

Minutes

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance Meeting

December 11, 2013

1:00 PM

NWTC Green Bay Campus-BA133 Boardroom

Type of Meeting:	Steering Committee
Note Taker:	Debbie Thompson
Attendees:	Bill Behme -Bay Shipbuilding, Pete Bilski -MMC, Josh Delforge -Marquis, Dave Geitner -NWTC, Phillip Henslee -MMC, Brian Lancour -NWTC, Carrie Mahlik -NWTC, Curt Prokash -Marquis, Ann Franz and Debbie Thompson -NWTC

AGENDA TOPICS

PARTICIPANT(S)

Member & Subcommittee Updates

All

Josh Delforge reported Marquis has partnered with a company from the Netherlands to build VanDutch Marine boats. This is considered a long-term partnership and is a nice compliment to their current products. Marquis is looking to hire 120 to 150 people as a result of the deal, doubling their workforce. Production is expected to start this month. Marquis also has a new Carver coming out in January, along with two new Marquis projects in the works.

Phillip Henslee of Marinette Marine Corporation said they will launch the LCS5 on December 18.

Bill Behme of Bay Shipbuilding said they have 17 vessels coming in for winter fleet, with four being 1,000 footers. A cruise ship for the Mississippi is being considered. They are full to the hilt for their winter fleet and have begun to fill their downtime with repair work. Things are going well, as they have had more new built quote activity than in the past 10 years. They are currently doing a lot of hiring of approximately 200 people. Bill reported that 40% of their yard and office staff are at or near retirement age. They are working agreements with some of their retired employees to come back and work, enabling retirees to share their knowledge with new hires. Companies need to capture the knowledge of employees about to retire and strategize on succession planning. Ann said the State is very interested in providing training for retirees to be trained as supervisors or trainers.

Recap of the Associate Member Vendor Expo

All

Ann reported the suppliers were extremely pleased with the event. Overall, a lot of great comments about the expo were shared. It was agreed to continue the Associate Member Vendor Expo in November 2014 on the NWTC Green Bay campus.

Fast Forward Grant

All

Carrie Mahlik, NWTC grant writer, attended the meeting to discuss essential company requirements of the grant application. The group will be submitting one application. The training period is 12 months, with a two-year grant period. The proposals must be new initiatives in which training has not already begun. Employees who complete the program must receive an established pay raise at the end of the training period. A five-week boot camp focusing on welding and shipfitting was agreed to by Fincantieri. This would be for high school students or recent high school graduates. Ann shared that candidates could be recruited through the Job Centers.

The grant awards will be announced in January. Training could begin in March. The company has 90 days to hire the individuals that complete the training. Josh was concerned that a company may not be ready to hire after the 90 days. Carrie suggested indicating on the application where the fluctuations may be. Ann will contact Wausaukee Composites, as they may still be hiring and possibly interested. Marquis will participate in the grant in which job seekers will be trained in composites.

Ann reported that there will be another round for manufacturers with the Fast Forward Grant; however, it will not be in the second phase of offerings.

NCMMA Job Fair

All

Approximately 500 employees are currently being sought by North Coast member boat builders. Josh suggested a joint job fair by North Coast members. NCMMA associate members can also be invited. The job fair can be held on the NWTC Green Bay campus and can be advertised through Wisconsin TechConnect. Ann will contact NWTC career services in an effort to

advertise and coordinate the fair, along with outreach to the Milwaukee Job Center for recruitment. She will also contact Rich Ryman of the Green Bay Press-Gazette and local TV stations for advertisement, in addition to utilizing her network of high schools. Lakeshore Tech and Fox Valley Tech will also be invited to attend. Bill Behme suggested holding a special job fair later in the year for seniors in high school.

Available dates the NWTC quad conference room is available in February will be determined. The tentative time for the job fair is from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Plan Next Meeting	All
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The next meeting of the North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance steering committee will be held on **Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.** on the NWTC Green Bay campus in the BA101 classroom. Topics of discussion will be as follows.

- Brainstorm and Finalize the NCMMA Job Fair
- Recap of 2013
- Priorities for 2014
- Feedback from Members
- Opportunity for a Grant Sponsored Trade Mission