

North Central Illinois Logistics Council
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2008

The North Central IL Logistics Council meeting was called to order by Ted VanSickle at 8:00 a.m. Ted welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

MEMBERS PRESENT: DeAnna Carlson, Debbie Clausen, Pam Furlan, Ray Gatza, Shanna Leone, Kevin Lindeman, Pete Nelson, Boyd Palmer, Erika Robbins, Dianna Schuler, Louie Sekula, Tom Spelich, Keith Stevenson, Ted VanSickle, Mike Neubauer, Cathy Bartelt, Alison Wasmer, Bruce Hartman, Harlan Hawkins, Jeff Hettrick, Debb Ladgenski, Colleen Martin, Roger Stevenson, Bill Holloway, Rhonda Willis

EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Kevin Authenbaugh, Rosalyn Pigati, Patti Lunn, Gary Sonnenberg, Matt Winchester, Wanda Ajster, Bob LeCleriq, Glen Sauter, Carol Baness, Linda Delimata, Bob Dunsworth, Jack Wilson, Jim Freehill

OTHERS PRESENTERS: April Casey, Jennifer Krolak, Jeff Dankert, Melissa Garzanelli, Ken Smith, Joy Murphy, Katie Shevokas, Sally Hanrahan

Ted asked Keith Stevenson to provide an update on the Warehousing & Distribution Certificate program at IVCC. Keith told members that the program started up again last week. He said that the college has waived the start date for the program which will allow students to enter during mid-stream. Keith said that the college has advertised for another instructor who would teach from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. If members know of anyone interested they are asked to contact the HR Department or Kathy Glascock at IVCC. Keith said that currently there are 6 students enrolled.

Ted informed attendees that he brought along a publication developed by Ace Hardware which encourages their employees to participate in the Warehousing Program at IVCC.

Ray Gatza stated that he has three employees from Advantage Logistics currently enrolled in the program and they have very positive feedback about the class.

Keith stated that teaching the program is very fulfilling for him as he learns from the students as well.

Ray Gatza informed attendees that when he and Ted VanSickle visited with the school counselors in Ottawa that many were under the belief that the warehousing and distribution center industry is a greasy environment. He told attendees that once they view the DVD about the logistics industry some of their questions may be addressed. Ray said that he has received a couple of calls since the visit with the schools counselors about going into the schools to talk with the students. He said that the Council will help educate the youth and provide career options for them in the distribution and logistics industry.

Ted told members that everyone received a copy of a proposal "Wheeling Into the Schools". He said this proposal is a pilot project which is being presented to Mr. Rich Myers. Ted said that the proposal talks about the logistics industry and how it is developing. He then said it talks about a definition of logistics, the image of the industry and the breadth of the network we

have here. Ted said that the mission and goals are also identified in the proposal as well as what accomplishments we are trying to achieve with this pilot program. He said that tours will be available at local businesses and that some businesses may be able to offer job shadowing and internship opportunities.

Jeff Hettrick offered insight as to why logistics. Jeff said that a large intermodal yard is in Elwood and Rochelle. He said that Seneca is in the process of building one. Jeff told attendees that the warehousing industry is moving from the east to the west along Route 80. He said that Kohls is coming to Ottawa in the very near future. In order to stay a step ahead and to make sure that the workforce is here, Jeff said that we are starting the partnership early. He said that even though we don't see them now, they are coming and we want to make sure that our children are prepared.

Keith Stevenson noted that the Utica Logistic Park has a website that identifies the types of warehousing being considered for that section of property on Route 6 & 178.

Ted asked if anyone attended the Dixon Chamber Lunch and Learn session. Vicki Carlson stated that representatives are going to an industrial showcase in Chicago next week to promote the I-88 West corridor. Vicki said that they have been working hard to let people know what is available in the Dixon area.

Pam Furlan asked the Educator Representatives, as they are watching the DVD, to consider how this presentation would fit into their daily schedules and what would be the best way to show it to the students.

DeAnna Carlson then thanked members for allowing PDQ to develop the DVD. She said that it was a rewarding experience and feels that it is a good tool for guidance counselors as it brings knowledge of the industry to students. DeAnna said that the DVD is geared toward high school students. The DVD was then presented.

After the viewing of the DVD, the educational representatives were asked if it was useful. If so, how do we use it and how do we get into the schools and talk with the students.

Overall, the comments from the educational representatives were very positive. Ottawa High school stated that they could combine some of their vocational classes together to show it to the students. It was commented that the skills required needed to be stressed to the students. They stated that students don't always take the teacher seriously when it comes to the required classes and skill sets that are needed for a particular job. They stated that if an employer was standing before a class telling them first hand what was needed that would be beneficial.

Pam Furlan stated that one of the things that was discussed about the pilot program is that the DVD is the initial step. The second phase would be a face-to-face visit into the school. She asked if that would be possible. Could it be worked into a school schedule to allow for such a visit so that the employers can talk to the students about the skills needed? If this was workable, how can the Logistics Council get into the schools?

Education Representatives commented that they would make it work. Rosalyn Pigati (Hall High School) said that after the kids see it there would be an immediate interest. She said at

the time, the school would call to see if someone could come and talk to a small group. Rosalyn commented that members of the Logistics Council would need to talk to them soon after they saw the DVD so that they remember it.

As for the size of the groups, it was agreed that a smaller group was better than a large assembly.

Tom Spelich stated that most employers would be willing to react soon to the need to talk with students.

Rosalyn Pigati also stated that the students will want to know the salary and what is in it for them.

During discussion it was stated that all high schools have some kind of class that they would be able to allow employers to come and show the DVD and talk with students. The Education Representatives stated that most times the employers would have the entire class time to address the students.

Streator High School representatives stated that they have provided tours for students and suggested perhaps IVCC considering hosting a tour for those students who are serious about the logistics industry.

DeAnna Carlson said that the DVD will also be available on some websites as a QuickTime video in case counselors and/or teachers wanted to use it as a reference.

Debb Ladgenski asked about a brochure for students. DeAnna Carlson said that she would agree about a brochure. DeAnna stated that she and April Casey have talked about one with a tear off page that students who were interested in learning more could complete and turn in. April Casey stated that there is an insert with the DVD that provides some additional information. DeAnna stated that the DVD is also being translated into Spanish, but it is not yet finished.

Cathy Bartelt asked about the success of the Warehousing Program at IVCC. Keith said that the class was first offered in April with 4 students. This class, he said, has 6 enrollees and interest is starting to grow. Ray Gatza said that the program is still in the infancy stages. Pam Furlan said that one of the reasons that we are working on this project is to market the Warehousing Program more. She said that several employers have endorsed the program and some will even guarantee an interview to those who complete the program.

Tom Spelich stated that employers are looking for a vast array of skills. He said that there is not just one set of skills that employers need and that there are different skill sets for different positions. Tom cautioned the educational representatives to not discount any individual.

Jeff Hettrick commented that targeting the DVD to students promotes a greater knowledge of logistics and exposes them to various career options.

Ted VanSickle said that industry employers are willing to go into the schools and share this information with students. Ray Gatza told attendees that contact information is on the front of

the North Central Illinois Logistics Council brochure and encouraged education representatives to call them.

Pam Furlan explained the role of the Steering Committee and asked for one or two volunteers from the educational community. She said that it would be beneficial to have education representatives on the Steering Committee to provide input into this pilot project. She also asked the education representatives if it would be ok to contact them as the pilot program progressed and use them as a sounding board for different issues.

Ted VanSickle asked everyone to complete the evaluations and turn in before they leave.

Pam Furlan informed attendees that the Business Employment Skills Team, under the guidance of the North Central Illinois Works, will be conducting Soft Skills training to local businesses. She said that a flyer was included with the handouts.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

**North Central Illinois Logistics Council
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2008**

The North Central IL Logistics Council meeting was called to order by Ted VanSickle at 8:00 a.m. Ted welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ron Anderson, DeAnna Carlson, Debbie Clausen, Pam Furlan, Ray Gatza, Kathy Glascock, Brad Kersten, Angie Kusnerik, Debb Ladgenski, Curt Lawson, Shanna Leone, Rhonda Willis, Pete Nelson, Boyd Palmer, Mike Phalen, Michael Reindl, Tim Robey, Tom Spelich, Roger Stevenson, Ted VanSickle, Alison Wasmer, Bill Holloway

OTHERS PRESENT: April Casey, Rosalyn Pigati

Presentation

Ted introduced Tom Spelich with ArcelorMittal to members. Tom provided a power point presentation entitled Rethinking Transportation Mode Utilization. First of all, Tom provided members with the history of the ArcelorMittal plant in Hennepin. Tom talked about how the company operated and the various buy outs that it has experienced during the past 10 years. Tom said that ArcelorMittal, as with any company that transports its products, today's fuel costs have a huge impact on the bottom line. ArcelorMittal, Tom said, solicited bids from their trucking firms to be sure they were getting the best price possible for moving their freight over the road. This exercise, he said, saved the company about \$2.8M.

Tom told members that changes in transportation mode also contributed to reducing costs, and shared some examples as concrete evidence. Tom said that one such example involved ArcelorMittal's unique relationship with one of the Big Three auto maker's plant in Michigan. Under the terms of the current agreement, ArcelorMittal pays the cost of shipping coils from its plants to the auto maker's plant if the freight is shipped by truck, but the auto maker pays if it is shipped by rail. Tom said that the steel company is switching as much as possible to moving the freight by truck to reduce costs. However, this change will require changes on the manufacturing end to be sure demand is met on a timely basis.

Tom shared other similar examples where the mode of transportation was changed to the more cost efficient means, which sometimes meant company personnel would have to step out of their comfort zone and look at logistics from strictly a "numbers side". He said that rethinking the way that ArcelorMittal was doing business has saved the company \$18M in one year. Tom closed by pointing out that the company is still looking at other things in hopes of adding to that bottom line savings.

Spotlight Best Practice

Pam Furlan introduced Shanna Leone with the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. Shanna informed members that for the past several years' employers have shared their concern about employees not showing up for work, having a bad attitude and in general lacking soft skills. She said that BEST developed that focus on such programs as team work, self management, work ethic, customer service, etc. Shanna told members that she had some

flyers and business cards available and further information was available on the BEST website.

Warehousing & Distribution Certificate Program Update

Kathy Glascock disseminated a copy of the Warehousing Certificate Program curriculum. She highlighted some of the changes for the program noting that some of the pre-requisites have been eliminated. Another change for fall 2008 is that the program can be completed in one semester. Kathy reminded employers that for students who successfully complete the program are guaranteed an interview at a local logistics company.

Pilot Program Update

Pam Furlan provided members with an update on the pilot program. Pam disseminated a handout entitled Guidelines for High School Visits and reviewed the document for members. She said that if any member is interested in being on a team to visit local high schools to sign up using the registration form that is placed on the tables. As a Council, Pam said that a general industry brochure will be developed as well as a flow chart of job opportunities noting advancement opportunities. Pam said that the Steering Committee will work on these projects but asked for all members input. She said that a step-by-step handout will also be provided to students to guide them along their path from graduating high school to advancing in the workplace.

Members then posed questions to Rosalyn Pigati regarding the logistics of the high school visits. She said that the initial visits would be during the lunch breaks. Roz said that if students are interested in learning more about the logistics industry that time will be set aside during their school hours to meet one-on-one with a member of the NCILC.

Pam commented that the pilot program will be launched at Hall High School

Ted stated that members have talked with principals and counselors and most of the schools appear to be interested in the project.

Website Discussion

DeAnna Carlson informed members that the NCILC website is being designed and samples of the web pages will be available at the March Steering Committee Meeting.

Pam stated that one of the things that were talked about at the Steering Committee meeting was to include the NCILC member's names and companies with a direct link to their specific website. The NCILC Steering Committee suggested that these members be offered 6-month free advertising on the NCILC website and then after that period a small fee be assessed to continue the linkage between their company and the NCILC.

DeAnna stated that they are also looking for volunteers to be proof readers and correspondents to keep the NCILC up-to-date and correct.

Pam stated that forms were included on all tables for members to complete if they are interested in advertising on the NCILC.

Open Discussion

Ray shared with members about the presentation that he was a part of for the IVAC Breakfast. He said that there appeared to be a lot of interest from those attending the breakfast.

Rosalyn asked members if employers check with the high schools regarding attendance records or ask for information regarding the Work Keys program before they make a hiring decision on a student. Those members in attendance said that they do not check on these matters. This started a discussion about the Work Keys program and Rosalyn provided an overview of the program. After discussion, it was agreed that Rosalyn would make a presentation about the Work Keys program at the May NCILC meeting.

Pam informed members that Brian Watt with Exel Transportation will be making the presentation at the March meeting. In April, Pam said that a tour of the TLC in Rochelle has been scheduled.

Ted reminded members to complete their evaluations and to indicate if they are interested in making a best practice presentation and if so to include the topic. He also reminded members to sign up for school visits and website advertising.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

**North Central Illinois Logistics Council
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2008**

The North Central IL Logistics Council meeting was called to order by Ted VanSickle at 8:09 a.m. Ted welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ron Anderson, Pam Furlan, Ray Gatza, Kathy Glascock, Bruce Lamps, Boyd Palmer, Mike Phalen, Mike Reindl, Erika Robbins, Tom Spelich, Roger Stevenson, Ted VanSickle, Alison Wasmer, Debbie Clausen, Tim Robey, DeAnna Carlson

OTHERS PRESENT: Representative Robert Pritchard, Reed Wilson

Ted noted that the speaker, Brian Watts, had not yet arrived and continued with the meeting.

Ted informed members that he recently attended the Quad City Logistics Council meeting and found it interesting. He said that they are discussing the same issues that we are in terms of a labor ready workforce. One advantage they have, Ted said, is that they have a supply chain through the state and community colleges in their area.

Ray said that he would be addressing the Ottawa Rotary Club on March 26th.

Ted then introduced Roger Stevenson with Transervice who presented the Best Practice. Roger told members that his company, Transervice, has been in service since 1969 and has about 175 locations. He told members that Transervice builds a relationship with their customers which results in long term partnerships and commitments. Transervice, Roger said, is a full service leasing company which means that they staff it and maintain it. Roger told members that Transervice also provides for continued training for all their staff. Some of the partners include DHL, Pepsi, New York Times, Bell Canada, Verizon, Jays, Certified Groceries, Kroger and Walgreens. Roger told members that Transervice has a gain sharing program that provides incentives if actual operating costs are less than projected costs.

In closing, Roger stated that Transervice has 1,350 individuals on their payroll throughout the United States. He said that logistics is a competitive market and it is difficult to find drivers as it is mechanics.

Discussion was then held about logistic companies going Green, similar to UPS. One member commented about the airless tires and the impact they will have for trucks. It was noted that all sorts of innovations will be coming out to help the environment.

Ted informed members that there was a scheduling error and Brian Watts would not be making a presentation today. However, Brian is to email his presentation to Pam who will disseminate it to members.

Kathy Glascock provided an update on the Warehousing & Manufacturing Certificate program at IVCC. She said that she continues to get calls from non-traditional college age individuals who are interested in the class.

DeAnna Carlson informed members that she will be showing the DVD at the Princeton Library on April 9th at 5:30 p.m. and at the Spring Valley Library on May 8th at 5:00 p.m.

Ray noted that he was asked by Boyd Palmer to make a presentation and show the DVD to local bankers and real estate developers on April 24th.

Pam Furlan told members that one of the services that is offered by BEST, Inc. under the Workforce Investment Act can assist businesses with training for their incumbent workers. She said that if any business has workers that they are going to upgrade and/or promote that BEST may be able to assist companies in reimbursing them up to 50% for training costs. Pam said that if anyone is interested to call her or Shanna Leone.

Ted VanSickle provided an update on the Pilot Program. He said that he met with Princeton High school principals and counselors and presented the DVD to them. Ted said that he has been invited to present the DVD and speak to 2 classes at Princeton High School. He said that the Pilot Project is expected to be rolled-out at Hall High School in the fall. Ted also told members that Seneca and LaSalle-Peru High Schools have contacted him to set up presentations. Ted told members that Ray developed a flow-chart to be used during the presentations and the Steering Committee will need to discuss banners and giveaways.

DeAnna Carlson told members that the website is under construction and it should be posted by May 1. She asked that members provide a company profile and photo to her before April 8th.

Open Discussion

Tom Spelich asked members about the National Truck Drivers slow down that is scheduled for the first week in April. Tim Robey commented that his drivers will not stop for the slow down. Members then held a discussion regarding the impact that the fuel costs is having on the logistics industry. Members also discussed with Representative Pritchard and Reed Wilson with Representative Jerry Weller's office what can be done in Washington to affect the increased fuel costs.

It was noted that the local legislators were suggested as presenters for the June NCILC meeting and perhaps this topic could be addressed at that time.

Boyd Palmer noted that the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce is having their Annual Luncheon on April 22nd and local legislators will be presenting at that meeting and invited members to attend.

At the next meeting, Ted stated, that members will tour the TLC in Rochelle. Ray Gatza said that the tour of 2 buildings and a short presentation will start at 8:00. Members agreed to carpool and will meet at K-Mart in Peru at 7:00 a.m. or at the Mendota Civic Center at 7:20 a.m.

Members were reminded that Rosalyn Pigati will make a presentation on WorkKeys at the May meeting.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

North Central Illinois Logistics Council
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2008

The North Central IL Logistics Council members were welcomed to TLC (Total Logistic Control) by Steve Kendall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peggy Blair, Pam Furlan, Ray Gatza, Boyd Palmer, Mike Phalen, Mike Reindl, Roger Stevenson, Ted VanSickle, Debbie Clausen, Tim Robey, Shanna Leone, Dianna Schuler, Keith Stevenson, Brad Kersten, Louie Sekula, Rob Lentz, Ray Schmitt

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Roeglen, Len Reynolds, Scott Miller, Cindy Kulas, Jo Ann Johnson

Steve Kendall then introduced Tony Zayas. Tony told members that TLC is a multi customer transitioned warehouse and provided a power point presentation about the facility.

Members then broke up into groups and toured the cold storage facility. Members learned that product is brought into the TLC via truck and rail, however, it was noted that 80% of product is delivered by rail. The majority of projects are distributed from the TLC by truck. Members had an opportunity to observe workers moving products from the cold storage units where they are held until shipments are ready to be processed. One of the tour guides stated that product is turned around monthly.

After the tours were completed members returned to the conference room where there was an opportunity to ask questions of TLC personnel. Steve Kendall complimented the NCILC on their efforts to bring young people into the industry. He stated that we need to continue to educate the general public, so it is easier to attract people to our industry. Members thanked Steve and the TLC personnel for the opportunity to tour their facility.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

North Central Illinois Logistics Council
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2008

The NCILC Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Ted VanSickle.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ron Anderson, DeAnna Carlson, Debbie Clausen, Pam Furlan, Bruce Hartman, Bill Holloway, Sue Isermann, Brad Kersten, Debb Ladgenski, Shanna Leone, Bob Meeks, Boyd Palmer, Mike Phalen, Michael Reindl, Erika Robbins, Louie Sekula, Tom Spelich, Douglas Stockley, Caroline Torres, Ted VanSickle, Maureen DeLong, Karen Taylor-White, Jeremy Schultz, Eric Kresien, April Casey, Bill Casey, Charles Gonigam, Alison Wasmer

OTHERS PRESENT: Carol Baness, Rosalyn Pigati, Carrie Folken

Presentation

Ted VanSickle introduced Rosalyn Pigati to members. Rosalyn provided members with several handouts about the WorkKeys Assessment Tool that is used in high schools through the State of Illinois. She then told members that WorkKeys is a test developed by the ACT and used as part of the Prairie State Achievement Exams. Rosalyn said that the information that is obtained from the WorkKeys Assessment test can be made available to employers by the schools, upon written consent of the student if over the age of 18. She said if the student was under the age of 18, a parent or guardian signature would need to be obtained. Rosalyn also stated that although this information can be provided by schools to employers it cannot be used as the determining factor to hire someone or not.

Rosalyn then went through the handouts that she provided and explained to members the benefit that school transcripts would have for employers. She presented some different samples of student transcripts and reviewed the data with attendees. Rosalyn encouraged employers to get a copy of a potential employee's transcripts. She stated that continually tells students that the data on the transcripts is very important because potential employers can call a school and get the information. Rosalyn said that unless employers start requesting them that the students won't consider it important. Once they do, she said, word will get out among their peers and maybe schools would see an improvement in absenteeism, tardiness, scores, etc.

Rosalyn then explained to members that WorkKeys tests for reading and math. She then explained to members how the results of the Assessment profile can be related to levels required for a specific job.

Rosalyn also provided information to attendees should an employer be interested in purchasing the full battery of WorkKey tests. She reminded members that by used the results from the schools does not allow an employer to use those results as a reason to hire or not hire the student.

Questions were asked of Rosalyn and a good discussion was had regarding the WorkKeys tests. Attendees agreed that more employers should be aware of this information and how it can be obtained from the schools.

Carol Baness told attendees that, under State law, all schools must maintain Individual Career Plans (ICP) that also keeps track of students achievements through their grade and high school years. Carol said that employers can obtain a copy of a potential employee ICP also by release of written consent.

Members than discussed how they can share this information with other employers in the area. They discussed the possibility of sharing the information through the local Chambers of Commerce, Human Resource Associations, and the local NCI Works Employers Conference to start with.

Bob Meeks volunteered to work with Rosalyn to develop a packet of materials including a sign off sheet for students (and/or parents) to streamline the process for HR personnel.

Best Practice

Sue Isermann shared with members the benefits of Employer Advisory Councils. She provided members with a handout that summarizes how advisory councils are used to modify curriculum offered at community colleges. She stated that colleges and/or other training institutions often ask employers for their input about what they should be teaching or whether or not the curriculum they are using is the correct one as well as if the technology they are using is the correct one for the course. Sue stated that if employers get a call or an email from the college and are asked to participate on an Advisory Council to seriously consider doing so. She said that it is not a huge commitment and generally only takes about two meetings a year, if that.

Sue then explained how the advisory council worked in offering the Warehousing program at IVCC. Sue said that the program was recommended by the regional task force as part of the State's Critical Skills Shortage Initiative. She said that the program was an off-the-shelf program and was made available to all community colleges throughout the State, but IVCC, through the input of the Advisory Council, added math courses and computer training to their program.

Warehousing & Distribution Certificate Program Update

Sue Isermann told attendees that 5 students completed the Warehousing Certificate Program last semester. She said that Fall semester starts on August 19th and the courses are in sequence so that it can be completed in 1 semester.

Members asked for some promotional materials for the program. She said that she will have them shortly and disseminate them to members.

Sue then told members that Kathy Glascock will be leaving IVCC. Doug Stockley will serve as interim Dean for that position.

Pilot Program Update

Ted VanSickle stated that he had an opportunity to meet with Princeton High School students and show the DVD. He said the reaction of the students were mixed – some appeared to be interested while others had no interest at all. Ted said that he was contacted the Circuit Breaker School and will be going over there soon.

Website Update

DeAnna Carlson told members that the website is still under construction. She encouraged members to send their business web address and logo to Jo Ann Johnson so that it could be included on the website. She said that the website should be ready by the June meeting.

General Logistics Brochure

Pam Furlan presented a draft copy of the general logistics brochure. She stated that the brochure is still a work in progress and if anyone had any changes to contact her. Pam said that the brochure should be available by the next meeting.

Open Discussion

Sue Isermann shared with members that IVCC and SRAVTE are providing a 2-day event for educators in our area. She said that on June 9th they have an opportunity to learn the trades of operating engineers and heavy equipment operators. On June 10th they will be able to learn about the transportation and warehouse distribution industry by touring PetsMart, DoubleD, and Advantage Logistics. She said that the DVD will also be shown.

Debb Ladgenski informed attendees of a free concert that the City of Spring Valley is hosting. Mike Phalen recommended that a member of the NCILC contact the local chambers to get the information about WorkKeys in the Chamber of Commerce newsletters. Ted assured him that it will be done.

Next Meetings

Pam Furlan informed attendees that state legislators have been invited to serve on a panel to discuss and dialog with members issues facing the logistics industry. The meeting will be on June 19th, 8:00 a.m. at the Mendota Civic Center.

Ted informed members that the Logistics Council will not meet in July or December.

Adjournment

In closing, Ted asked attendees to complete the evaluations before leaving. With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

North Central Illinois Logistics Council
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2008

The NCILC Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Ted VanSickle.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Shoulders, Pat Ugolini, Pam Furlan, Jeff Hettrick, Brad Kersten, Angie Kusnerik, Debb Ladgenski, Bruce Lamps, Curt Lawson, Shanna Leone, Erika Robbins, Tim Robey, Louis Sekula, Ted VanSickle, Scott Gerbitz, Jeff Fiegenschuh, Karen Taylor-White

Presentation

Ted VanSickle welcomed everyone and asked members to introduce themselves.

Ted then introduced the legislative panel that consisted of Senator Gary Dahl, Representative Frank Mautino, and Reed Wilson for Congressman Jerry Weller and asked them to make an opening remark.

In his opening statement, Representative Mautino stated that the House has recently completed their session, although he anticipates being called back before the end of the fiscal year which is June 30th. He said that it has been the most intensive year that he has seen and it is not over yet. Representative Mautino explained to attendees the process of preparing a budget.

Senator Dahl stated that dysfunctional is a kind word for what is happening in Springfield. He said that in the past the leaders would be able to work together on the budget matter. However, the current leaders, Senator Dahl said, are not working together.

Representing Congressman Jerry Weller, Reed Wilson thanked members for the opportunity to address concerns regarding the transportation industry. He said that people are extremely frustrated as they do not see government doing anything about the energy situation. Reed told members that there is a gap in thinking between the two sides of the aisle regarding solutions to the energy crisis. Republicans would like to expand energy production while Democrats would like to question oil company executives about profits, and call for more investigations into price gauging. Reed said that there are no short-term solutions, but in order to effectively address the problems, there will need to be a bipartisan program with a little bit of give and take from each side.

Questions were then asked to panel members.

Jeff Hetrick asked for a clarification on what will happen to federal road funds designated for Illinois if the matching state funds are not available through the capital bill. Mautino replied that stories are going around raising concerns simply to put pressure on legislators to pass the bill. He explained that while the federal funds do have to be matched, money is currently available through other sources, but the Governor needs to release it. Dahl pointed out that a lot of bids for road projects are already being let out, just in our area alone.

Representative Mautino explained the capital bill to attendees. He said that the state's capital bill, which includes money for everything from schools to transportation to urban revitalization projects, is not likely to be passed. He told attendees that one major concern with the passage of this bill is that in its present form it relies heavily upon expanding gambling throughout the state. Leasing the state's lottery, adding river boats and expanding slots at the race tracks are included in this package.

One attendee asked what business owners could do to change the way that the State does business. Representative Mautino responded that there is simply no trust between the leaders in Springfield. "We can fix the budget, but we can't fix the four leaders and the Governor", he said.

Jeff Hettrick then asked panel members about wind farms and the possibility of manufacturing components in Illinois as most of them are now built off-shore. Representative Mautino stated that the State is already investing in a company in Danville that will be making the blades for windmills like the ones going up in our area. Everyone agreed that they would like to see more of this type of investment, along with more into alternative fuels.

In closing Ted thanked members of the panel for participating. Ted announced that the next North Central IL Logistics Council meeting will be on August 21, 2008, 8:00 a.m. at the Mendota Civic Center.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS LOGISTICS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2008

The NCILC Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Ray Gatza.

ATTENDEES: Ron Anderson, DeAnna Carlson, Dennis Martin, Ray Gatza, Scott Gerbitz, Charles Gonigam, Sue Isermann, Kevin Lindeman, Dave Noble, Boyd Palmer, Wally Rakoczy, Michael Reindl, Dianna Schuler, Louie Sekula, Tom Spelich, Keith Stevenson, OJ Stoutner, Karen Taylor-White, Alison Wasmer, Scott Harl, Dave Pothoff, Pat Shea, Todd Hudson, Art Kehoe, Matt Smolek, Ron Renz

OTHERS PRESENT: Carol Betts, Ken Spirito, Steve Jaeger

Presentation

Ray introduced Ken Spirito, Director of Airports for the Greater Peoria Regional Airport, to members. Ken started by saying that the airline industry is certainly changing. He said that he wanted members to know that there is a great facility south of Mendota that does not have the congestion that the Chicago airports do. Ken said that the Peoria airport has non-stop flights daily to and from 9 hubs using 5 air lines and offers free parking to flyers. He said that the Peoria airport, now called the General Wayne Downey Airport is positioning itself for future growth. The estimated passenger use for 2008 is 600,000 which has nearly doubled since 2000. The core market, Ken said, is a 25 mile radius, but only 62% of the traffic is being retained in Peoria. Ken further explained that Peoria is an alternative transportation facility to Chicago O'Hare International Airport, both because the airport is an easy, convenient way to transport with less congestion, and because new TSA (Transportation Security Administration) regulations will further slow cargo moving through O'Hare. Mr. Spirito informed members that as of February 2009 50% of all commercial cargo going through O'Hare will be screened moving to 100% screening in 2010. He played a video clip from NBC Nightly News which aired October 14th when the Peoria airport celebrated the ground breaking for the upgrades and the airport was renamed. Ken detailed the airport updating; the existing building will be demolished and replaced with a new stand alone building, there will be 11 gates all on one level making the airport more user friendly, and all airport facilities will be centralized. The project is fully funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The airport has been awarded a \$1,500,000 grant to construct the new terminal which will allow for the expansion and creation of jobs through the region. The Metropolitan Airport Authority of Peoria will be working with the FAA to grant the funds over a three-year period. The new passenger terminal is scheduled to be complete in 2010.

Steve Jaeger with the Peoria Port Authority was then introduced to members. Mr. Jaeger explained that in 2003 the Governor signed into legislation the Heart of Illinois Regional Port District Act to modernize the waterway infrastructure. Mr. Jaeger stated that the Governor also appointed a 9 member board of commissions to oversee the Peoria Port Authority. The Port Authority covers the waterway from Havana to Henry which is 95 river miles with 40 waterway terminals handling material. Steve provided members with a brief history of Peoria's manufacturing and the impact that Caterpillar had on the manufacturing industry in Peoria. He said that in the 1960's Peoria employed about 40,000 people in manufacturing. Today, Steve said, it employs about 17,000 people in manufacturing.

Steve then explained the waterway links with the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. He said that the Illinois Waterway includes 5 locks & dams to the mouth of the Chicago River. Steve said that 33 million tons of cargo, dominantly agricultural, passes through Peoria along the waterway.

By the year 2025, Steve said that the Core of Engineers has projected upgrading 25% of the Illinois Waterway. He told members that upgrades are also scheduled to begin on the Panama Canal to be complete in 2014 to accommodate larger vessels. The challenge, Steve said, is that the Port Authority faces an aging infrastructure of the locks & dams which creates unscheduled downtime. This downtime is an impediment to navigation and to economic growth along the waterway.

Steve said the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program of the Upper Mississippi River System (NESP) was authorized with passage of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The bill authorizes \$2.21 billion in upgrades to locks and dams and to the ecosystem. Five new locks on the upper Mississippi are scheduled to be replaced which includes the lock at LaGrange and Peoria.

In closing, Tom Spelich asked about the development on the waterways. Steve stated that work is being done to work with existing companies along the waterway.

Transitional Task Force

Ray announced that beginning in January, the NCILC meeting will be held at Illinois Valley Community College. He said that directions and room information will be provided in the meeting materials. Ray said that if anyone is interested in being a part of the transitional task force they are most welcome. He reminded members that the transitional task force is moving the NCILC to become independent of NCI Works.

Warehousing & Distribution Certificate Program

Sue Isermann disseminated copies of the spring semester schedule for the Warehousing courses offered at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC). She encouraged members to promote the class noting that the program will be offered both during evening hours and daytime hours. Sue said that Elaine Novak will be starting in January as the Dean for the Division. She said that Doug Stockley will continue to be involved with the program and will aid in the transition for Elaine during the first semester.

Sue stated that the January NCILC meeting will be held in the Fireplace Lounge at IVCC. She said that directions will be provided to members prior to the meeting.

Pilot Program Update

No report since Ted VanSickle was not available for the meeting.

Website Update

DeAnna Carlson informed members that it is being worked on.

Best Practice

Joe Bantifta with Flint Hills Resources was scheduled to provide a Best Practice on the TWIC program but due to a conflict was not able to attend. Joe volunteered to present this information at the January meeting.

Open Discussion

None

Next Meetings

Ray stated that the NCILC Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 9th, 8:15 a.m. at the BEST Office in Peru. He said that the next NCILC meeting will be held on January 15, 2009 at IVCC in the Fireplace Lounge.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson