

BMCC Agriculture Advisory Committee
Monday, February 16, 2015
6:00 p.m. BMCC Student Union – Pioneer Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Preston Winn, Department Chair.

Attendees

Patty Abell, Pendleton High School
Gina Gray, IRZ, Inc.
Kevin Hughes, Hughes Ranches
Jared Owen, Madison Ranches
Fred Robinson, Riverside Veterinary Clinic
Shannon Rust, Rust Mader Ranch

BMCC Staff:

Cam Preus, BMCC President
Jim Whittaker, Vice President of Instruction
Preston Winn, Agriculture Dept. Chair
Nick Nelson, Ag Instructor
Matt Liscom, Ag Instructor
Danielle Wallace, Veterinary Instructor
Alexzandra Murphy, Precision Irrigation Instructor
Bill Umbarger, Ag Welding Instructor
Roman Olivera, Student Success Coach
Tammi Clark, Academic Dept. Specialist
Kevin Hawman, BMCC Student

Introductions – Preston Winn

Danielle Wallace, Bill Umbarger, and Alexzandra Murphy were introduced.

Dinner Served

Bond Presentation – Cam Preus

Cam Preus, BMCC President, provided schematics with architectural renderings of the three Ag projects included in the May 19, 2015 Bond, along with a hand-out of the Bond Project Overview.

After last year’s bond did not pass, the College held a series of listening tours around the district, and did a survey, and found that 76% of the public felt that the College serves an appropriate and important service, and they would have voted in favor if they had understood that the bond was a replacement of a retiring bond, and NOT an additional tax.

A citizen review panel was convened, and they rebuilt the bond after prioritizing the projects and trimming approximately \$5,000,000 from the requested amount.

Highlighted for this meeting are details of the following projects*:

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| ➤ Precision Irrigated Agriculture – Hermiston | \$3,229,470 |
| ➤ Workforce Training & Early Learning Center – Boardman | \$4,782,360 |
| ➤ Facility for Agriculture Resource Management (FARM) – Pendleton | \$4,225,000 |

*see handout for details

Please feel free to stop by the President’s office for additional information or Bond flyers to hand out.

Further Introductions and Enrollment Update – Preston Winn

Tammi Clark, and Matt Liscom were introduced.

Preston explained that Ag program enrollments remain high, after last year's highest-ever enrollment of 450 students in seats (enrollments all courses) fall term. Enrollments this year are at 434, the previous high enrollment was 366, so the growth has been substantial. This has culminated in the hiring of one new full-time instructor, as well as two new adjunct instructors. These additions have made for some exciting changes in which classes each instructor will be teaching, providing new enthusiasm in our faculty, which has had a positive influence on our students.

Center Pivot Irrigation Update – Kevin Hawman

Kevin Hawman, BMCC Ag Student instrumental in raising the funds for the recently installed low-profile center pivot irrigation system, spoke about his motivation to raise those funds. To date, he has raised \$45,000, had one pivot installed, and is working toward funding a second, linear-movement irrigation system. If the second system is obtained, it is believed that it would be one of only two or three for Ag schools in the entire nation. Kevin expressed his appreciation for what his Ag instructors at BMCC have done for him, and he felt the desire to give back. Preston stated that Kevin's excitement is infectious.

Precision Irrigated Agriculture Program – Alexzandra Murphy

Alex Murphy gave brief description of *what* Precision Irrigated Agriculture is. Namely, using today's technology incorporated into ag to make it more profitable and productive by maximizing crop yield and resource efficiency. She also presented a PowerPoint presentation describing the new offerings in this program, which she is helping BMCC develop. Included are:

- Associate of Applied Science Precision Irrigated Agriculture, with areas of focus in Maintenance, Farm Manager, and Ag Analyst, each with corresponding technical electives.
- Career Pathway Certificates in:
 - Precision Irrigation Maintenance
 - Precision Irrigation Farm Manager
 - Precision Irrigation Agriculture Analyst
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Program objectives include producing students who can:

- Communicate effectively.
- Produce and manage agricultural crops.
- Install, design, operate and maintain precision irrigation systems.
- Use geospatial technology to make recommendations.
- Perform work-related tasks safely and ethically.

Alex posed the question to the Committee:

- Are there any members currently using PIA as to which software program or system is most widely used and would be most useful in teaching our courses? Response was that *hardware* provider preferred is Valley, and that most software available should feed into their systems. Suggestion was made to incorporate some of the software from the four major pivot companies: Valley, Lindsay, Reinke, and Pierce.
- The Irrigation Association of America offers a certificate for Ag Irrigation. Have committee members *heard* of this, first of all, and would holding this certificate make BMCC graduates more desirable for employment? Gina Gray was aware of the certificate, and cautions to make sure it is not one offered regarding Turf, but that it *would* be useful.

It was also suggested by Committee that a Computer Networking course added to the Maintenance certificate and focus would be useful.

Equine Science Curriculum Discussion – Matt Liscom

Matt gave an overview of the two courses offered this year: ANS 201 – Introduction to Equine Science and ANS 299 – Equine Health. There is a relevant basic need in the industry for offering the Intro class, but probably not a real return on investment of further equine courses, as it is just not a strong component of employment in our area. BMCC strives to offer valuable courses and outcomes to help facilitate employment of our graduates.

The Committee was asked to please think about and return their opinions on where they would like to see the program headed.

Veterinary Assistant Program – Danielle Wallace

Danielle mentioned adjustments that she is making as she adapts to a teaching environment on the amount of content in each course. She felt that perhaps *too much* information may have been provided to the students beginning these courses, but she has adjusted accordingly, and the students are very receptive and attentive to the material being presented.

Currently, BMCC offers a certificate for Veterinary Assistant, and would like to expand the offering into a Veterinary Technician program, as there is a very high demand for Vet Techs.

Each state has different requirements for the differences between Assistant and Tech, and the duties they are allowed to perform.

Enrollment numbers are down some from last year, the initial year these courses were offered. Some students resist the evening classes, as they have conflicting responsibilities, and adjustments have been made for next term for some earlier class offerings. Also, last year, tuition and books were free through the CASE grant funding.

BMCC foresees growth in this desirable program, and contingent on the bond passing, appropriate facilities would be available on campus to develop the next level, Veterinary Technician.

Community Input – Committee Members

Input on our program offerings was requested from our community partners regarding our new programs, and any desires by these partners. No comments were offered. Comments and suggestions are always welcomed, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Jim Whittaker, Vice President of Instruction, BMCC, makes mention of the fact that dual-credit enrollments for grades 9-12 are not just from our Umatilla/Morrow area, but from all over the state. BMCC is very proud of its nationally recognized Agriculture program, and the program's glowing reputation.

Thanks was given to the Advisory Committee on giving their time this evening.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Recorder: Tammi Clark, Academic Department Specialist, CTE