

Big Country Manufacturing Alliance Meeting Notes



August 9, 2018
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 *Tour*
Noon - 1:00 p.m. *Meeting*
Bridgestone Bandag
4750 FM 18, Abilene, TX

In attendance:

Representing Manufacturers: Joseph Aaron – *Coca Cola*, Brien Burke - *Rentech*, David Byerly – *Bridgestone Bandag*, Andrew Harmon - *Clavél*, Patrick Darnell – *BWJ Metalworks*, Lilas Davis – *R. E. Dye*, Steve Dye – *R.E. Dye*, Chad Ezell – *Ezell Aviation*, Jeff Grimland – *USG*, Larry Hillis – *Ludlum Measurements*, Bob Johnson – *BWJ Metalworks*, Gary Jones - *USG*, Larry Ludlum - *Ludlum Measurements*, Thomas Taylor – *Ludlum Measurements*, Dason Williams - *Clavél*, Richard Williams – *RAM Inc.*

Representing Support Partners: John Bolton - *Roscoe Collegiate ISD*, Steve Collins - *Workforce Solutions*, Carol Dupree – *Cisco College*, Ketta Garduno – *Abilene ISD*, Vicki Hayhurst – *Region XIV Service Center*, Lindsey Phillips – *Workforce Solutions*, Robert Puls – *Workforce Solutions*, Mary Ross – *Workforce Solutions*, Kathy Turner – *Workforce Solutions*, Tammie Virden – *Ballinger Chamber of Commerce*.

After reviewing the guidelines for the tour by facility host David Byerly, Bridgestone Bandag employees took small groups of attendees on a tour of the facility. Immediately following the tour, lunch was provided to the group by the facility host.

Steve Dye stated the purpose for today's meeting was to give a brief review of how the organization has developed over the past 18 months and to clarify the direction for the BCMA going forward. Steve Dye and Thomas Taylor provided a Power-Point presentation (attached for complete detail) that included a general overview and a look at the opportunities for participation. No further business was discussed during the meeting.

- **How the alliance was started.** The two key groups who were instrumental in starting the Alliance was Western Texas College, the grant holder, and Workforce Solutions for convening the initial meetings and bringing in Lindsey Woolsey to facilitate sessions. As a result, The Big Country Manufacturing Alliance is the **FIRST** recognized NextGen Manufacturing Partnership in Texas.
- **What we know today and why we're here.** The value of BCMA is the ability to communicate needs as a single voice to Support Partners, identify education and training needs, build relationships between manufacturers, and highlight manufacturing capabilities in the Big Country. Steve shared some examples to look at: EastBay (California) <http://www.ebamp.org/> Northern Colorado (NOCO) <https://nocomfg.com/> Mohave Kingman (Arizona) <http://mohavemfgassociation.com/>
- **Early benefits of working together.** BCMA currently has a webpage that is hosted on the Workforce Solutions website <https://www.workforcesystem.org/416/Big-Country-Manufacturing-Alliance> The Alliance will work towards building their own website as part of the future growth. Other benefits for members include: participation in the Next Gen training in both Austin and Chicago, development of a soft skills inventory, conducting a critical occupations survey, identifying best practices related to recruitment and retention, networking at meetings, and building relationships and awareness.



- **Next steps and what the future holds.**
 - The four (4) teams, with identified leader of team, that are left include:
 - Worker Recruitment & Retention Team
 - Training Needs Team
 - School Partnership Team – Leader, Mark Coleman
 - Business to Business Connections Team – Leader, Steve Dye
 - Mark Coleman, Steve Dye and Thomas Taylor have met and identified three key next steps:
 - Create an organizational structure for leadership. This group would determine how to handle money, communication, etc.
 - Seek additional grants and funding to support BCMA. Should members pay a fee, generate money through events, seek funding—what are opportunities that will be of benefit to members without being a strain/drain on members financially.
 - Develop additional networking opportunities. This may occur at quarterly meetings, happy hour or social networking events, or events such as a Big Country trade show, where manufacturers and suppliers can connect.
- **BCMA Opportunities for you.** The opportunities are identified –
 - Volunteer for Team
 - Future Leadership Opportunities as a team lead or steering committee member
 - Host a site meeting and tourSupport Partners will provide help, it is ultimately the manufacturer's alliance.
- **Questions and Answers**
 - When will structure be decided? Members will be asked to provide feedback. Consider your willingness and availability to serve on a leadership team/steering committee.
 - It was pointed out that industry tours are very good and a draw for members to attend meetings as they have an opportunity to learn about each other's industry and discover how much they have in common. When first round of tours have been completed to all businesses, the next visit to a facility could focus on a specific topic or area of specialization, such as lean, automation, safety, etc. These would become learning events.
 - It was reiterated that we need to celebrate successes of BCMA.
 - The teams can meet as often as they want. Making progress throughout the quarter, and the teams reporting it at the meetings, is important.
 - Members are not limited to serve on just one committee, rather it can be multiple committees. The teams all have some overlap and work together.
 - We need to have a sense of urgency about making key decisions and moving forward.

Next Meeting – Save the Date: November 15, 2018, Ludlum Measurements, Sweetwater, TX

Meeting Adjourned