

Minutes

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance Meeting

March 14, 2012

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

NWTC

Type of meeting:

Strategic Planning

Note taker:

Ann Franz

Attendees:

Pete Bilski, Josh Delforge, Tony Martens, Paula Langteau, Mark Weber, and Ann Franz

Agenda topics

Member and subcommittee updates

All

Ann informed the members that Mark Spicknall is no longer working for Marinette Marine. Chuck Goddard has requested another member of the company's leadership to participate in the Alliance. Pete shared that he has been disappointed with subcommittee responses from Marinette Marine. Josh thought the new HR Director at Marquis Yachts would be interested in joining the safety subcommittee. Josh will send contact information to Pete. Josh Delforge was voted as chair for the Alliance.

The Educational subcommittee is working on a joint marketing piece on career pathways in marine manufacturing. The Supply Chain subcommittee has sent out a RFP for its safety buy. Three members participated in the leverage buy: Marquis, Cruisers and Burger Boat.

Tony shared that Cruisers Yachts purchased AZURE Boats. The company had 10 models that will now be manufactured at the Oconto facility. The boats range in size from 23'-30'. The AZURE line of boats will have Cruisers Yachts name. The first gel of the new hull will take place on Monday. The goal is to build 35 boats by the first of July. After July 1, the company will do some modifications to the design of the boats.

Member recruitment (marine builders and associate)

All

The Steering committee discussed recruiting new marine builders outside of northeast Wisconsin. It was determined that the organization will focus on this region before actively recruiting outside of the New North. Josh said that he would like to see all seven marine builders attend the meetings before reaching out to another area. One of the concerns is the difficulty of keeping a group together that is so far apart geographically. Ann will be attending the Gulf States Shipbuilding Consortium in Alabama later in March. At the next Alliance meeting she will share what she learned from that organization.

The focus of increasing membership will be on associate members. Each member is asked to recruit one new associate member over the next 3 months. Pete said that this should be relatively easy to do. His broker that came to the safety meeting is interested in joining. Other potential members include attorneys, Bassett Mechanical, aluminum and fiberglass dealers. One tool that the members thought would be helpful is a business card with the Alliance's logo on the front and the logos of the members on the back of the card. Contact information including the website and Ann's email/phone would also be part of the card. She will have a draft of the card sent to the members prior to the meeting. At the April meeting, we will have the Associate members attend for planning the November supplier event. This could also be a time for potential new associate members to come and learn more about the organization.

Virtual Shipyard training

Paula

The training program was funded by the NSRP. The features of the online training program are:

- Valuable for any new employee, regardless of occupation
- More activity engages learner
- Online, 24 hour, self paced
- 10-20 hour to complete course
- Virtual fly-through version where someone can use an Avatar
- Quizzes to confirm learning
- Could possibly be used as a recruitment tool

It uses a NAVIS Works Freedom software (free download). It was developed from different shipyards throughout the country. The testing of the software will be completed on March 30, 2012. Paula invited the members to be one of the testers for the project. The online training program aids employees in understanding of the entire yard. It takes them from their role within the yard and how that impacts the entire production of the ship. Paula gave a demo and then said that she would update the group after the testing of the program was completed. She does not know the cost of using the training program at this time.

Higgins Boat Project

Tom Buske

Tom was unable to attend the meeting, so this topic was tabled.

Update on marine manufacturing related programming at colleges

Paula and Mark

Paula shared that the Basics of Structural Modeling course will be moving to an online format, which is designed for engineers and designers. In the Fall 2012 semester she plans on offering the Intro to Design for Production course. This course costs \$1,450 and she needs to have the course have approximately eight students to run the course. Mark reported that the first Marine Construction Advisory board meeting was held. For the first year of the program there are:

- 37 Marine construction welder focused
- 8 Marine construction electrical focused
- 5 Marine Engineering Technology

There will be graduates from the program this summer.

WEDC & Winona Composites tour

Josh

Josh shared that on March 22, WEDC will be taking a group to Winona State to tour its Composites Materials Technology Center. It is the only college that offers a Composites four year degree. Josh cannot attend, however he is hoping that someone from his company can attend. The Alliance is still interested in working with WEDC on a composites research and testing center. It would need to be centralized so marine builders could utilize it. Shelly from WEDC has brought two professors to Marquis. The Steering committee would like to invite Shelly to the May meeting to discuss the concept further.

Set next meeting date and agenda

All

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 11 at 1 p.m. at NWTC at the Business Assistance Center in the Boardroom .

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Member and Subcommittee Updates
3. Plan Supplier Show with Associate Members
4. Higgins Project
5. Gulf States Shipbuilding Consortium meeting update
6. Set next meeting date and plan agenda