

# **BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM**

## **Minutes for June 25, 2008**

Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions. Copies of the May '08 minutes were emailed prior and approved as written. Special thanks to MEDRAD for hosting our meeting, providing a tour of their facility and breakfast.

Doug Bartosh reported we have \$2411.64 remaining in the Treasury.

### **Previous Business**

1. **Training** – see grant update below.
2. **Grant Update** - continued discussion on goals the BCMC would like to accomplish with grant monies in the 2008-2009 year including:
  - a) **Educator in the Workplace** – money to “facilitate” a teacher in the workplace. This program could help get teachers more aware of today’s manufacturing. It is pro-education and pro-manufacturing. We would pay \$200 per diem rate. Must establish some criteria for teachers to do. Estimate approximately 100 educators are interested for next summer.  
**WOULD YOUR COMPANY BE WILLING TO HOST AN EDUCATOR(S) NEXT SUMMER?**
  - b) **College in the High School (at Knoch).**
    - 1) **Textbooks** – Suggest using grant monies to pay for cost of the manufacturing textbooks. \$60/ book and estimate 10-12 students.
    - 2) **Scholarships for students taking the course to kick off the program.** \$300 per course. Criteria for the scholarships needs to be established. MEDRAD volunteered to develop criteria. How do we want to market the program?
  - c) **Training / Reimbursement**
    - WEDNet – is for entry level basic skills and IT.
    - CJT / Reimbursement – other training
    - \* Lisa Campbell spoke on WEDNet information and BC3’s new Workforce Training courses (distributed new course catalog for all).
    - \* Jim Brockman from Slippery Rock University shared they also do CJT, WEDNet customized training. Bringing in specific training. Green roof / green buildings is one of the first trainings coming.
    - \* Update on status of WEDNet monies- in legislation. Currently looks like may be cut 40%. In order to maintain training dollars for manufacturers, we need to talk/write to our legislators and ask them to support manufacturing (and training).
    - \* Tim Snapp from DeVry University’s Corporate Education Program. They have a scholarship program for people who have gone to a community college and then are pursuing their Bachelor’s degree.
  - d) **Career Awareness Activities**
    - \* **Job Shadowing** - on Ground Hog Day. Get more students into manufacturing plants to shadow an experienced person and see what manufacturing can involve. Manufacturers need to be willing to take kids for ½ - full day.

e) BC3 Kids on Campus:

a) This year, BCMC is sponsoring 2 camps:

Get Wired, starting 7/7 (3 enrolled so far)

Gadgets and Gizmos, starting 7/14 (3 enrolled so far)

The week before the camp starts, enrollment usually greatly increases. Camps have been promoted in the Butler Eagle. Kristen will email flyer to BCMC members and partners again so they can post and let their employees know of these fun, educational programs (for grades 5-7).

If this years camps are successful, consider using grant monies for next year.

f) Marketing materials such as a tabletop display for the BCMC, more pens and pad folios.

3. **BCMC Career Fair** – What would the group think of doing our own Manufacturing Career Fair? To include our manufacturers and resource partners. Could promote and run an ad in the Butler Eagle listing all the job opportunities we all have open as well as what we are looking for in qualified candidates. Recruiting/hiring is so challenging today, we need to keep trying different approaches. Will have estimated costs for the next meeting.

### Image

1. **BCMC Website** – currently Allegheny Graphics is our website host. Contract with them ends 7/1/08. Jim submitted for vote the suggestion we switch at this time to Media Frogg. They are resource partners as well as being a subdivision of PennaFlame. The Media Frogg team are graduates of LaRoche College and bring with them new innovative ideas for websites. Doug Bartosh, from Unimach Mfg, highly recommends them as they have designed his first company website. They could also help us in establishing a Job Opportunities page for future direction of the website. Members voted and approved to switch service provider to Media Frogg.  
\* Also suggested a training webpage for information for both job seekers and incumbent workers.
2. **Radio** – WISR radio show. Just a reminder the show airs the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. This can be ½ hour in which YOUR Company is featured at no cost to you. See Neil if you are interested in spotlighting your company in an upcoming month.
3. **Clearview Mall Manufacturing Connection/Café** - no report.

### Growth

1. **Non profit status** – Jim has paperwork completed if we chose to make the BCMC non-profit. Need to have people sign as official President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In order for members to have more information prior to a vote, Jim will present pros/cons of non-profit status for the next meeting.

### Current / New Business

**What's In It For Manufacturing**

1. Hartford Connecticut Statewide Manufacturing Expo – Jim attended. The one thing that really left an impression was the tremendous “working together” effort between all their community colleges. There were lots of students bused in and moved through the convention center in small groups. Visited each “cell” where they heard a discussion about the manufacturing technology that was featured.
2. Manufacturing Consortium meeting at PSU – Jim had a chance to talk with someone from California University who was very interested in the Manufacturing Curriculum book.
3. Tour of MEDRAD's Saxonburg facility following today's meeting.

***Next meeting will be **Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>** at Conley's Inn, Route 8.  
Luncheon meeting starts at 11:30 am. Following the meeting,  
members and partners can spend the afternoon  
networking (i.e. golfing)***