certification with the NJATC

VI. Field Coordinators Report

Mike Hines stated that the Lineman have employment right now and are not taking classes. I do NOT expect them to utilize their allocated numbers. They have no use for the energy efficiency because it is outside their work jurisdiction. They will use a few seats for the wind and solar, but nowhere near their allocated numbers. (Corrected 9/30/10)

Mike Hassell stated Cleveland JATC had its first Energy Efficiency class with 50 participants and talked about the solar demonstrator road show. Mike state that we need to get word out to our membership so they will sign up for training.

Mike sent a link to a news story in Columbus that 482 turbines will be installed in NW Ohio. Our people are taking the training but are we getting any of this work?? We need to get word out in the field.

VII. Future Dates for Advisory Meeting

Will try and meet three times next year