

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for October 25, 2006

Present

Mark Balentine, Asten Johnson	Francine Keefer, AGR International
Doug Bartosh, Unimach	Kyle Knapp, DUCO Ceramics
Terri Lee Bowser, CID Associates	Diana McCormish, JSP
Lisa Campbell, BC3	Jim McKain, CMC Impact Metals
Patrick Coulson, CDC Of Butler	Catie Morely, Pulva Corp
John R Fantini, PA CareerLink	Don Neff, Eagle Rubber
Jim Ferguson, Penn United Tech	Joe Taylor, Armstrong
Dave Frengel, Penn United	Nadine Tripodi, Butler Technologies
Rick Green, Eagle Rubber	Jennifer VanGorder, ATS, Inc
Charles Guiste, Penn United Tech	George Wochley, GCL, Inc
Caroline Hahn, Pulva Corp	Clayton Woodward, Woodward, Inc

After the Introductions, Minutes of the September 27, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Doug Bartosh stated that BCMC currently has \$1650 in the account.

Carl Bemben is no longer with the TCWIB, so at this point we do not have updates for the Reports.

Welcomed AGR International as our last new member.

Welcomed Don Neff and Rick Green from Eagle Rubber in Zelienople. Don gave a brief history of the company, which began in 1992, and produces gaskets and washers from 1' to 28' and rubber covered rolls.

Previous Business

Grant and Training Updates:

Both the \$50,000 Training Grant and the \$10,000 Capacity Building Grant have been approved.

At the next meeting (Nov 15 at the PA CareerLink), we will brainstorm as to how to put these grants to good use.

Current Business

Lisa Campbell explained the **Leadership Training Program**. It will begin again in January 2007 and is ideal for those who have been promoted from Employee to Supervisor. It is an 8-week program with a different course offered each week. Attendees would earn a Certificate of Completion at the completion of all 8 weeks of the training program, but can take one or more segment(s) without certification if they desire. This Training is workforce, hands-on oriented. Cost of training: \$75.00 per course or \$600 for the program.

Jim also asked Lisa to research and review the BC3 offering such courses as Quality Assurance, Production Planning and Control, and Machine Shop Math.

Jim will talk to Mary Salony

- 1)to determine if the costs of these courses could be approved by the TCWIB, or covered by Trade Act and
- 2)to determine the 25% in-kind costs for the CNC Program.

New Business

Dave Frengel, Director of Governmental Affairs at Penn United, presented a program about Globalization, including a history of how Globalization came to be today. At the rate of loss of manufacturing in Pennsylvania, there will be no Pennsylvania produced products by 2025. The bottom line is that we need to work together, including the Education Associations, and the local Manufacturing Associations to

- Remove trade barriers in order to move products without restrictions,
- Address Currency Manipulation to avoid countries undervaluing their currency, that adds a surcharge to our goods
- Address Border Adjustable Tax which causes US goods to cost 30% more
- These items place the U.S. at a 60% disadvantage to some countries, and if not addressed, our communities will decline. We cannot operate an economy on unproductive businesses that do not sell anything that you can own.

Joe Taylor from Armstrong discussed the service of Armstrong Utilities, especially as it relates to wireless communication. Armstrong services 76,000 customers, and they have experimented with wireless in the past, but

found that the terrain causes too many problems in providing a reliable service. Armstrong is known as the company who brings service through the wires to your home, and probably will continue to do so. Armstrong currently has 3,000 miles of cable, 92,000 poles, 1,600 miles of fiber optic cable, with 3 ethernet internet connections with providers in Pittsburgh.

Jim distributed the **BCMC By-Laws**.

Section 5d was added after the discussion at the last meeting.

Section 9 was explained as the dues are good for a 1-year period, and then they are prorated, so that they start in January of each year.

The BCMC By-laws were passed unanimously with the exception of the section regarding the dues, which will be adjusted at the November 15 meeting.

Dave and Nadine then inquired about the activities of the three (3) Manufacturing Consortia – Armstrong, Indiana, and Butler. Jim responded that there should be more collaboration, and there will be as he is inquiring about having a TriCounty Manufacturer's Consortium Meeting to explore how we can do more together.

Manufacturing Technology Career Expo – The Expo is targeted for January or February 2007. We will develop more plans at the November 15 meeting.

Eljer was discussed last month. For us to contact Elger, which is in Armstrong County, is inappropriate. Contact will be made by Armstrong County, who will provide a program after January as we did with AstenJohnson.

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

Jim contacted the company making the M&M's to determine if any discounts were available. Since it was determined that there was no real benefit to this product, it was decided to put the money elsewhere.

The Manufacturing 2000 program through New Century Careers was discussed. Applicants must be unemployed or underemployed, must take an aptitude test, and undergo a background check. The course is 550 hours for an Entry Level Machinist. New Century will have an Expo, hand out resumes to employees, interview and hire. Of the 15 original trainees, 11 continue in the program and 8 or 9 will make great machinists. This is a grassroots program that trains good people to hire. They teach machinist skills, as well as resume preparation, interview skills, etc. To find out more, visit their website, www.nc2.com

The National Association of Manufacturer's has a similar program called "Dream it, Do it!" This program changes High School Senior's attitudes toward job searching the manufacturing base.

There is also a BattleBots program in which High School Students put their mechanical, technical skills to use, erasing the stereotypical mindset of the manufacturing candidate. George asked if there was any effort to go after this segment of the population. Lisa responded that BC3 addresses these students now with 2 year Associate Program and Certificate Programs, which are occupational driven.

Mark suggested that High School Guidance Counselors attend the Manufacturing Consortium Meetings. These counselors meet as a group once each month. We will try to set up a meeting on their schedule. One topic of discussion could be career laddering.

As a resource for companies looking at healthcare costs, it was suggested to explore the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health who provides for Group Purchasing of Healthcare, leveraging the power of the group. The cost is \$1200 to join for a company with a minimum of 250 employees.

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 15th, 2006 at 7:30 am at the PA CareerLink

*** PA CareerLink Butler County is located at 112 Hollywood Drive, Butler,
on the first floor of the Pullman Commerce Center.**