

Minutes of the West Coast Shipbuilding and Repair Forum (WCSRF)
Held at Industrial Marine Training and Applied Research Centre (IMTARC)
1 Maplebank Rd. Victoria, BC
1000-1500, Thursday, 20 June 2013

Chair: Capt(N) Don Smith, Commanding Officer FMF CAPE BRETON, RCN

Secretary: Mr. Tom Percy, Industrial Engineering Manager FMF CAPE BRETON, RCN/DND

Attendees:

Babcock Canada

Mr. Mark Dixon – Vice President Submarines

Briggs Consulting Services

Mr. John Briggs (formerly Senior Business Officer in WEC)

British Columbia Ferry Services Inc.

Mr. Karl Fox – Manager, Works, Fleet Maintenance Unit

British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)

Mr. Guy Ellis - Associate Dean, Mechanical Industries School of Energy

British Columbia Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Mr. Glen Scobie – Senior Director Business Analysis

British Columbia Ministry of Technology, Innovation, and Citizen's Services

Ms. Sylvia Selig – Director Small Business and Innovative Partnerships Branch

Camosun College

Mr. Chris Edley - Business Development Officer, Applied Research and Innovation

Mr. Eric Sehn – Dean, School of Trades & Technology

Canadian Coast Guard, Pacific Region

Ms. Louise Anne Granger – Superintendent Marine Engineering

Canadian Welding Bureau Group (CWB Group)

Mr. Larry Parkinson - Marine Advisor

CMAW Local 506 Marine & Shipbuilders

Mr. Percy Darbyson – Financial Secretary & Business Agent

Esquimalt Graving Dock – Public Works & Government Services Canada (PWGSC)

Mr. Darryl Lawes, Environmental Coordinator

Fleet Maintenance Facility CAPE BRETON (RCN/DND)
Mr. Greg Eyre – FMF CAPE BRETON, Business Management Service Officer

Federal Government Dockyards Trades & Labour Council, Esquimalt BC
Mr. Des Rogers - President
Mr. Stan Dzbik - Vice President

Greater Victoria Development Agency
Mr. Dallas Gislason – Economic Development Officer

Human Capital Strategies
Mr. Kerry Jothen – President and CEO

Industrial Marine Training & Applied Research Centre (IMTARC)
Mr. Alex Rueben - Executive Director

Levelton Consultants
Mr. Peter Reid – Materials Engineer, Materials & Corrosion Engineering

Lloyd's Register Canada Ltd.
Mr. Marcel LaRoche – Marine Manager Western Canada

Lockheed Martin Canada
Mr. Patrick St.-Denis - Victoria Site Manager, HALIFAX Class Modernization Program

Marine Renewables Canada
Dr. Chris Campbell – Executive Director

McRae Electric Ltd (Island Division)
Mr. John Stamatiou

Meridian Marine Industries Inc
Mr. James McFadden – President
Mr. Jerry Pedneault – Operations Manager

Ocean Industries BC
Mr. Patrick Marshall - CEO

Prototype Equipment Design
Mr. Ray Brougham - President

Surety Association of Canada
Mr. Robert Sloat - Director, Business Development, Western Canada

Western Economic Diversification Canada, BC Region
Ms. Tammy Schulz – Director International Development

DISCUSSION

Call to Order

Tom Percy called the meeting to order at 1030 and advised that Capt(N) Don Smith had a medical appointment and would arrive around 1130.

Welcome to the Industrial Marine Training and Applied Research Centre (IMTARC)

Mr. Alex Rueben, Executive Director and venue host, welcomed everyone to the newly constructed IMTARC facility, located next to Esquimalt Graving Dock, and provided the meeting members information on lunch, refreshments, etc., as well as an overview of IMTARC's capabilities. More IMTARC information can be found at www.imtarc.com. Lunch and refreshments were generously provided by the Resource Training Organization (RTO) www.rto.bc.ca

Acceptance of Previous Minutes and Agenda

With no objections, the agenda and previous minutes from 4 March 2013 were accepted.

Ocean Energy - Creating an Industry Out of Another Canadian Resource

Dr. Chris Campbell, Executive Director of Marine Renewables Canada (<http://www.marinerenewables.ca>), gave a fascinating presentation on the emerging market opportunities in marine renewable energy. Technologies for harnessing energy in the marine environment have changed considerably from the tidal barrages that use potential energy, such as Nova Scotia's 20 MW Annapolis Tidal Station. The emerging approach to this problem is development of systems that capture the kinetic energy from tidal, wave, and large river currents. There are a number of energy capture innovations, several being Canadian, that just need the necessary development and investment to harness this vast Canadian resource. Dr. Campbell's presentation can be found at: www.wcsrf.ca

Marine Meridian Industries Inc.

Mr James McFadden, President of Meridian Marine (<http://www.vancouvershiprepair.ca>), gave a presentation/slide show on the ship repair services provided not only worldwide but also at the 200, 000 ft² facility in Richmond, BC. Jerry Pedneault, Meridian's Operations Manager, gave a company overview brief. Jerry Pedneault's brief is available at: www.wcsrf.ca. The two briefs were very interesting and generated considerable discussion. The WCSRF welcomes future briefs from SME organizations. This is a key part of what the forum is all about.

Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) Group - Discussion

Mr. Larry Parkinson led a short discussion on welding in the marine sector and brought up some of the HR challenges that we are already facing and that will continue to exist into the future. A

key challenge is getting high school and middle school students to start thinking about a career in welding now. Initiatives that need to be further harnessed are the new ITA welding certification discussed by RTO at the last WCSRF meeting, Camosun and BCIT's existing relationships with high schools, and approaches such as a BC high school's "resource academy". Overall, it was a good discussion and sharing of information.

Update Report from BC Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Board (SSRB)

Kerry Jothen gave an update presentation on the B.C. Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Board (SSRB). The purpose of the SSRB is to provide industry leadership, coordination and integration of cross-industry workforce development, and industry development priority actions. Mark Wilson, of BC Ferries, is Chair of the Board, and John Shaw, of Seaspan, is the Vice-Chair. Kerry's presentation outlined the history, SSRB mandate and membership, deliverables, and strategic and training challenges. He also outlined the vision, framework, principles and long term goals. The next steps of the Board are to market and promote the industry. Kerry's presentation can be found at: www.wcsrf.ca

Future of WCSRF in a SSRB led Industry

Tom Percy led a discussion on whether the WCSRF is still relevant now that many of forum's key visions have been achieved (e.g. SSRB, IMTARC, etc.). After much discussion, the consensus was that the WCSRF is still needed to provide a forum to discuss ideas freely and openly. It was noted that educational institutions themselves are not represented on the BC SSRB and this is one of the few avenues where they can connect with industry members. In addition, the BC SSRB already has a rigorous, time critical agenda that will require the attention of all board members to "move the yardsticks". This gives less time for industry discussions of a general nature that are not time sensitive.

Members' Round Table

Tom Percy reminded everyone that the minutes only capture key points of discussion and apologizes in advance if anything gets left out. If something was missed or members would like a more detailed description of their discussion points in the minutes, please email the information directly to Tom and the minutes will be amended accordingly. Meeting minutes and presentations can be found on the forum website (www.wcsrf.ca). He also encouraged members to join the LinkedIn group, "West Coast Shipbuilding & Repair Forum".

Des Rogers (FGDT&LC) found the briefs quite interesting and that the forum provides great information – should continue.

Dr. Chris Campbell (Marine Renewables) mentioned that he was experiencing "déjà vu" from when Newfoundland went through a similar challenge preparing for offshore oil. Skilled trades, college capacity, and middle management were also the challenges during that period. He suggested that the WCSRF may perhaps wish to expand to provide a foundation for the broader marine industry.

Mark Dickson (Babcock) commented that the trade skills of BC ship repair workers are world class and he would like to take them all back to the UK. The area of concern is the middle management sector to handle the complex, broader day to day planning and execution of activities.

Tammy Schulz (WED) said that she found the forum to be invaluable information source for WED in that it will provide linkages to guide future investments. WED is open to entertain other investment opportunities and has a database of companies to assist with networking and outreach.

Bob Sloat (Surety Association) commented that underwriters are also aging and the Surety Association is working to transfer knowledge to those junior personnel. He will continue to work to get the word out on how the surety industry can work with the marine sector to better position for what's required in the future.

Bob Fox (BC Ferries) said that this was his first meeting and he found it interesting. BC Ferries is entering a revitalization phase where the FMU will see 50-60% retirement over the next 5 years.

Guy Ellis (BCIT) pointed out that BCIT graduates' average age is 26 and most have previous general work experience that could be honed to the middle management needs mentioned during the meeting. BCIT is working closely with Camosun to continue development of marine related applied research. The Manufacturing Innovation Centre is well set up for outreach to industry. One area that could be beneficial to industry would be to sponsor an operations management practicum.

Eric Sehn (Camosun) is always interested in hearing what the industry's needs are with respect to training and applied research

Patrick St Denis (LMC) said that he will be looking for opportunities to keep his workforce employed in a post HCM/FELEX future and to maintain/enhance skills

Patrick Marshall commented that the WCSRF is a clearing house for ideas. As soon as it becomes formalized, government and labour cannot attend.

Marcel LaRoche (Lloyd's) mentioned that 40% of his business is in the marine industry and that there is a global energy shift that is putting Canada on the map and the NSPS has generated int'l interest. The industry is still segmented and has barriers – there's opportunity to break the status quo. He suggested inviting non-traditional players such as composite manufacturers, process and supply chain specialists.

Summary and Next Steps

Tom Percy thanked everyone for their participation and asked for all WCSRF members to email him feedback, ideas, and suggestions for future forum presentations.

25. Capt(N) Smith thanked all for their attendance and participation. He also thanked IMTARC for hosting and RTO for providing lunch and refreshments. This will be Capt(N) Smith's last meeting as chair. Elections for Chair and Secretary will be conducted online one to two months prior to the next meeting in November. A call for nominations will be sent in mid September. Nominees will need to provide a one page CV.

26. Next Meeting: 5 November 2013 (Camosun College Interurban Campus – Tentative)

27. Meeting adjourned at 1500.

//Original signed by//

Capt(N) Donald F. Smith
Chair
250-363-2315

//Original signed by//

Tom Percy
Secretary
250-363-7650