

April 25, 2023

TO: State Arborist Apprenticeship Advisory Committee

FROM: Owen Smith, Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards; owen.smith@dwd.wisconsin.gov

SUBJECT: State Arborist Apprenticeship Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, May 2, 2023

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

ATTEND: [Attend virtually.](#)

Attend via phone:

Call: 608-571-2209. Code: 952 694 680#

Attend in person.

Department of Workforce Development, Room F105
201 E Washington Ave, Madison, WI 53703

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call the meeting to order.
2. Introduce the attendees.
- 3. Old Business**
 - a. Review the roster.
 - b. Progress of WAA towards becoming a third-party industry organization or sponsor
 - c. **Action:** approve the minutes.
 - d. **Action:** proposed revisions to statewide Exhibit A
- 4. New Business**
 - a. Review the revised template for state standards, approved by Policy & Standards Subcommittee:
 - i. Policies established in the *Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual*
 - ii. Updated policies established by the Department of Labor
 - iii. Policies established by the state committee.
 - b. **Action:** verify policies established by the state committee are accurate.
 - c. **Action:** identify policies established by the state committee to revise further in fall, if needed.
 - d. Questions from the Director's Call.
 - e. Communicating state committee meetings to the public
 - f. Other

April 25, 2023

6. Review the program participants.
7. Adjourn.

Draft Minutes of the

Arborist

State Apprenticeship Advisory Committee

October 5, 2022

Department of Workforce Development, Madison
& Virtual

Members Present	Employer / Organization
Freeland, Wes	Big Iron Tree Works
Harris, Tim	Buckley Tree Care
Hoppe, August	Hoppe Tree Service
Krouse, Randy	City of Milwaukee Forestry
Reince, Ben	Wachtel Tree Service
Members Absent	Employer / Organization
Thierne, John	Eagle Tree Care
Consultants & Guests	Employer / Organization
Abbott, Nic	Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards
Caldie, Tom	Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards
Nakkoul, Nancy	Wisconsin Technical College System
Polk, David	Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards
Rogers, Elton	Milwaukee Area Technical College
Sanborn, John	Eagle Tree Care
Schmidt, Cole	Midstate Technical College
Sherman, Julie	Chippewa Valley Technical College
Smith, Owen	Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards
Stuart, Dave	Milwaukee Area Technical College

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Randy Krouse, Committee Co-Chair, in conformance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.
2. Attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Owen Smith, recorded attendance.
3. The committee reviewed the current roster. A quorum was present. Wes Freeland joined the committee. **Tim Harris is now with SavATree; Ben Reince will serve as an Employer representative.** The Bureau will recruit additional members.

4. Action

a. Approve the minutes.

The state committee approved the minutes as written.

b. Develop or revise curriculum to prepare apprentices for ISA Certified Arborist Exam

Mr. Smith reviewed that the statewide Exhibit A, established by the state committee, does not require apprentices to obtain third-party certifications. Instead, the certifications are at the discretion of the sponsor. However, some employers have chosen to require their apprentices to obtain the ISA Certified Arborist, so the state committee had revisited whether to require the certification or continue to leave it optional but enhance the related instruction to further prepare apprentices for it.

Direct Polk explained that the Plumbing State Committee implemented a mandatory review course on the plumbing code to prepare apprentices for the plumbing licensing exam.

The state committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of requiring the certification and enhancing the related instruction with the ISA preparatory course or a review course.

Nancy Nakkoul clarified that the plumbing review course is unpaid related instruction and a preparatory course for the licensing exam is available once the apprentice completes all requirements of the program.

Representatives of Milwaukee Area Technical College offered to explore resequencing the existing related instruction to better prepare apprentices who may be required by their sponsor to take the exam.

Action: the state committee approved a motion to keep the ISA Certified Arborist credential at the discretion of the sponsor.

Action: the state committee supported exploring options to resequence the current related instruction without developing new content.

5. Discussions

a. BAS Director's Call with State Committees

Attendees did not have questions or comments.

b. How is the industry preparing for infrastructure projects?

Director Polk asked the state committee whether the tree care industry is preparing for potential infrastructure projects.

The state committee replied that the industry is neither anticipating nor planning for such projects because most contractors do not work on projects that require large-scale land clearing for roads.

c. Reimbursements for on-the-job learning and supportive services

Director Polk reviewed the flier in the meeting packet, including the eligibility requirements.

The state committee asked whether municipalities and out-of-state contractors would be eligible. Director Polk explained that both entities may encounter complications. He encouraged the state committee to contact the program administrators listed on the flier for additional information.

d. Register National Apprenticeship Week events with the U.S. Department of Labor

Director Polk encouraged attendees to host events and, this year, register them through the new website. Attendees did not have questions or comments.

e. Other

The state committee proposed reducing the length of the registered apprenticeship because completing three years of content takes longer than three years, due to other work commitments and lack of overtime. Mr. Smith and Mr. Polk noted that construction occupations have similar provisions for seasonal work. They welcomed discussing the matter further.

Action: *the Bureau asked the state committee to convene a focus group to propose revisions at the spring meeting. Mr. Smith asked the focus group to submit the initial draft to him or Mr. Nick Abbott prior to the spring meeting for review.*

A consultant asked whether the technical colleges could offer a CDL course more specific to the Arborist occupation. Arborists need a CDL Class A for trucks and chippers, but many Class A courses include many other Class A vehicles not used by Arborists, such as big rigs, which are unnecessary for Arborists.

Mr. Dave Stuart and Mr. Elton Rogers offered to research options. Ms. Nakkoul added that several occupations have inquired similarly; she recommended that the Bureau, WTCS and multiple occupations have a broader conversation about entry-level driving training.

6. Review the participant data.

The state committee did not have questions or comments about the participant reports. Director Polk and Mr. Smith congratulated the state committee on contributing to Wisconsin Apprenticeship surpassing 15,000 apprentices for only the second time in its history.

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The Bureau will schedule the next meeting via electronic survey.

*Submitted by Owen Smith, Program and Policy Analyst,
Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards*

State Committee Report



This summary counts employers and apprentices, between 4/25/2023 and 4/25/2023 with contract status as Active & Unassigned in occupation(s) associated with this committee.

Report is based on apprentice contracts where:

- Contract sector is 'Service'.
- Contract occupation code matches a occupation code assigned to committee.
- Contract sponsor is the employer.

Note: Employers active in more than one occupation or committee can cause Column #3 totals at the Committee or State level to deviate from the summed total of the individual occupation or committee rows.

Occupation	Apprentices									Employers				
	Total	Minority		Females		Union		Non-Union		Total	Union		Non-Union	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		#	%	#	%
1	2	3	3a	4	4a	5	5a	6	6a	7	8	8a	9	9a
Report Total	76	18	23.7	5	6.6	0	0	76	100.0	16	0	0	16	100.0
Arborist (00-0000.00)	76	18	23.7	5	6.6	0	0	76	100.0	16	0	0	16	100.0



Historical Report by Year

Report Period: 2023* and Previous -10 Years

*Current year is YTD data as of Run Date: 04/25/2023		
Run Date: 04/25/2023		
State Arborist Committee		
Sponsored Trade Group(s): Service		
Year	Active Apprentices	Active Sponsors
2013		
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017	3	2
2018	5	3
2019	39	6
2020	53	10
2021	60	13
2022	86	18
2023	79	15

