

# **BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM**

## **Minutes for February 27, 2008**

### **Present**

Jim McKain / CMC Impact Metals  
Lisa Campbell / BC3  
Lori Harvey, Phil Nadiak / TCWIB  
Doug Bartosh / Unimach Mfg.  
Mark Gasparin / Vemco Inc.  
Jim Ferguson, Chuck Guiste, Kristen Bastaja / Penn United  
Mike King / South Butler School District  
Rick Hart / Shook Speciality Welding  
Tim Brackett / Simplified Tooling  
Tim Snapp / DeVry University Keller Grad School  
Catie Morley / Pulva Corp.  
Patrick Coulson / CDC of Butler Co.  
Brandi Heichel / IDL Worldwide  
Neil Ashbaugh / Oberg Industries  
Bruce Curry / Penna Flame Industries  
Clayton Woodward / Woodward, Inc.  
George Wochley / GCL Inc. / Camber Corp.  
Debbie Ernst / Pa CareerLink  
Sally Naret / Preservation Technologies  
Kyle Knapp / Du-Co Ceramics Co.

Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions. Special welcome to new members Vemco and Simplified Tooling. Thanks to CDC for letting us use their beautiful meeting room. Copies of the January '08 minutes meeting were distributed and approved as written.

Doug Bartosh reported that we have \$1,861.00 remaining in the Treasury.

### **Previous Business**

1. **Training**
  - a) MarketSphere - completed curriculum review and received input from the different members. Final revision should be completed mid-March. Will have hard copies and curriculum on disk for actual use.
  - b) MSSC – (High Performance Manufacturing Curriculum) – Mike King spoke with Bill O'Brien from BC3 – doing Career Cruising to help identify number of students interested. Talked about tying into credits at BC3. The MSSC textbook needs to be taught at BC3 in order for high school students to receive BC3 credits.
    - \* CHS (College & High School) classes are very popular.
    - \* MSSC was generally started at the community college level, but users are seeing more of a need to get it into high school programming.
  - c) Lisa shared that BC3 is looking into the idea of having an "Associates Degree in Manufacturing" and then specializing from there.

2. **Grant Update**

- a) Tuition Reimbursement – for incumbent worker training, has been approved by the state. The tuition reimbursement program would cover incumbent worker training that was received in this current grant year (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008). Employers can apply for ANY training already received in this grant year. If you currently have WEDNet funds, please call Lisa to help coordinate reimbursement. Must have trainees social security numbers in order for reimbursement to process.  
Lori has a list of various training providers if anyone is interested, however you do NOT have to use specific trainers.

3. **Schools**

- a) Career Brochures – brochures are completed. Are currently working on the posters (posters will include salary ranges).
- b) H.S. Connection – Career Days confirmed include:
- \* April 1 – Mars H.S. (morning 3-4 hours)
  - \* April 17 – Slippery Rock H.S. (afternoon 1 – 6 or 7 pm)
  - \* April 25 – Knoch – will encourage parents to attend  
Karns City – still working on date
- c) Misc school info:
- 1) Not participating this year with our Career Days:
    - Seneca Valley H.S. – doing event with special needs kids
    - Butler Vo-Tech – focusing on girls interest in Math and Science careers
  - 2) Seneca Valley requires a graduation project. Knoch is looking at doing the same. Knoch is also looking for companies to host interns, job shadows, etc..
- d) Teacher Award – Scott Dietz was going to contact some of the schools to get an idea of their interest.

4. **BC3 Summer Camps** – Jim and Kristen met with BC3 staff. Looking at 2 one week camps – Gadgets and Gizmos and Get Wired. BC3 has an instructor that is interested in teaching. In addition, Karen Wreathmiller has put together a week-long camp concept for basic CAD and Electrical interests. The consortium will try to underwrite the cost of these kids' camps.

5. **Other**

- a) Company tours? – Would your company be interested in having a group of kids (approx. 12 or so) tour your company? If interested, see Jim.

**Image**

1. **Tri-County Manufacturing Video** – no report.
2. **Career Gates Video** – Completed. It looks GREAT!
3. **Armstrong Show** – “Getting to Work” in Butler Co. – Oberg episode is done. Pulva, Butler Technologies, and Penna Flame are lined up to film next.
4. **BCMC Website / job source** – no report.
5. **Clearview Mall Manufacturing Expo** – feedback:
  - \* Clayton Woodward shared he thought the event provided for a lot of good exposure and made people aware of manufacturing. Bruce Curry said it was a great event to get the word out, but need to do something more than just once a year. Karma Edwards commented on the fact that we saw lots of teenagers, but we need something more to ENGAGE them.
  - \* Agreed that we need to plan in advance something for teenagers to DO, again to engage them.
  - \* There will be a huge Manufacturing Expo in Connecticut in June. Some BCMC members are planning to attend. We must consider ourselves ambassadors of manufacturing and need to do a better job promoting manufacturing.

\* Although the 2 day event was a success, Jim asked what type of presence we have there now? -None. Jim shared that there is an opportunity to lease a retail space at the mall. Want to demonstrate to the community that manufacturing is “here to stay” and having a permanent presence at the mall to promote manufacturing could do that. There is a 2500 square foot facility, with dining area, and restrooms available. Would require some remodeling. Uses:

- a) Could spotlight each member company
- b) Place people could go to research careers in manufacturing, career exploration
- c) Serve coffee – there is no place in the mall to get a cup of coffee in the morning. Selling coffee could help pay for other costs such as staffing.
- d) Activity area for kids include legos
- e) Could have the café be wireless place for computer users
- f) Meeting/training area
- g) Job Board with current listing of openings in BCMC companies

\* Passed around blueprint of the space as is, a sketch of the proposed idea, and a summary sheet of some initial ideas, costs, and issues.

\* Waiting to hear of possible grant funding from the CDC....

\* Would need to submit plans for renovation, but we can do remodel work ourselves.

\* Other ideas: could we use Butler Hospitality Management students? Or use Butler Vo-tech building trades students to help with remodel work (give them real-life experience).

\* Could do work in stages: 1) initial phase of what is needed, then phase 2 once café is up and going strong, complete total renovation

\* Members decided the idea has lots of opportunity and is worth pursuing to the next level

6. **Manufacturing Radio Program** – All Hits FM 97 : package to include 20 commercials (30 seconds each) for 12 months. Also includes mention during ½ hour radio show with Dave Malarchy. Total cost \$225.00/ month. Members agreed to move forward.

## **Growth**

### **Current / New Business**

1. Butler County CareerLink will be hosting a Job Fair April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1- 5:30 pm
2. Karma Edwards encouraged every employer to register their job vacancies with the CareerLink to help government track needs. Untrained applicants should be directed towards training resources.
3. Neil Ashbaugh is on the board for Tobacco Free Butler County

### **What's In It For Manufacturing**

1. Staffing Agencies –
  - a) Spherion is offering 15% fee for direct hires. Will continue to look into buying power for the Consortium and getting better rates. Other temporary agencies member companies use include: Adecco, Carol Harris, Calis, and Gregg Temporary.
  - b) Could use BCMC to bring awareness to agencies as to what manufacturing is looking for.
  - c) Member companies may have opposite peak times, could we share quality temporary workers?
2. Jim sent a request to members regarding their administrative medical costs. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback. Will continue to look into how we can work together to help reduce health care costs, including legislation issues.
3. Safety Training videos – variety of training topics, (many from Traco and Penna Flame) – see Jim if interested in borrowing.
4. Reminder: Bots IQ Competition March 28 & 29 @ Century III Mall. with Mfg. Expo on Saturday 32 regional teams.

***Next meeting will be Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> at Butler's  
Community Development Corp. at 8:00 am***