

TUMMA (The Upper Mississippi Manufacturing Association) Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee

Date: July 14, 2016

Location: Workforce Development Center, La Crosse

Attendance:

TUMMA: Mark Glendenning, John Belmonte, John Funke, Taylor Mathy, Jerry Arndt,
Others: Jenny Kuderer (WEDC), Beth Sullivan (Western WDB), Rande Dakin, Liz Wallace
and Patti Balacek, Western Technical College; Greg Flogstad (MRRPC)

Mark Glendenning chaired the meeting and called to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. Update on Business Services Coordinator – Mr. Glendenning reported the RFP process is completed. There were three proposals, and the committee recommended that Western Technical College receive the funding. The WDB passed the recommendation. Ms. Sullivan added that Western Technical College does have the ability to incur funding and a contract will be written soon. Ms. Balacek added that Western is in the final stages of posting the position. The committee to evaluate the candidates will be herself, Mark Glendenning and Beth Sullivan. It anticipated that the candidate will be able to begin by September 1.

2. Grant in Manufacturing – There are two grant opportunities to be discussed:

a. **American Promise Grant** – Mr. Dakin from Western Technical College was on hand to discuss a grant opportunity. Currently discussions are for a collaboration with Western, Chippewa Valley and Indianhead Technical College to write a proposal that would center on Manufacturing. Required partners are the colleges, the Workforce Boards (Western and West Central), Economic development agencies and manufacturing associations. The grant would create opportunities for training and employment in the manufacturing sector. A concern is the availability of participants to receive training from the grant. Perhaps this could be solved through an incumbent worker program for a part of the grant.

Motion (Funke/Belmonte) to support the grant application and participate in the development discussions. Motion passed unanimously.

b. **Workforce Innovation for a Strong Economy** – Ms. Kuderer reported on a 7 Rivers Alliance Project that is currently in the funding stages. Workforce Innovation for a Strong Economy would work with key stakeholders to develop and workforce attraction and retention strategies for entry-level through C-Suite positions. The regional talent plan will provide a blueprint for developing and strengthening internal and external employee pipelines to support current and future employers in the 7 Rivers Region. A 10 year plan will be created.

Discussion centered on the need for a coordinated effort for this plan. TUMMA members would like to see more work content and framework and how the plan will coordinate with other efforts in the region. (Synergy, etc.)

Motion (Belmonte/Funke) to approve involvement in the plan. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board will write a letter of support from TUMMA that will spell put the need for coordination and involvement of TUMMA in the development of the plan.

3. Treasurer's Report - Mr. Funke reported a beginning balance of \$10,951.77. Receipts were \$900 for membership (Chart). The ending balance is \$11,851.77. One more membership has been received that will appear on the next month statement.

4. Director's Report – No report

5. New Members – Chart has joined, USEMCO has sent payment. Mr. Arndt reported that TRANE membership check should be received shortly. Ms. Mathy inquired about the status of Mathy invoice, as the company was informed that the dues structure had changed. Mr. Funke will follow us with Ms. Mathy.

6. Marketing – Consensus was to hold off on marketing until the Business Services Coordinator is hired. Mr. Glendenning reported that Mr. Johnson was approached by Ann Snow of the Children's Museum on an exhibit aimed at Manufacturing. Ms. Snow is interested in input on the design of the exhibit. Discussion on whether monetary support ensued, as it was unclear if this was in the request. Consensus was that TUMMA was not in a position to support, but individuals and companies may want to consider donating to support the exhibit. Mr. Glendenning will follow up with Mr. Johnson and the exact nature of the request.

7. K-12 Committee – The K-12 Committee met prior to the meeting today. The Committee discussed adding INSPIRE to the Career Cruising Platform for the area. Several School districts will be using Career Cruising, so it would make sense to pilot with a few of the schools. Discussions are on-going on the financial support for INSPIRE. Ms. Mathy will demonstrate how the company uses INSPIRE in the South Central region.

The K-12 Committee will have a presentation on the National Career Readiness Certificate and the INSPIRE portal at the next meeting. Decision to overlap the Education and Executive Committees so these presentations may be heard by all.

8. Closed Session

TUMMA Moved into a closed session.

Next Meeting > August 11, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Beth Sullivan Recorder