

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for July 25, 2007

Present

Bruce Curry, Penna Flame
Doug Bartosh, Unimach Mfg
Chuck Guiste, Penn United Technologies
Neil Ashbaugh, Oberg
Jim Ferguson, Penn United Technologies
Kristen Bastaja, Penn United Technologies
Lisa Campbell, BC3
Diana McCormish, JSP
Heather Swiergol, Butler Co. Area Vo-Tech
Mary Salony, Tri-County WIB
Lori Harvey, Tri-County WIB
Peggy Weckerly, PA CareerLink Butler County

Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, and **Minutes** for the June 2007 meeting were approved as written. Doug Bartosh reported that we have \$1734.84 in the **Treasury**.

Previous Business

Lori Harvey talked about an online survey using Survey Monkey to capture members' short term (current) and longer term (5 yrs). Having survey results will help us to justify grants. Lori needs to have companies e-mail their current training plans to her (lharvey@tcwib.net)

WEDnet: Lisa reported that all of the WEDnet funding has been restored including extra, with a larger pot available for use by Consortium members. Individual companies can apply, but companies can also do so through the Consortium. Kristen will send out information on the WEDnet group monies for our needs. These are due next week. Both an application and a memorandum of agreement have to be prepared. She will forward these with a primer developed by Chuck – they're due August 3rd.

Current Business

Manufacturer Spotlight: **Tony Sheakley from Butler Armco Employees Credit Union** talked about the BAECU and stressed that this is not just for AK Steel employees. They currently have 80 sponsor organizations liked Penn United Technologies, AGR, II-VI, BC3, the County of Butler and Butler Health System. They are the third largest credit union in Western PA and are a not-for-profit cooperative with each member sharing in the profits. He suggested that they could do a group enrollment to become a sponsor organization through the BCMC. Their website is www.BAECU.com

Vision/Planning for 2007:

Kristen distributed a 2006-2007 grant year summary she compiled of what the Consortium has done, but we need to decide what we want to do this year. The jazz group is returning the Friday after Thanksgiving – maybe do an Expo with them and combine with the Career Day at BC3. This Consortium represents over 3446 employees, but with more companies joining and all sharing their employment figures, the Consortium probably represents 12-13,000 in the county. This fact should help bring the county commissioners to us. New grants require a 25% cash match, but possibly the commissioners could help with that.

BHAG's are "Big Hairy Audacious Goals". Jim sees next year's BHAG as targeting schools, especially Knoch, Karns City and Moniteau, to get the manufacturers in the door. Heather can help with this. Chuck feels we should do this within short time frame to keep the talk and buzz going and try to get newspaper coverage. Perhaps we can make 1 or 2 displays representing all of the companies instead of separate

ones. Lori suggested a “flashy” show for an assembly. Jim would like to try different things to see what works best. At Slippery Rock, the kids liked to touch, feel, and play with the products. The goal is to contact all the school administrators now to get into the schools. There is a Tri-County Manufacturing meeting scheduled for August 10th for the chairs, with a goal being to have all 3 counties get together and have a speaker such as L.C. Greenwood for an evening get-together. Succop Theater has a sponsorship program with patron giving levels – for about \$250 we could have our image on their program. The group agreed to use money from the treasury to cover this cost. A luncheon meeting is tentatively planned for August 29th, the next meeting date, at the Succop Conservancy, which we can use for free. Jim has talked with NAPCO, Jill Campbell from Medrad, Starflite and others – all involved in manufacturing. He has been trying to reach out to Ibis Tek and wants to contact Westinghouse if anyone has any contact there. Welding is also a critical field with few workers available with the skills. It was agreed that a company can be represented by anyone. For example, AK Steel has been at one meeting and not returned, but their maintenance people want to be part of the Consortium. Jim suggested that we get blue and gold T-shirts so that Consortium members can be identified at events. Bruce suggested that they could do a post card mailing, and Media Frogg can help with a copy of the new billboard on the front of the card.

Image: The **Armstrong Group** will soon be filming at Oberg.

Billboards are up! All 5 are up, and Lori and Jim have totally updated the website (www.butlercountymfg.org). Billboards will remain up or 4 months. Media Frogg helped to put together the banners, and the vinyl can be re-used elsewhere.

Lori reported on “**Dream It Do It**” which is a local presence that opens door to everyone involved and enables us to tie into commercials. Visit <http://www.dreamit-doit.com/> A tri-county grant is possible for this, and Lori is securing costs now. Jim has made many calls to “**Nuts and Bolts and Thingamajigs**”, a camp for youth ages 12-16 co-founded by John Ratzenberger, actor and author. It is a non-profit organization which gives youth hands-on experience.<http://www.nutsandboltsfoundation.org/> He would like to have a camp at BC3 targeting 12-16 year olds. There is nothing like this in PA.

Growth:

Work is continuing on the content for **brochures** and posters geared especially to youth. It is hoped that BC3 and the Vo-Tech will agree to have a design contest for students in the design field. The goal is to highlight manufacturing jobs and how to enter them as a career.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 29th, for a lunch at the Succop Conservancy. Watch for your e-mail for details!!!