

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for March 28, 2007

Present

Doug Bartosh, Unimach Mfg
Terri Lee Bowser, CID Associates
Lisa Campbell, BC3
Jim Orr, Penna Flame
Bruce Curry, Penna Flame
Jim Ferguson, Penn United Technology
Kristen Bastaja, Penn United Technology
Neil Ashbaugh, Oberg
Carmen Bianco, Armstrong
Matt Lutz, Armstrong
Andy Johnson, Slippery Rock High School
Mike King, Knoch High School
Steve Schultheis, IUP Small Business Institute
Lori Harvey, Tri-County Workforce Investment Board
Peggy Weckerly, PA CareerLink Butler County

Jim welcomed everyone and introduced Steve Schultheis of IUP SBI, Mike King from Knoch HS and Andy Johnson from Slippery Rock HS.

Minutes for February 2007 were approved as written. Doug reported a **balance of \$1822.48 in the treasury.**

Previous Business

New Training Grant CAD/CAM/CNC Update: Solid Works started March 13th with 14 people, CNC began March 19 with 5 people who are not advanced (although the grant was written for advanced). Lisa said that they can get 5 to the intermediate level and then add a 15-hour addendum to offer intermediate/advanced again. Master CAM begins May 15- call Lisa ASAP to enroll any of your workers. was awarded to BC3, and Lisa discussed timelines. Solid Works will be the first, and interested companies need to call ASAP! Each course is 30 hours, scheduled at ten 3-hour sessions at a time in early morning. Summer scheduling can be more flexible, and all training needs to be completed by the end of June 007. This training is Level 1 requiring little to no experience. It will be open to Consortium members first and then opened to other manufacturers if the classes aren't filled.

Current Business

Manufacturer Spotlight: Penna Flame Jim Orr said the company began in 1968 as a second generation niche business which heat treats the surface of what other manufacturers make to extend the wear. It is dirty, wet and hot, and the company does not require a HS diploma/GED. But more computerization is starting now. Bruce Curry handles the roll division. About 15 years ago they did coil processing lines for automotive and were asked to handled the entire process instead of subbing different parts which led to timely delivery issues. They added equipment, diversified from auto and expanded their customer base. Then they needed a website, and a couple of their employees from LaRoche put them on the web and made them #1 on Google. They now have a media division which produces labels and CD cases.

Mike King explained his new position of providing career and work education for K-12 for Knoch. He welcomes the consortium's input for what manufacturing needs from the school. Terri commented that the biggest problem they have is work ethic. Andy Johnson said that he still pushes the need for a GED to drop-outs. Jim mentioned www.oemfab.com which highlights career paths in manufacturing and NEXT magazine. He also said that there is to be a plastics subgroup to the manufacturing consortium.

Jim nominated **Neil Ashbaugh for Co-Chair**, and he was unanimously voted into that position.

Vision/Planning for the 2007 includes **promotion of image** which is being accomplished through the **Armstrong Group Show Production** video montage of local manufacturing and resource partners. We are in it for the long haul, not the short run, and additional manufacturers and resource partners will be added in the months to come. The group watched the video today, but it was first shown at the **Manufacturing Technology Expo**. The Expo had 50 people attend, and 3 asked whether the companies there could manufacture parts for them. Weather was a deterrent with all the snow. Lisa advised more lead time on planning since a flyer should be developed in the future to be given to career services in the local colleges and high schools. Mike said that on the PSSA testing day, those not being tested could then report to the gym as they did at Mars for a career day. He is considering something like this for Knoch, and the manufacturers could be there. **Growth through capacity building and recruitment** will be enhanced with an **expo at Slippery Rock HS on April 20th** from 7:30AM to 2:30 PM where career paths are made more apparent to the students. There are 8 periods, and the tables need to be manned at all times. Both manufacturers and health care providers are invited to host tables. Andy has invited the newspaper to cover this event also. The school is inviting parents and assigning all 800 students to come to this. Jim suggests paying \$495 from our capacity building grant to pay for on-site radio coverage of the vent, and the group voted unanimously today to pay for it. The goal is to encourage the remaining school districts to do something similar. It would be even better to have SRHS graduates working at local manufacturers there to speak with students and from the respective high schools as this event grows. Penn United has a Knoch HS grad who eventually moved up into management.

Steve Schultheis represented the **IUP SBI group conducting the Manufacturing Survey** to determine the needs. The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete, and Steve reported that there was an e-mail glitch which they feel limited responses. They are now re-sending surveys with the hope of increasing responses. He did comment that when you Google 'county manufacturing consortium', the tri-county links are the only ones that come up.

W.I.I.F.M. (What's In It for Manufacturing)

Jim has tentatively reserved the Lakeview Room at Conley's for Administrative Professionals Day April 25 so that local manufacturers can bring their folks for \$10 each. He is asking Winston Erevelles from Robert Morris to provide a small presentation. This will take the place of the regular meeting. Lisa suggested that the group review the top 5 things manufacturers want when hiring at a future meeting. We need to use the word "career" when describing a job in manufacturing and need to develop a career map to give to youth. Mike says the map should be simple and list the steps that need to be taken

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 25th at 12 Noon at Conley's on Route 8. Please call Jim Ferguson ASAP at 724-352-1507 to schedule your reservations.

