

Indiana County Manufacturing Consortium
Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2008

Attendees: Mike Rempel – Gorell
Elle Starry – Gorell
Volker Valentin – Gorell
Jeff Cable – Home City Automation
Nancy Saxman – Synergy Contracting
Steve McPherson – MGK
Sharon Drukenbrod – MGK
Julie Miller – MGK
Don Barris – Elkin
Bob Kovalcik – Twin Pines
Dave Coleman – Cleveland Brothers
Debbie Zundle – Cleveland Brothers
Pam Gates – Penn Machine

Pat Evanko – Commissioner
Kevin Lazor – Career Link
Bill Clevenger – Career Track
Dana Henry – Chamber
Carol Fry - ICTC

Hiring Tax Credits

Mike passed out the sheets on the various opportunities for tax credits based on hiring practices

Bonding Assistance

Mike distributed information on the federal bonding opportunities for companies that may need assistance in getting bonding for various jobs

Tony Palimone idea

Manufacturing innovation forum – Mike discussed the concept with the group and needs feedback on the best way to handle and approach this. Further discussion will be needed, but the concept is a forum to bring existing and potential new manufacturing companies together to network and provide a source for all their needs through IUP and the consortium.

Energy use reduction grant

Mike distributed information on grants available for energy use reduction.

Energy audit

Mike passed out information on a free energy audit that is available through the DOE.

Rotary meeting

Mike gave an update to everyone on the presentation given to the Rotary on July 21st

Radio commercials

These will start 8/11 and run through 7/10/09. Mike also did a "Closer Look" session with Renda Broadcasting. The Closer Look will air right after the noon news on Saturday on 1160 AM.

Budget

Mike reviewed the Budget details that were submitted to the state. He indicated that we need to start planning how to spend the money so that when we are advised what is approved we are ready to implement some of our requirements.

Educators in the Workplace

Discuss the details of the discussion with Mary Yarnal on 8/12. Mike suggested a broader approach to having multiple teachers visit several companies rather than a one on one. This would be scheduled for next summer. More discussion will be needed.

Consortium By-laws

We need to review and update to be more accurate. Mike asked everyone to review and provide responses back and we can finalize. Since we are spending the state's money, we need to be more structured. Mike also indicated that he will probably remain chair through 2010, but we need to start positioning someone else for a leadership role.

Photography from Chamber intern

Several have been contacted by the intern and have had photos done. More still to do.

Welding needs

- 1) Jane is going to see what can be done for funding other than WedNet (i.e. DCED)
- 2) Carrie is going to coordinate a trip of the interested members to ICTC to see what equipment and training techniques are being taught
- 3) Mary will see about getting this on the ABEL agenda to promote this more to the schools as a career path
- 4) Ellen will see what funding may be available through the WIB for training
- 5) Jane is also looking into an "articulation agreement" for ICTC and IUP (not sure what this means)
- 6) I am to look into the marketing side of this

Mike will set up another meeting prior to the next group meeting on this topic.

Scholarships

Is this something we want to offer? Welding? Other? What would be the criteria? Would any two or more like to get together and come back with some recommendations on this? Sharon indicated that she would provide criteria that was used by another organization that she was involved in.

United Way

United Way would like to come in next month and do a presentation to us requesting either teams or donations. This was as a result of the Rotary presentation. Any concerns? The consensus was not to have a presentation done.

Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is looking for two things:

Board members – they are looking for people to sit on their advisory board

Educators – they are looking for people willing to do presentations to various grades – elementary – 5 sessions; junior high – 6 sessions; high school – 7 sessions. These are all pre-laid out.

The group agreed to allow Junior Achievement to come in next meeting to do a presentation.

IP Training vs. WEDnet Training Funds

Mike distributed a document from the state explaining the difference of what may be covered under each

Indiana County RLF

Mike passed out information on the Revolving Loan Fund memo from Angela Campisano from the Office of Planning and Development.

Go for the Gold Video

Mike explained the new video available. Copies were taken by a couple members. We need to get this on the website and also decide how best to use it in our promotions.