

Minutes

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance Meeting

May 13, 2013

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

NWTC

Type of meeting:

Strategic Planning

Note taker:

Ann Franz

Attendees:

Josh Delforge, Steve Baue, Pete Bilski, Phillip Henslee, Tony Martens, Grayson Gerndt, Shelly Harkins, Dave Geitner, Brian Lancour, Joe Draves and Ann Franz

Agenda topics

Member and Subcommittee updates

All

Ann shared that one of the members from the Supply Chain subcommittee stated that he learned of a new supplier from another member and now will be saving \$100,000 annually by changing vendors. In addition, another member of the committee also learned of a new vendor for wood and is saving money, plus it is a better product. Amy and Ann attended the NSRP conference in April. *Insight* magazine had an article about the North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance in its latest issue. Josh shared that the new 44' Marquis is now in production. Joe Draves explained that he would like to host the next Marine Construction & Marine Engineering Technology Advisory Board meeting concurrently with one of the Alliance's meetings. At the meeting it was determined to hold the session at the June meeting; however after the meeting Joe realized that he had a conflict. The advisory session will be held at the July 10 meeting. He asked the companies invite their employees that work in the occupations related to the degree programs. Joe will give a report at that meeting in regards to how many graduates and how many are enrolled in the degree programs. Steve stated that he will be presenting at a conference at Rockwell Automation on 5/14/2013.

Tall Ships subcommittee

All

The video subcommittee is working on a 5-7 minute video that will feature a brief history of shipbuilding in the region, overview of each member and information about careers in marine manufacturing. Ron Tupper has donated his time to develop the video. It was determined by the Steering committee that his \$750 membership fee be waived for his work on this project. Ann reminded members to be sure that they have staff to man their booths at the event. There was some question on how to distribute the free tickets that are part of the package for the Alliance's sponsorship. Ann will contact Cindy with PMI for further clarification. It was also determined that the membership dues will pay for the remaining \$5,000 due the end of May for sponsoring the event.

Higgins Project

Tom Buske

Tom Buske sent Ann an email regarding next steps in the Higgins project. Tom Schulz and Steve Popp are working on separate corporate contributors to restore the boat, which will cover the entire cost of the restoration project. Unfortunately, the company that was going to provide storage space, no longer has it available due to a high demand in their business. Josh said that the goal of the project is for each member to do some of the work on the project, which will be filmed.

WEDC & U.S. Commercial Services

Shelly Harkins

Shelly from WEDC discussed several opportunities. The state legislature has in its budget funding the Wisconsin Maritime Center of Excellence that will be located in Marinette. The center will house the Navy and have space for incubators and/or suppliers.

Winona State University sent Shelly information about some composite research projects that they are looking for industry interest in funding these projects. Each project is approximately \$30-\$50 thousand dollars. Ann will email the information Shelly received to the membership. The committee discussed the interest it still has in developing composite's curriculum and testing. Ann shared that one of the northern technical colleges has a partnership with MI Tech to have a grad student conduct testing and research at its college. Ann will contact MI Tech about coming to a future meeting. Joe shared that NWTC is interested in exploring developing more courses in composites and offering it as one of the tracks in the marine construction technical degree program.

Shelly shared that she was contacted by UW Madison regarding a teacher institute they are having in the summer. In 2011, the teacher institute was in Door County and focused on maritime transportation. UW Madison is interested in possibly focusing this summer's institute on marine manufacturing. Educators are required to develop curriculum that incorporates what they learned in the program for their upcoming classes they instruct. Steve shared that he strongly supports this type of activity, which he had similar experience with in Pennsylvania in embedding arts into all core classes in a school. A conference call with UW Madison was set after the meeting for Wed., May 15 at 10 a.m. If you are interested in participating in the call, contact Ann.

The state is going to be offering an incumbent worker training grants called, "Fast Forward." The Alliance will discuss possible incumbent working training programs its members need at future meetings. Ann discussed a training program called, "Leadership Academy for Frontline Production Workers" that the NEW Manufacturing Alliance developed. The program is a 5-6 month program that focuses on the following modules: working as a high performing team, the peer leader, critical thinking/problem solving, conflict resolution, lean overview and behavior based safety. Individuals attend each of the 4 hour modules and then go online 2 weeks afterwards to explain how they used the skills they learned into the workplace. This could be one of the training programs the North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance includes in the grant application. The grant application should become available in Fall 2013.

Josh discussed last month's meeting with U.S. Commercial Services and the International Business division of WEDC. He encouraged companies that are exporting to utilize the services of both of these agencies.

Membership Recruitment

All

Ann met with a Green Bay race boat builder called, Marine Technology Inc. on Monday. Jerry Mennen the operations manager explained to her that the headquarters of the company is in Missouri. He seemed to have interest in joining the organization and will get back with her later next week. Members discussed adding to the number of Associate members. The Supply Chain subcommittee will be asked for companies they feel would add value to the organization and then the Steering committee will contact those companies regarding membership. The Associate Member Vendor Expo will be held in November 2013. Ann will look at dates when the Center for Business & Industry building is available to host the event between the dates of November 1 – 15, 2013.

Set next meeting date & plan agenda

All

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 12 at 1 p.m. at NWTC in Business Assistance Center's classroom.**

Agenda:

- Member and Subcommittee updates
- Tall Ships
- Composites
- CFIRE teacher institute
- Fast Forward grant
- Set Next Meeting Date and Plan Agenda