

Indiana County Manufacturing Consortium
Meeting Minutes
April 09, 2009

Attendees: Carrie Roup – Clark Metal Products
Frank Holuta – Elkin
Ellen Starry – Gorell
Volker Valentin – Gorell
Mike Rempel – Gorell
Steve McPherson – MGK
Julie Miller – MGK
Nancy Saxman – Synergy
Tom Baker – Winchester Industries
Stephanie DiLeo – Homer City Automation
Dave Coleman – Cleveland Brothers
Debbie Zundel – Cleveland Brothers
Dennis McCracken – Quintech
Sean Gillespie – Breeze Industrial

Kevin Lazor – CareerLink
Ken Raybuck – Tri-county WIB
Carol Fry – ICTC
Dave Frick – Commissioner
Rod Ruddock – Commissioner

Energy Saving Program

Karen (formerly from Fisher Scientific) contacted Mike about a program with utilities companies to reduce energy consumption. It is more cost-effective to have companies shut down for a short period of time than to build new power plants. This is a government sponsored program in which the electric company will pay the company participating a certain amount of money if they will shut down for a specified amount of time. Mike will have information for interested parties.

Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate for Indiana county has increased, however our rank in the state of Pennsylvania for lowest rate of unemployment has also increased to 9th place.

School Site Facilitator Meeting

Mike attended this meeting to find out how we can get the word out about manufacturing in Indiana County. The administrators expressed that they would bring our concern back to their individual schools and come up with ideas on how we can spread the word.

Reimbursement Training

All requests for reimbursement training have been approved.

Welding Video

Steve asked for information from companies that are interested in participating in the video.

PA Stimulus Grant Opportunity

Senator Casey's webpage has a document that explains an overview of the stimulus plan for anyone who would like more information.

Round table discussion

Mike and Stephanie attended this meeting on April 2nd, 2009. The first half of this meeting was information on the stimulus funding. The second part of the meeting was roundtable discussions in smaller groups about the concerns our companies have about the current economic conditions and how they affect us as manufacturers. Most companies were interested in what they can do to “stay afloat” until times get better. Mike will look into dates for Tom Pallison (manufacturing ombudsman) to come to one of our meetings and speak about this topic. Both Mike and Stephanie feel that this meeting has helped raise awareness of our concerns.

Shared Training

Ken spoke on the status of the shared training. The proposals have been looked at and vendors are being considered for the training. Two specific types of training were discussed. Going Green training would cover what our companies can do both with our products and in our facilities to be more environmentally friendly. Mike will send out an e-mail for feedback on general interest on this topic. HR training on new and changed laws was the other type of shared training discussed. This class will most likely be held in a central location.

Marketing Outreach

We discussed numerous ways to spend our funds to promote manufacturing and the consortium and the 3 targets we want to reach (students and their parents, educators, and other manufacturers).

Job Fair

The job fair 2009 will be held on April 16th at the S&T arena. We still need volunteers to staff the ICMC booth so please e-mail Mike if you are available to do so.

Junior Achievement

Junior achievement is looking for a speaker to talk about manufacturing on 06/22/09, please let Mike know if you are interested in speaking. MGK and Homer City Automation volunteered to host the tour on 06-25-09.

ICTC Tech Show

ICTC is holding a tech show on 04-29-09 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Students, parents, and business partners are all invited to get information on the center and their programs. We discussed possibly sponsoring this tech show.

Career Fair

Indiana County Counselors Association is holding a career fair on 10-06-09 and would like to see manufacturers represented at the fair.

Manufacturer meeting

We discussed holding an event for manufacturers in which we would have individuals come in to speak on certain topics and to promote manufacturing in general. Frank, Ken, Carrie, Dave, and Ellen volunteered to organize this event with Frank taking the lead.

Miscellaneous

Frank Holuta made a motion to waive the dues for the first year for new members to increase participation in the Consortium. Dave Coleman seconded this motion, the consortium voted in favor and the motion passed.