

# **BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM**

## **Minutes for November 18<sup>th</sup> 2009**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions.
- B. Copies of the October 21 '09 minutes were distributed prior via email and accepted.
- C. Doug Bartosh reported \$947.58 remaining in treasury.
- D. Minutes will reflect both the 12:00 noon meeting as well as the 6:00 pm event.

### **II. GUEST SPEAKER – Kurt Acker from Senator Jane Orié's office.**

- A. The state budget was obviously the big priority this year. Kurt said they cut spending for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 40 years.
- B. He passed out information on business taxes, and his contact information.
- C. Grant programs were greatly restricted this year, with the majority focusing on 'green initiatives.'

### **III. TRAINING / GRANT**

- A. December 1<sup>st</sup>, Free Training on Energy Initiatives, and Evaluation on Facilities & Compliance. 9:00 am –noon. If interested, please contact Ken Raybuck to reserve a space.
- B. Grant training request: we submitted a request for 50% shared training and 50% tuition reimbursement. Were approved for 60% shared training (\$96,900 tri-county) and 40 % (\$64,600 tri-county) tuition reimbursement. Money has been allocated, but not yet received. \* Keep in mind that "shared training" is defined as more than 1 company.  
\* Think about Shared Training needs you will have for this year.
- C. Welding class- in the works. Especially, think about if anyone in your maintenance departments could utilize welding training.
- D. Industry/partnership money (outreach events and marketing) \$7500 allocated per county.

### **IV. OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS**

- A. **Commissioners meeting** - Jim, Bruce, and Neil met with the Butler Commissioners to talk about the importance of manufacturing in Butler County and how much we need their support. Also discussed ways of reaching students about manufacturing career options. Commissioners suggested contacting the local school boards for the opportunity to promote manufacturing in the schools. Need to get on their agenda. Need to talk to teachers and get them involved and get permission for teachers to visit manufacturers. Have already tried going through superintendents and going to their meetings. That has not seemed to result in much success in Butler. They also discussed TV commercial time as well as the idea of a "mascot" for outreach to younger students.
- B. **Career Cruising Network** – no report.
- C. **Educator in the Workplace** – no report.
- D. **Get FIT (Futures In Technology)** – no report.

### **V. BCMC MEDIA / ADVERTISING**

- A. **BCMC Website** – on 11/19, had a phone conference with Indiana and Armstrong county reps to discuss a Tri-County manufacturing landing website, to also include a master calendar.
- B. **Butler Business Matters** – February 2010 edition will focus on manufacturing. Do we want to run an ad that month?
- C. **Facebook** – Neil Ashbaugh demonstrated our Facebook page at the 6:00 event.

## **VI. BCMC GROWTH**

### **A. Tri-County**

1. Would people be interested in participating in web meetings for the BCMC? Perhaps if people can't make the drive, they would be able to still participate via a web meeting. Members shared that one-way communications, like a web-based training works well. However, when you are looking for more interaction among participants, web meetings can be more challenging.

### **B. Clearview Mall Expo Event - feedback**

1. Was held November 6 & 7 at the Clearview Mall. Goals were to promote manufacturing and reach out to youth about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Had the Carnegie Science Center there both nights doing demonstrations with liquid nitrogen, including making ice cream. Throughout both days, BCMC members were also helping kids make over 400 bouncy balls and explaining a little bit of science along the way! Others who participated included:
  - a) Penn State Electro Optics – brought infrared camera and video
  - b) Butler Vo-Tech – Ken Hilke brought remote control robots
  - c) Playthings Etc.
  - d) BC3 – brought guitars made by engineering students as well as the UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle).
  - e) Oberg
  - f) Penn United Technologies, Inc.
  - g) Penna Flame
  - h) Segway

### **C. Outreach events:**

1. Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau. Sandy Gadzia and Jack Cohen spoke about ways for the Tourism Bureau to partner with the BCMC to promote manufacturing in our county including:
  - a) Conducting manufacturing tours, similar to the farm tours that are conducted on an annual basis. Manufacturing Heritage Tour?? - so manufacturers want to build toward conducting a tour of some manufacturers for the public? 228 Corridor Manufacturing Tour?
  - b) Jeep Heritage Festival – August 12-14, 2011 will celebrate Butler being the birthplace of the Bantam Jeep. As this involves innovation and manufacturing, their promotions fit very nicely with our Consortium goals of promoting manufacturing. Could the BCMC have a booth at the festival?
  - c) Butler Bureau of Tourism will also be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Husselton, December 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> at the Clearview Mall, with cars at the mall.
2. Concept of a “Growth Summit” – get all the various groups together, from education, Butler Chamber of Commerce, IT, BCMC, and health care to promote Butler County as a great place to live & work!
3. It was also suggested, could a study be conducted on the economic impact manufacturing companies have on Butler County? Perhaps Slippery Rock's Entrepreneurial group would be interested?

### **D. Self-Sustaining**

1. Due to budget deficits, we may have to anticipate receiving less from the state each year.
  2. Do we want to draft a “letter of support” to solicit funds for the BCMC?
- E. Survey – Ken Raybuck sent out a survey asking members of the tri-county manufacturing consortiums about their involvement, priorities, ideas, etc. 23 people responded from the 3 counties. Survey will also be posted on BCMC site so there is still time to let your opinion be heard.

## **VII. LEGISLATION ISSUES**

- A. **Legislative Committee** – Had the first phone conference. Discussed mostly how committee would function. Will take a soft approach, more informational and educational. Created a list of government contacts.

#### **VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS / MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. Company Spotlights – would like to renew focus on one company/ per month. To spotlight one of our members and have them discuss what they make.
- B. November 30<sup>th</sup> – “Manufacturing in the Future” 6:30 pm at Carnegie Mellon University. Free to attend.
- C. December 16<sup>th</sup> – Wind and Energy free training at Robert Morris University.
- D. April, 2010 – Energy and Environment Show at the David Lawrence Convention Center
- E. August, 2010 – Coal Power Generation Show

*Next meeting will be a luncheon on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Conley's Resort, at 12:00 noon.*