

# Minutes

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance Meeting  
Brown County STEM Innovation Center at UWGB  
May 10, 2023  
8:30 AM

<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Steering Committee Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Josh Delforge-Cruisers Yachts, Kevin Cullen-WI Maritime Museum, Meridith Jaeger-NWTC, Chad Janowski-Einstein Project, Chris Nielsen-FMG, Jeff Poch-NWTC, Dennis Rockhill-Einstein Project, Ericka Rohde-Bloch-UWGB, Ann Franz-NCMMA, Debbie Thompson-NWTC	
	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>
	<b>RECAP: SEAPERCH COMPETITION 4/1/2023</b>	<b>Dennis Rockhill</b>

The regional competition was held on Saturday, April 1, at Ashwaubenon Community Pool. All 20 slots filled; however, one team had to cancel. In addition, Washington Island students were unable to compete in person due to the boats not running. Dennis and Andrea Stromeyer went to Washington Island on 3/31 to judge their water challenge events. Elementary students, parents, and local business owners gathered to watch their competitions. Washington Island students then competed virtually on 4/1 for the poster presentations. Three of their four teams placed first, second, and third place wins. Their top two teams will be traveling to Maryland soon to compete at the international SeaPerch competition. It was suggested that we encourage other teams to replicate what Washington Island did with having parents and younger students see the students demonstrate their robots at their school.

Ann suggested visiting Washington Island the end of May or in September to show support for their student / faculty SeaPerch success.

#### For next year (2023/2024):

- Dennis would like to share sooner with teams how NCMMA rubrics differ from the international SeaPerch standards. Share dates, rubrics, and expectations earlier.
- Host the NCMMA regional competition in late February or early March 2024, as April has been found to be too late.
- Ann will contact Ashwaubenon Community Pool for available 2024 dates. This venue has worked well.
- NEWMA/NCMMA will continue to invest in SeaPerch kits.
- Contact the Navy League for additional funding support.
- The Atlas STEM Center will also be hosting a team next year.
- Kevin Cullen will promote SeaPerch to Lakeshore area schools.

#### OVERVIEW: EINSTEIN PROJECT & MAKERSPACE

Chad Janowski

Chad Janowski serves as Einstein Project's executive director, while Dennis Rockhill is the Makerspace director. Chad discussed Einstein Project's history, model and partners, followed by a group tour.

During 1990, it was believed science could be more engaging and impactful in the classroom if industry partners teamed with the education sector. The belief was to start educating younger students by providing them with high quality hands-on experiences. In February 1992, the first annual Einstein Academy for Professional Development was hosted. Einstein Project was originally part of CESA 7. Five years ago, they merged with Proto.

Currently, Einstein Project leases hands-on STEM curriculum and instructional materials to schools. Kits, their largest revenue source, come and go throughout the year and are refurbished by staff members. Adults with disabilities are hired to pack the kits. Their senior employment program, funded by State and Federal grants, provides additional support.

School districts are always pressed for time and money, making the STEM kits a cost effective way to provide students with hands-on experiences. They began serving 9 school districts and are currently serving 24. Professional development is offered to teachers, increasing their science skills. UWGB engineering students are hired and also serve as role models.

Einstein Project is working to increase their hands-on footprint. Through fundraising efforts, they can make their offerings affordable. Einstein Project’s partners, via monetary and in-kind donations, bring excellent STEM education to classrooms and communities. Chad is looking forward to the future and continuing to share their vision.

**UPDATE: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GRANTS**

**Meridith Jaeger**

The Maritime Center of Excellence application, for the training and education designation, will likely need to be resubmitted. This is due to changes by MARAD that voided the application. Structure was built around what the granting authority may look like. For profit training centers will no longer be eligible. Meridith hopes to receive further information soon. Efforts are also being made to get people to sign-on to a bill for additional funding through Mike Gallagher’s office.

Three grant opportunities are in the works. All of these opportunities contain NCMMA member brainstormed elements.

- Submitted for a Navy STEM training grant. Trades education, especially welding careers, is the focus. The white paper has been submitted. By June 25, they will know if they have to submit a proposal.
- Department of Defense IBAS Application for Good Jobs Challenge – This grant would build the brand and awareness of regional shipbuilding. Micro-credentials will also be considered.
- Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program Grant – NWTC is not the lead on this grant. This project is a collaboration from across the State, with many groups involved. Information and resources were gathered that determined a research component is also needed. It is not only a shipbuilding workforce issue. They are also working with an organization out of Chicago. By August, organizers will know if they will be moving forward with this grant.

**2023 ASSOCIATE MEMBER BREAKFAST**

The Associate Member Breakfast is being planned for fall 2023, possibly at Fincantieri Marinette Marine. Ann will contact Jan Allman to discuss potential September dates.

**NEWMA EVENTS & PROGRAMMING**

- May 1: Digital Literacy training began at Goodwill. – Opportunities are still available, including a Spanish version.
- May 18: NEWMA & US Venture Graduate Seniors Hiring Event at NWTC’s Green Bay Campus
- May 23: Future of Work – Childcare Summit at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens
- June 7: President’s Cup Scholarship Golf Scramble at Blackwolf Run
- June 8: NEWMA Quarterly Membership Meeting at Lambeau Field

**NEXT MEETING**

The next NCMMA meeting is on July 12, 2023, via MS Teams, 8:30 a.m.