

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for December 17, 2008

Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions.
Copies of the November '08 minutes were emailed prior. Accepted as written.

Doug Bartosh reported we have \$1363.00 remaining in the Treasury. Most recent check was to MediaFrogg for management of our website. Invoices for the 2009 year dues are available now. Dues are just \$100 / year.

Previous Business

1. Training -
 - A. Shared Training – anyone in Consortium is eligible to participate. There is a 25% cash match required. Topics for Shared Training for the 2008-2009 grant year will be:
 - 1) Going Green Best Practices
 - 2) Improving Strategic Business with Customer Service
 - 3) Welding
 - 4) Quick & Easy Kaizen
 - 5) Advanced HR Policy and Law (will probably be more 1 day seminars)
 - B. Tuition Reimbursement – if the above training does not meet your companies specific training needs, the reimbursement program may be able to get your company reimbursed for training specific to your employees needs.
 - C. Welding – welding will come out in RFQ.
 - D. Lisa Campbell, from BC3, commented on the minutes from November, and agreed that the training should also be geared towards more harder skills. There are a lot of good training providers who can provide this specific technology skill training, such as CNC, welding, & programming.
2. **2008-2009 Grant Update**
 - A. Grant money has been awarded, but not received yet. May be on hold right now due to economy.
* \$100,000 awarded to our WIB as a High Performing WIB. Taking suggestions on how to use money.
 - B. High School Connection
 - 1) Job Shadow program - in November, we held a joint meeting with the Butler Chamber of Commerce, the Health Care Consortium, and JA to discuss Job Shadow Season (2/2/09 – 3/13/09). Dawn Bereznay from JA, will coordinate and help match students with companies. To promote the Job Shadow program, decided to promote with flyers in the upcoming January edition of the Butler Business Matters. Minuteman Printing helped in producing the flyers. Jim encouraged companies to host more than 1 student over the course of the shadowing season. Teachers seem supportive of effort as well. Plan to provide initial feedback at February BCMC meeting. Most schools, except Moniteau are participating.
 - 2) Educator in the Workplace – target summer 2009 to have teachers/educators in the workplace. Will pay teachers a stipend. Goal is to have them see how what students learn in the classroom is applied in advanced manufacturing.
* Anita from Sonneborn shared that she has used college educators in the workplace before. Has toured them through her company and has served to better increase quality and quantity of interns referred to her.
 - 3) Workplace in the schools – would you (or retirees) be available to help teach certain applications (ie. Math, physics, etc..) real-life workplace applications in a high school class? Does not have to be a 1 time event, can be regular visits in the classroom throughout a semester. Could possibly use study-hall time ?

- C. Manufacturing Class in the high school – Jim attended a meeting at Knoch last Thursday night regarding the Manufacturing Technology college in the high school program. There were about 15 students who attended. There were two recent events that occurred that may have affected the low turnout: 1) Knoch had just come off a long strike in the fall & 2) the meeting was held about 1 ½ weeks after II-VI had lay-offs.
~ George Junior also has a college in the high school program in collaboration with BC3.
- D. Jim made two suggestions for the next grant:
1. Roll shared training money into reimbursement program.
 2. Set up scholarships for in-house incumbent worker training.

Image

1. **BCMC Website** –no report.
2. **Radio** – on going, through May. The show airs the 2nd Monday of each month on WISR. December and January spots are already scheduled. Jim will plan on using February to discuss Job Shadowing.
3. **Butler Business Matters** – January will feature a flyer for Job Shadowing. Stephanie , from the BBM, was our guest at today's meeting. Can use the Butler Business Matters to publish meeting dates, personnel promotions, company profiles, etc....
4. **TV Show** (Armstrong) – no report.
5. **Manufacturing Expo 2009 ?** – do we want to do it again? Knowing we may not be hiring at this time, we still need to promote manufacturing. Doug Bartosh & Bruce Curry agreed. Maybe a weekend in February? When things are a little slower, is an opportunity to do these kind of things that when things are busy, may not have normally have time to do.

Growth

1. Non profit status – paperwork has been submitted and is pending approval.

Current / New Business

1. Lori Harvey will be leaving the end of December. Will be going to Penn State & helping with grant writing. Until replacement is found, Mary Salony will be the TCWIB contact. Best wishes to Lori and thank you for your work with the Butler Mfg. Consortium.
2. "Outlook" – a monthly publication by the LeHigh Valley WIB, provides current information and trends in manufacturing business and hiring in their area (Jim passed out copies of the "Outlook". This would be a great asset to replicate on this side of the state. Slippery Rock University Entrepreneurial Program may be interested in helping to produce such a publication for our area. A representative from SRU's Entrepreneurial Program will be attending our January BCMC meeting to discuss this possibility further. Penn State University is currently working with the person from LeHigh who creates this to determine a timeline for how to produce our own "Outlook".
3. Jim put up for discussion the idea of joining with the Butler Chamber of Commerce. It was brought up that there are 5 different Chambers in Butler County. Consortium concluded that the Chambers may not have the same focus as the BCMC.

What's In It For Manufacturing

1. Jim attended a meeting on 12/17 on the subject of "Keep Pennsylvania Producing". Meeting focused on ways to communicate issues and concerns to our representatives to get more politically active and have a stronger voice in the politics affecting business and manufacturing. Their goals are to work on improving:
 - a) Educational reform
 - b) Structured Cost Reforms
 - c) Global Trade Reforms

Do the members want to use BCMC time to discuss some of these issues and how they affect us and how we can affect policy?

2. How can we make the BCMC better and serve your needs better?
 - a) The Tri-County Technology Consortium has a reimbursement program as well. If there are technology needs within your company, they have separate training money available to help that is available to us.
 - b) Suggestion to begin a new recruiting campaign to get new companies involved.
 - c) Improve location of meetings? In an effort to better reach out to companies in the Cranberry area, would like to suggest having some meetings in Cranberry for companies in that part of the county. Of course, any manufacturer and partner is welcome, however would like to try to make some meetings more geographically convenient for those based around Cranberry. Need to find a meeting location. Could rent a room at the Regional Learning Alliance for \$250. Or the township meeting room for \$25-50. Lisa Campbell then mentioned they have their Cranberry location could host our meetings for free. All agreed this was the best price, so 2009 Cranberry meetings will be held at the Cranberry branch of BC3.
 - d) Improve day of meeting? Jim made another suggestion regarding the day of our monthly meetings. Because the end of the month can be very busy for many manufacturers, suggested changing meeting day to the 3rd Wednesday of the month, rather than the 4th. Jim passed out a tentative 2009 calendar which included these changes; members and partners present agreed to the new 2009 calendar.

Next meeting will be *Wednesday January 21st 2009* at 8:00 am at *Butler Community Development Corporation.*