

PREVAILING WAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 20, 2011

International Union of Operating Engineers
555 East 1st Street
Gladstone, OR

Members Present

Dee Burch
Greg Held
Mark Holliday
Jim McKune
Greg Miller
Shawn Miller
Pat O'Brien

Members Absent

Kevin Jensen
Don Kool
Norm Malbin
John Mohlis
Carl Redman

Staff Present

Lois Banahene
Christie Hammond
Adriana Ortega
Selena Schryvers
Susan Wooley

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by PWAC co-chair Jim McKune.

Minutes of Meeting of September 23, 2010

The committee members unanimously approved the minutes from the September 23, 2010 meeting with a clarification requested by Jim McKune in the "Rule Revision Proposal by ODOT" section.

PWAC Member/Co-Chair Term Updates

Co-chair Jim McKune introduced new committee members Greg Held, Kevin Jensen and Dee Burch. Mr. McKune announced that this would be his last meeting as co-chair and that the next meeting would be held on April 7, 2011. The new committee co-chairs are Shawn Miller and Norm Malbin.

Staff Reports

Christie Hammond gave a brief overview of the PWR Unit's enforcement activities fiscal year-to-date, current caseloads, a summary of PWR seminars conducted, and a schedule of upcoming PWR seminars.

PWAC/ATC Subcommittee on Apprentices Report

Ms. Hammond reported on the outcome of the subcommittee meeting on apprenticeship-related issues that was held after the last PWAC meeting. Members of the subcommittee were Don Kool, Norm Malbin, Carl Redman, and Nelda Wilson with the International Union of Operating Engineers, who served as a representative from the Apprenticeship and Training Council. The committee met once in December and concluded that registered apprentices may be paid the appropriate percentage of the PWR journey wage for any work that is performed within the scope of the standards to which the apprentice is indentured.

Rule Amendments

Ms. Hammond summarized the newly amended administrative rules that became effective on January 1, 2011. The rule amendments conform the agency's PWR rules to the provisions of HB 3651, passed by the 2010 Legislature, amending the definition of "public works" in the PWR law to include solar construction and installation projects on property owned by a public body, regardless of whether or not funds of a public agency are used. The amended rules also clarify that in order for workers to qualify and be paid as apprentices under the PWR law, they must be employed by "registered training agents" pursuant to ORS 660; the Apprenticeship and Training law. In addition, the rule amendments permit contracting agencies to provide in the contract specifications for projects subject to both the state PWR law and federal Davis-Bacon Act that the applicable state prevailing wage rates are those that are in effect at the time the applicable federal prevailing wage rates are effective. And finally, the rule amendments provide that rate reference requirements in the contract specifications are met if such references include Uniform Resource Locator (URL) information for a webpage or webpages showing the title of each applicable wage rates publication or determination and the date of each publication or determination, as well as the date of any applicable amendments.

Overview/Review of Survey 2010 by Employment Department

Graham Slater, along with Denise Voll and Jason Peyton with the Employment Department, gave an overview of the 2010 Construction Industry Occupational Wage Survey. Mr. Slater stated that it was a successful survey and that the response rate was 90.4%.

Mr. Slater explained that some additional changes to the survey process will be phased in over the next few survey cycles including: Some occupations will not be surveyed for three years if union rates for the occupation in a particular region have prevailed for three consecutive surveys. Another change is that the survey will be sent out twice a year. Firms will only receive one survey a year, as they will be divided into two randomly selected panels of firms. Half of the firms will receive a survey in July, and the rest will receive a survey in January.

Co-chair McKune encouraged the committee members to continue to keep in mind ways the survey might be improved in the future. There was also some discussion about reducing or combining the current regions surveyed. Ms. Hammond reminded the committee that the regions are established by statute, so to reduce the number of regions would require a legislative change.

Next Meeting

The next Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled Thursday, April 7, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 PM.