

Wind Technology Advisory Board
March 10, 2017

ATTENDANCE

David Anderson; Invenergy, Andy Brewer; Stauffer Safety, Steve Garowski; EON, Greg Hansbraugh; DACC, Austen Henry; Duke Energy, Cody Hill; Vestas, Dave Kietzmann; DACC, Mike Price; Vestas, Bruce Rape; DACC, Andy Thompson; Vestas, Matt Wingler; Invenergy

REPORTS

No reports

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss

NEW BUSINESS

Bruce welcomed the members and opened the meeting with introductions. Greg gave an overview of the Wind Technology curriculum and the certifications that students are required to complete before graduation; including safety certification on Tractel, Miller and Sala safety devices.

Greg also presented the new course on Drone technology that will be added as an elective course for tech students. Matt from Invenergy said the company is newly looking into using drones. He said it has some limitations getting started because of insurance and laws. However, they can be less expensive than three man crews doing inspection on the Wind Turbines.

There continues to be a need for skilled labor in the United States and the wind industry is in a deficit, seeking trained technicians. DACC is one of 10 community colleges in the country that offers a degree in Wind. Dave said that because of the Illinois cooperatives students out of our district can take courses for in-district tuition rates.

Discussion of the curriculum brought into question offering OSHA Fork Truck certification, not really necessary for wind students. It was stressed by the members that safety and rescue training (INSA and Safe Start) was vitally important in this industry. Some other items in addition to teaching paper schematics, also teach schematics on computer. Make sure students know how to identify basic tools. As always this career is 75% troubleshooting. There is a need to learn electrical and so the new A/C Circuits course will be beneficial to Wind students so they can learn meter reading in an environment built for them.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Some trends that are changing are software upgrades and a basic need for programming the turbines.

A discussion about the changing trends in safety equipment was started by Andy Brewer from Stauffer. Tethering tools to a person with a bungee is becoming popular in the industry.

Other items discussed were to add a class that would teach schematics only.

DATE of NEXT MEETING

TBD

MINUTES SUBMITTED by:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Osborne

Lisa J. Osborne
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Business and Technology