

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for May 30, 2008

Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions.
Copies of the April '08 minutes were emailed prior and approved as written.
Special thanks to the Tri-County Technology Consortium who provided breakfast for our meeting.

\$2311.64 remaining in the Treasury.

Previous Business

1. **Training**
 - a) Training money is done for the current grant year.

2. **Grant Update** - discussed 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. Has been done in Armstrong and Indiana counties. 2 different uses for grant money:
 - 1) provide a stipend or incentive to offer teachers for attending during summer. In the past, \$750 was given for 10 days (can be spaced out over several weeks time). In order to receive the stipend, teachers needed to turn in a lesson plan and report on what they learned and how to apply what they learned to their lesson plans.
 - 2) if the Educator in the Workplace occurs during the school year, the money is used to pay for a substitute teacher during that time the primary teacher is visiting the manufacturer.
 - * Jim attends a monthly teacher/guidance counselor meeting where he will promote the “Educator in the Workplace” concept and see if there is an interest.
 - * Lori H. has submitted a proposal for E.I.W. and is waiting to get final approval. Will try to put together a packet to handout to local school contacts.

 - b) College in the High School (at Knoch).
Manufacturing curriculum where 12 credits articulate to BC3, RMU and California U.
Junior Year: Fall Manufacturing 1 Spring Communication
Senior Year: Fall Manufacturing 2 Spring Economics
* Consortium is considering using grant money to help pay for the manufacturing textbooks in this pilot program at Knoch to help get it started.

 - c) Career Days at Schools
Possibly join with the high schools’ college fair (may get more parent attending) and can still promote it as Career Fair

 - d) BC3 Kids on Campus:
 - a) For the current grant year, \$3500 is available and needs to be invoiced in a detailed outline by June 15th. There will be 2 separate week-long camps offered this year, GET WIRED! (focusing on electricity) and GADGETS & GIZMOS! (focusing on levers, pulleys, etc.)
 - b) If this years camps are successful, consider using grant monies for next year?

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

3. **Schools** – no report

4. **STEM**
 - a) The state is still undecided on whether Butler will be grouped with the northern counties (such as Lawrence and Mercer) or grouped closer to home with the Pittsburgh STEM center.

5. **Regional Non-profit Training Center** – no report.

Image

1. **Video** – Career Gates video was played.
2. **Television** - “Getting to Work” – Neil shared that he needs to connect with the staff from Armstrong to coordinate schedules.
3. **BCMC Website** - Eagle Rubber, PennaFlame and Oberg were all featured in this month’s Butler Business Matters. We will have those articles posted on our BCMC website soon.
4. **Radio** – WISR radio show. June 9th will be the next show which will feature Bruce Curry from PennaFlame. If anyone is interested in a FREE ½ radio show to talk about their company and promote what they do, please see Jim or Neil. The show airs the 2nd Monday of the month, but it can be pre-recorded to accommodate your schedules.
5. **Newspaper** : Butler Business Matters featured articles on Eagle Rubber, PennaFlame and Oberg.
6. **Clearview Mall Manufacturing Connection/Café**
 - a) 5 individuals have expressed interest, which is not enough.
 - b) Jim attended a “High Performance WIB” meeting several weeks ago and they gave the go-ahead to go non-profit with the consortium if this is direction we want to go. Do we? Non-profit is not a big cost, but it is a commitment to follow the guidelines/rules established for non-profits. Attaining 501-C3 takes more work, but it also gives the opportunity for people to give money to it without all the IRS concerns.
 - c) The restaurant equipment needs to be removed. One contractor quoted a price of \$25,000 just to remove it. Obviously this is not an option. Have also talked with a dealer in used restaurant equipment who would be willing to purchase all of it for \$10,000.
 - d) Next step – need to focus on the larger companies to meet with. Look at the top10 largest manufacturers in Butler County and start there.

Growth

Boyle Manufacturing has just joined the Consortium!

Current / New Business

1. Tiffany Bennet from Allegheny Graphics and the Chairperson of the Tri-county Technology & Communication Consortium was a guest speaker at our meeting today to share the goals of their consortium and how we could work together.
 - They desire to reach out to other Industry Partnerships, to grow the IT consortium and the IT industry in general and to engage our local communities. They want to educate other business on the fact that if they have web development, software development needs they do not need to go to Pittsburgh, but the work can be done here in our tri-county area.
 - They have sponsored community events and training. Working on getting more involved in STEM and Females in Technology.
 - If your company has IT people or ideas to collaborate on, please refer them to the Tech Consortium. They typically meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am.

What's In It For Manufacturing

1. Connecticut Statewide Manufacturing Expo – Jim is driving up to Hartford, Conn. Monday and returning Tuesday night to learn about their best practices in hosting a manufacturing expo. Anyone interested in going, please let Jim know.
2. WIB meeting in Harrisburg June 23, 24, 25. Each manufacturing consortium is asked to speak approximately 15 minutes about the initiatives they are working on. Will include a reception and 5-6 different round-table discussion groups, and a mini-welding symposium. They are encouraging 5-6 people per consortium to attend. Money for the trip is already budgeted.
3. BCMC's future concerns? - What do we as a consortium want to get involved with as we move forward? What do you want to pursue? Possible items mentioned were the rising cost of health care, energy, technology, training??
 - a) Jim has spoken with Susie Beardsley from the Health Care Consortium about a Rx delivery service right to manufacturer's site. Would that be a benefit to your employees?
 - b) Can we buy flu shots at a discounted volume rate (PUT already does flu shots and has company nurse administer them.)
 - c) Training – the need is to keep reminders about training in front of BCMC members. Generally speaking, a company isn't going to pay attention to notices about training, UNTIL they have a specific training need, then they pay attention. It was also suggested that an article about the shared training might be a good topic for the next Butler Business Matters.

***Next meeting will be **Wednesday June 25th** at MEDRAD.
Victory Road, Saxonburg
They will be hosting a breakfast meeting starting at 8:00 am,
followed by a plant tour.***