

# **Indiana County Manufacturing Consortium Meeting Minutes April 8, 2010**

Attendees: Don Barris – Elkin  
Ellen Starry – Gorell  
Mike Rempel – Gorell  
Volker Valentin – Gorell  
Julie Miller – MGK  
Steve McPherson – MGK  
Dave Coleman – Cleveland Brothers  
Carrie Roup – Clark Metal Products  
Nancy Saxman – Synergy  
Stephanie DiLeo – Homer City Automation

Ken Raybuck – Tri-county WIB  
Dana P. Henry – Chamber of Commerce  
Kevin Lazor – CareerLink  
Jerry Richardson – Planning and Development  
Carol Fry – ICTC  
Eric Palmer – ICTC  
Jane Gardner – IUP, Eberly College

## **Tom Bresnahan:**

Tom conducted a presentation on different types of lighting, energy efficient lighting, and the removal of the electric rate caps.

## **E-mentoring**

Mike has signed up as a mentor on the e-mentoring website and described the experience and activities. This is very beneficial for students as you use your own experiences to help them decide on their career path. The website is listed in the March minutes but can also be provided by Mike if needed.

## **Job Fair**

The job fair is April 15<sup>th</sup> and we have received a good response for staffing our booth. Mike has the schedule of volunteers and times. He also brought a sample of the literature we have from our member companies and also the consortium. If your company would like to make literature available, please submit it to Mike. Also, if your company is hiring and would like to make a list available to Mike for the ICMC table, please provide this before the event.

## **Video Contest:**

We discussed the idea of having teams of students go to different manufacturers and make videos that we can post on our website. We could vote on the videos

and provide a scholarship for the winning team. This idea would get schools and students involved and provide promotional material for us at little cost. We could possibly use funds to incentivize the contest.

**Search Engine Optimization Class:**

Catalyst connection will be providing 2 classes on search engine optimization. There will be a class in Kittanning on May 19<sup>th</sup> and a class in Butler on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The classes will be from 8 am to 4 pm allowing a 30 minute lunch. The balance would be paid as a result of your membership in one of the three manufacturing consortia.

**Welding Initiative:**

Ken has sent out information for a phone call to get everyone together, get an idea of the type of training needed, and also decide on a provider. The grant requires it to be advanced skill training and to be used for incumbent workers. We only need 2 manufacturers to agree to this to use as shared training.

We discussed training dislocated workers in welding for future upswing in economy over next couple years.

**Budget Q &A with Representative Reed:**

Representative Dave Reed attended our meeting this month to talk about our budget questions and concerns. He explained that the budget cannot have a deficit at the state level so they need to decide where the priorities are. There must be programs eliminated to balance the budget. We as manufacturers must decide which programs are the most important to us and that make the biggest impact. Everyone wants programs increased without paying additional taxes, which causes a disconnect in a recessionary economy. With the rejection of the tolling of I-80 there is an extra 472 million dollar deficit on top of the already 1 billion dollar deficit. We must make up for the deficit which means cutting some programs. We also talked about the problem we face with not receiving funds until January or February and having to spend those funds by June. Rep. Reed asked that we send him specific information on the program and budget so that he can look into this issue.

**Shared Training:**

The classes on compliance of HR issues are coming up on April 16<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested let Ken know.

**Spending and budget:**

We increased our Jimmy Stewart contribution to get a plaque and a handout was provided for the full proposal of spending.

**Legislative event:**

11 candidates will be in attendance on April 19<sup>th</sup> for this event. Please make an effort to attend.

**Recruitment Event:**

Mike will send out an email to get volunteers to plan a showcase event similar to last year's event.

**Tech Show:**

This show is on April 28<sup>th</sup> and we will be supporting ICTC with some funding.

**Other:**