Washington State Team Ag Ed Meeting
March 11, 2011 between 1:10pm and 2:20pm
Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee, Washington

Team Ag Ed Members in Attendance:
Lloyd Thompson, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators
Tamara Whitcomb, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators
Steve Russell, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators
Wayne Gilman, State Supervisor for Ag Ed & Science
Jodi Monroe, FFA
George Ruddell, Wenatchee Valley College
Jaime Clarke, Agriculture Center of Excellence

Guests in Attendance:
Gary Parkert, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators

Review and Approval of Minutes:
Wayne Gilman moved to approve the October 1st meeting minutes as written; Tamara Whitcomb seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Educational Partner Updates:
Washington State University
Mike Swan was unable to attend the meeting; however, he provided a written report to summarize updates from Washington State University (WSU). The written report is attached.

A question was raised about funding for events to raise awareness for National Teach Ag Day, March 24th. Lloyd Thompson will contact Mike about funding for events/activities and then disseminate information to Team Ag Ed and the Washington Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE).

Agriculture Center of Excellence
Jaime Clarke shared a brief overview of projects that the Agriculture Center of Excellence (Center) has been working on including a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant that if funded would provide workforce training for the emerging biofuels industry.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Wayne Gilman shared that the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) was experiencing cuts and working to balance the budget. Wayne also described concerns about the lack of Career Technical Education (CTE) components in coursework submitted to the state. He informed the group that programs will be reviewed to ensure that specific CTE components are included in each course.
Old Business:

Industry Representation
The meeting attendees discussed the continued need for industry representation on Team Ag Ed. Jaime shared concerns about bringing industry partners into Team Ag Ed if the organization was not actively engaged or working on a project. She questioned what industry’s role would be and how they would participate. The group then discussed the importance of highlighting agricultural education rather than just FFA. It was important to refocus on curriculum instead of “blue jackets” when engaging industry. There was a sense of connecting agriculture to the community. If connecting agriculture to the community and highlighting agricultural education is the goal of Team Ag Ed, targets need to be designated in order to provide the group something to work toward. The group discussed the purpose of Team Ag Ed, who the target audience was, and the importance to re-define agricultural education. It was decided that Team Ag Ed would meet more regularly via phone or Elluminate.

New Business:

Election of New Chair
Steve Russell resigned as the Chair of Team Ag Ed as he has concluded his two year term. Lloyd nominated George Ruddell to serve as the new Chair; Tamara seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. George thanked the group for his new appointment and established the next meeting date.

Next Meeting
The next meeting date was set for April 11th via Elluminate. Jaime will make the arrangements for the upcoming meeting and distribute the existing white-paper that outlines the purpose of Team Ag Ed.