

College of Performance Management Tennessee Valley (CPMTV)

Pilot Chapter Meeting held September 8, 2014

By Robert Wasser

The pilot CPMTV held its second very informative and educational meeting on September 8, 2014 in Huntsville. **OPDEC** hosted the meeting with over 58 attendees, including 11 CPM members and representation from industry, government and education. Based on a show of hands, this was the first meeting for the majority of attendees. We had EVM personnel, schedulers, as well as program management representatives, and instructors. Bob Wasser, BCF Solutions, served as the organizer and emcee.

Gary Troop, CPM President, provided a brief history of the organization and then focused on the future of CPM, the benefits of membership, and having a strong local presence. He referred attendees to the CPM website, www.mycpm.org, where a wealth of information resides to include membership information, upcoming workshops and events, and current and prior issues addressed in CPM's The Measurable News. He noted that, although the publications were currently available to all via the website, in the near future they would be moved behind the firewall for members only. He also discussed improvements and changes underway to the CPM professional development program, and the key note speakers, training and key topics included in the upcoming Integrated Program Management Workshop, November 3-5, 2014, in Bethesda, MD.

Our host, **Jason Curns** of OPDEC, Inc., provided an overview of their Integrated Program Manager (IPM), a Web-based tool that integrates resources between a project's schedule system and a project's cost system. IPM provides project management teams with easy access to and understanding of their current EVM reports and status without the additional infrastructure and personnel sometimes required with EVM systems. OPDEC is a small business that is focused on support of government organizations and industry via products and services associated with the development and fielding of specialized program management related software applications, tools, and consulting services. Additional information can be found at www.opdec.com.

Tim Loftis, Deputy Director of EVM at the Missile Defense Agency, provided an overview of the MDA's mission, major programs, and EVM implementation. He acknowledged the challenges associated with maintaining the performance measurement baseline when requirements were constantly changing to meet evolving threats. MDA has nine major programs, with over 19 major contracts containing EVM system and reporting requirements.

Gary Humphreys, CEO of Humphreys & Associates, Inc., gave a presentation on "Your Estimate at Completion (EAC) – Can you trust it?" It was both thought provoking and entertaining. He defined the typical Independent EACs as "independent of sanity, logic, and judgment" and provided best practices and approaches for developing EACs, as well as testing the reasonableness of an EAC.

Mark Phillips, CPM Vice President of Communications, was the last speaker. His presentation on "Improving Project Communication" was engaging and practical. His use of communication theory to improve project planning and execution can serve as an enabler for successful project management

teams. This approach is described in his book, "Reinventing Communication – How to Design, Lead and Manage High Performing Projects", Gower 2014.

At the beginning and conclusion of the meeting, Bob encouraged attendees to sign up as an officer or identify a duty they would be willing to perform for the CPMTV Pilot Chapter. He also asked for sponsors to host and provide a venue for the next meeting in December 2014. The following five people have volunteered for officer positions:

- Bob Wasser- President
- Julie Curns- VP Meetings and Events
- Reuben Russell- Certifications
- Norman Dean- VP Admin
- John Pruett- VP finance
- OPEN- Vice President

Four organizations have offered to host our next four quarterly meetings.

- December 2014 – 1st week – DAU
- March 2015 – 1st week – TruePlan
- June 2015 – 1st week – Deltek
- September – 2015 1st week – Encore

We look forward to our meetings becoming a regular event in the Huntsville area.

Please feel free to contact me concerning any questions, volunteering for an office, presenting or hosting at one of our meetings, or any other issues.

For more information concerning the CPMTV, please contact:

Bob Wasser BCF Solutions SR PM bwasser@bcfsolutions.net or TVChapter@mycpm.org