



Specialty Manufacturing Cluster Group
Meeting Minutes May 19, 2005
PPi Technologies

Welcome and introductions were made by Co-Chair Peter Straw. Clyde Nixon, Co-Chair has stepped down and Jody Hubbard from Sun Hydraulics will be taking his place. Dave Ferguson from FMEP will be the other Co-Chair as Peter Straw takes on the role as manager of the Capabilities Index Study. Stuart Murray from PPi Technologies was thanked for being the host of the meeting. Stuart said a few words about the “flexible packaging” that PPi manufactures.

Guest Speaker was Dave Olmsted, Public Affairs and Code Compliance for PGT. His topic was: *Disaster Planning Recovery and Continuation of Business*. He spoke about PGT’s *Severe Weather Plan* that was instituted after Hurricane Charley. After the hurricane, almost 30% of their 1800 employees were affected with 496 employees in North Port and 277 in Port Charlotte. The important thing after “Charley” was locating the PGT family and that was done with calls, an airplane banner, visits and a full page ad. Managers formed relief teams for delivery of supplies to their employees.

Quote from Rod Hershberger: “You don’t become a great company because of how you handle an event; the event just allows the community a bit of an inside look to see how a great company responds to the needs of its folks.”

The next LEAN Consortium meeting will be on June 21, 2005 from 10-noon at The Eaton Corporation. Co-Chairs will be chosen at that meeting a plant tour will be conducted.

The Capabilities Index Study will be reported on at the next meeting on June 16, 2005.

The Education Sub Group will be Co-Chaired by Maura Howl from MTI and Bruce Anderson from SCTI. They are working on funding proposals for educating high school and middle school students about manufacturing and the lucrative careers available in manufacturing.

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 16, 2005, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Sun Hydraulics, 1500 West University Blvd., Sarasota.