



## Peaslee Board of Directors Agenda

January 11, 2024, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Peaslee Tech Directors Meeting

In Attendance: Shirley Martin-Smith, Brittany Hall, Dr. Bill DeWitt, Bonnie Lowe, Rick Hird, George Crump, Dr. Kevin Kelley, Andrea Chavez, and Kiah O'Quinn, as official minute-taker

In Attendance via Zoom: Wayne Ricks and Bobbie Flory

Not in Attendance: Cynthia Yulich

**The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm**

1. Guest Speaker – Yvette Nehrbass, GOALS Career Navigator, Kansas DCF  
**Kevin Kelley introduced the guest speaker, Yvette Nehrbass, one of Peaslee's longest-community partners. Peaslee has been working with Yvette since 2017 and DCF (Department for Children and Families) was one of the first partners to fund students to attend classes here. Yvette previously worked at the Workforce Center and started working with the GOALS program in 2015. The GOALS program is an economic and employment services program provided by DCF. This program serves adults with families who are currently receiving food assistance. The GOALS program helps adults gain employment. Yvette takes them through a series of steps to ensure they are set up for success. For instance, the program can pay for half of an adult's childcare, but the adult must secure the childcare provider, register in KansasWorks, take the WorkKeys test with a score of 4 or higher, take a 60-question/rating scale of their interests, and then create a plan. By completing these tasks, it proves they are ready and motivated for DCF to fund them.**
2. Approval of November 16, 2023, Minutes/Agenda – vote  
**Shirley entertained a motion to approve the minutes and the agenda. Bill moved to approve the minutes/agenda. Motion was seconded by Brittany. The motion of the minutes/agenda was unanimously approved.**
3. Updates/Discussion:
  - Apprenticeship Update
    - **Andrea presented an update on the apprenticeships; we just started our Youth Apprenticeships this week. Due to inclement weather, they were set to start on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> but ended up starting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. There are 20 youth apprentices from all the school districts, 6 in CDL, 3 in Facilities Maintenance, 5 in Carpentry, 3 in Robotics, and 3 in Pharmacy Tech. Pharmacy Tech is completed online, and the Carpentry will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the evenings. The Carpentry will also be a mix of adults and Youth Apprentices.**
    - **We just had another cohort of Facilities Maintenance apprentices finish up their training, with 20 people in the class and 15 passing the exam. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> cohort of Facilities Maintenance, with a total of 100+ apprentices trained here at Peaslee.**
    - **11 Industrial Maintenance Mechanic apprentices finished their in-class training. This training helps keep the manufacturing plant running. This was our 7<sup>th</sup> cohort and Berry has reached out to start another one in March.**
    - **The SAEI Grant (State Apprenticeship Expansions, Equity, and Innovation Grant) originally had a goal of 108 apprentices, which then bumped to 158 due to more money being awarded. Within the first 2 years, we have already signed up 134 apprentices under the grant.**

- **Grant Update**  
In September Andrea submitted three grants to support the Utility-Scale Solar installation to the Rice Foundation, Sunderland Foundation, and Evergy. We were awarded \$75,000 each from Rice and Sunderland. Evergy is still pending. Andrea reached out to them, and they said they were still reviewing it.
- **Solar Proposal Update**  
Kevin presented an update on the solar proposal. In response to grant requests to the Sunderland and Rice Foundation, along with an allocation from the Lawrence Chamber Rising Together Capital Campaign, we have \$225,000 for the solar installation. We are still working with Evergy on our account structure to maximize our solar installation at 30kW AC, which is equivalent to approximately 60% of our current electrical usage. With the new roof, our continuous conservation activities, and the exploration of grants to replace our effective, but highly inefficient 46-year-old boiler, we have the potential to approach self-sustainability over the next two years. The goal is to become carbon neutral by 2025. We got proposals from 3 local vendors and have decided to go with Wentz Solar, as they provide the best rate for services. The roof will be covered in about 780 solar panels which will cover about half of the roof. The panels are estimated to be on the roof by March and producing solar by May. Kevin does not see any challenges with this as the panels get clamped onto the roof, so there will be no holes punched into the new roof. Panel prices have gone way down at this time and will be down for another 8-10 months. All contractors estimated electrical savings of more than \$65,000 in the first year (increasing with future rate increases), making the recovery of unrestricted funds invested to complete the project from one to six years. Future energy savings make the return on investment as much as 16%. Peaslee will pay for the whole project up front and then will apply for direct pay from the government.
- **KU Diesel Grant**  
Starting in the fall of 2024, our trucks are expected to be converted into 100% bio-diesel trucks. KU will produce biodiesel for a couple of years, and they will supply the equipment and the fuel.

#### 4. Other Business

As stated in our last board meeting Landi Goyer, our accountant, was leaving McFadden Group at the end of November 2023. Landi was the only person who worked with non-profits at McFadden Group, therefore, McFadden Group will no longer be serving non-profits as clients. We have hired Brandon Petz in place of Landi. Brandon suggested moving forward with QuickBooks online instead of QuickBooks desktop, so we have migrated from desktop to online.

#### 5. Executive Session (if needed)

**No Executive Session was needed.**

#### 6. Adjourn

Shirley entertained a motion to adjourn. Bonnie moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Bill. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.