

Washington State Team Ag Ed Meeting

June 27, 2011 between 4:00pm and 5:30pm
Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee, Washington

Team Ag Ed Members in Attendance:

Ernie Gill, National FFA
George Ruddell, Wenatchee Valley College
Jaime Clarke, Agriculture Center of Excellence
Jodi Monroe, Washington State FFA
John D “JD” Baser, Washington State University
Kristen Holten, Washington State Farm Bureau
Lloyd Thompson, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators, Past President
Mike Swan, Washington State University
Tamara Whitcomb, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators, President Elect

Welcome:

George Ruddell welcomed the meeting participants.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Tamara Whitcomb moved to approve the meeting minutes from March and April, Mike Swan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Education Partner Updates:

Washington State University (WSU)

Mike shared that JD Baser was recently hired and will be splitting his time, 60% agricultural education and 40% agricultural engineering. Structural changes have occurred in the agricultural education four-year plan; these changes have dramatically impacted assessment of student teachers. Student teachers will now undergo an external review process, Teacher Performance Assessment, which is a national instrument that WSU is currently piloting. With the use of new assessment tools site selection for student teacher placement will become even more critical.

Agriculture Center of Excellence

Jaime Clarke shared that the Center of Excellence may take a 60,000 to 15,000 budget reduction. Funding for the Center has not been finalized, which may reduce the services that the Center provides to high schools and colleges. Center activities such as recruiting in high schools will continue even with a reduced budget in order to meet the significant need of attracting students into careers in agriculture.

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Wayne Gilman explained that there would be several vacancies for agriculture teacher positions in high schools across the state. Some of the retired positions will be filled and others will not, the filling of positions was dependent upon the school and local community rather than budgetary constraints. He also shared that there were funding concerns for OSPI and the FFA Secretary position. In addition to funding concerns, Wayne requested input for the new CTE strategic plan.

Farm Bureau

Kristen Holten shared that efforts to increase awareness and involvement for the Young Farmer/Rancher Program have paid off. There are more connections between county Farm Bureaus and FFA Chapters today than in previous years.

Old Business:

Industry Representation

Ernie Gill shared that states across the country utilize industry representation to provide a perspective on the agricultural industry's needs. The representatives are able to provide insights into the entire industry rather than their specific industry niche. He proposed that Washington Team Ag Ed did not need to have multiple industry representatives; rather only one industry representative was needed.

New Business:

Industry Connections

Following a discussion about industry representation, it was decided that Washington Team Ag Ed would request industry representation from the Washington Farm Bureau. Kristen acknowledged Farm Bureau's participation in Washington Team Ag Ed and proposed a project to connect agricultural educators to local Farm Bureau members. She described a project that would provide access to contact information for locally elected Farm Bureau members, listed by county, which would enable agricultural instructors to access names and phone numbers. The contact list will provide agricultural instructors a mechanism to develop stronger advisory board and to seek opportunities for students to engage in their local agricultural industry. Kristen projected that she could have a list available by September 1st.

Next Meeting:

Friday, October 7th, in either Wenatchee or Moses Lake