

# BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

## MINUTES June 28, 2006

### ***Present:***

Jim Ferguson, Kristen Bastaja and Chuck Guiste – Penn United Technology; Doug Bartosh – Unimach Mfg; Neil Ashbaugh – Oberg Industries, Inc.; Vicki Senko – JSP; Fred Hensel – TSI; Carl Bemben – TCWIB; Peggy Weckerly – PA CareerLink Butler County and MaryCathleen Wagner, Career TRACK Youth Coordinator

Minutes of the May 25, 2006, meeting were reviewed and approved. *BCMC Treasury* has \$734 with paid memberships from Oberg, Penn United, CID, Catalyst Connection, Sonneborn, Unimach and JSP is ready to join.

### ***Capacity Building and Incumbent Worker Grants:***

The grant ends June 30, 2006, and Carl said there is \$10,000 left over to:

- (1) purchase professional logo items;
- (2) buy the Florida basic skills Work Ready System for \$20,000 together with the Health Care Consortium and have the program pilot done by the end of the year;
- (3) Do a tri-county event – so purchased an 8'x8' display with each county's logo and also purchased table covers;
- (4) Website and events like the Butler Mfg Showcase, Armstrong's breakfast and Indiana's after-hours event.

The second grant is incumbent work training with \$120,000 in the grant. Forty (40) people started, and it is crucial for the three counties to work together to get more money from the state, We will know by mid-July what money will be available. There is a concern as to whether money can be rolled into the next year, and Carl did ask for an extension, although he hasn't heard anything yet.

### ***Website Development and Vision / Mission Agreement:***

All agreed that the website is critical – want to use the wire rope symbolic of Roebbling and the cable bridge. It shows strength in numbers. It's a #9 wire which relates to 9 goals, and manufacturing wraps around it. All agreed on the tagline: **Strength in working together.** Jim and Carl reported on the industry cluster meeting they attended in State College. The average mfg wage is \$15 hr and provides family sustaining wages while resulting in a career with benefits. Manufacturing brings a big tax base to the county – more than the service industry, and is one of the few things that creates wealth and keeps people staying here.

### ***Youth Program Request:***

Ms. Wagner talked about the 6-week summer program for youth ages 15-21. She asked members to volunteer to talk with the youth July 21 or July 28 around 8 or 9 AM for 15 minutes at the CareerLink about what they expect from their employees and how to get hired

***Recruitment of New Members:***

Jim wants to concentrate on this and feels that small luncheon groups getting together geographically would be very effective. It would be more focused and promote other companies buying into the Consortium as opposed to larger events. Speakers would be a good addition to the meetings and a monthly “outlook” handout to update everyone. Jim sees the BCMC as a means of sharing resources and information. Larger companies can help smaller companies such as in the fact the Penn United just hired an RN for their 730 employees. Smaller companies can use that resource for immunizations, etc., at a reduced price as opposed to going on their own to purchase this service. There was also discussion about developing profiles of every manufacturing company in the county. Meadville has “The Source” which lists all their area mfg companies - see [www.nwpasource.com](http://www.nwpasource.com)

**[Next meeting – Wednesday, July 26, at 7:30 AM at the CareerLink.](#)**