



Building professionalism in project management.

Project Management Institute
Michigan Capital Area Chapter

MAXIMUM FLOAT

Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

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www.pmi-mcac.org

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Message from the President

John Le Tourneau, PMP

Hello Everyone! For those that were not able to make the January meeting, you missed an excellent presentation by Teri Takai, the CIO of the State of Michigan. The feedback from the attendees found the presentation to be very informational and interesting. Director Takai spoke about the history of the formation of the Michigan Department of Information Technology (DIT) and the Project Control Office. Her presentation can be found on the Michigan Capital Area Chapter web site in the chapter business area.

Our February program meeting on the 20th is also looking to be a very good presentation. Mr. Philip Hughes is going to talk to us about his experiences working in "new" environments. He will talk about "working in an environment where language and culture are radically different, and a whole new set of perspectives – and experiences – await." Please join us, it should be fun.

See President, continued on page 3

Program Meeting Announcement

February 20, 2007

Program Meeting at 6:00 PM
Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
3600 Dunckel Drive, Lansing, MI

Speaker: Phillip Hughes

Topic: "Wow, this place is different...alien environments, culture shock, and project management."

To Register go to : <http://www.pmi-mcac.org/>
And use the Monthly Program Meeting Link

Inside this Edition

Message from the President	1, 3
Vice Presidents Corners	3, 4
Financials.....	4
Risk Doctor.....	5
Monthly Program Information	6

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President, continued from page 1

For those of you who are members of PMI and have not explored the many aspects of the PMI Member Community, <http://member.pmi.bluestep.net/>, I recommend that you do so. The site has a number of valuable features including a News and a Featured Discussion area where members can communicate with one another, valuable surveys, and information about the free EReads section of the web site. The topics and content change all the time and you can ask questions of other experienced project managers. You will need a valid PMI ID number and member password to access the site.

Take care and we'll see you at the next program meeting.

Vice President – Membership

Dan Buonodono, PMP

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following member to our Chapter: Mr. Jeff Schultz, Jawood Business Process Solutions LLC. Welcome aboard Jeff!

The following Chapter member has attained their Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in January: Mrs. Laurie Taylor, PMP. Congratulations Lorie!

Our Chapter currently has 223 members, up from 217 just twelve months ago!

Please take the time to complete the Annual Membership Survey when it arrived in your email inbox. The Chapter Board values your input.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next program meeting on Tuesday, February 20th!

Vice President – Logistics

Pam Sawatzki, PMP

It was great to see so many people at the January dinner meeting and we are hoping for a repeat performance four next meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2007. Our speaker is Phillip Hughes and his topic will be "Wow, this place is different...alien environments, culture shock, and project management". Something we can all relate to! It will be a great way to gain some new insights and understandings of what we can do when we find ourselves in this position.

Make plans to join us at the Lansing Clarion Hotel. Go to our website and register today.

Vice-Presidents Reports – continued on pg 4



Vice President -- Finance

Karl Meier

**Michigan Capital Area Chapter PMI
Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2007**

Assets	
Current Assets – Checking/Savings	\$22,572.40
Total Assets	\$22,572.40
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	\$0
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$22,934.58
Net Income	(\$362.18)
Total Equity	\$22,572.40
 Total Liabilities and Equity	 <u>\$22,572.50</u>

The above Balance Sheet is generated from the Chapter's accounting system and does not suggest audited information.

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**Published Monthly prior to
Chapter Meetings**

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Dan Buonodono	Contributor
Pam Sawatzki	Contributor
John LeTourneau	Contributor
Karl Meier	Contributor
Amy Piper	Contributor

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RISK DOCTOR BRIEFING



THREE TENSES OF RISK IDENTIFICATION: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

© November 2006, Dr David Hillson PMP FAPM

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***Yesterday is history; Tomorrow is mystery;
Today is a gift – that's why we call it "the present"***

A risk cannot be managed unless it is first identified, and the purpose of risk identification is to identify all knowable risks. A range of techniques are available for identifying risks, and people often wonder which one is the best. Should we interview all stakeholders, or hold a workshop, or perhaps review a prompt list or distribute a risk questionnaire?

Risk identification techniques fall into three categories, which have different time perspectives – past, present and future.

1. *Historical review.* These look at what has already happened in the past, either during this situation, or in others which are comparable. They rely on careful selection of reference points to ensure that they are genuinely similar, and intelligent filtering of data to ensure that only relevant previous risks are considered. In each case, historical review methods ask whether risks which were identified before might arise this time.
2. *Current assessments.* These techniques require detailed consideration of the current situation, analysing its characteristics against given frameworks and models in order to expose areas of uncertainty. Unlike historical review approaches, current assessment techniques do not rely on outside reference points, but are based purely on examination of what exists today.
3. *Creativity techniques.* There are many risk identification approaches which encourage people to use their imagination to find possible risks which might affect future achievement of objectives. These techniques depend on the ability of stakeholders to think creatively, either individually or in groups, and their success is often enhanced by use of a skilled facilitator.

Each type of risk identification technique has strengths and weaknesses, and no single technique can be expected to reveal all knowable risks. Historical review techniques depend on how relevant previous experience is to the existing situation. Current assessment techniques rely on the quality of the diagnostic process and how well people really understand what is going on. The success of creativity techniques is driven by the ability of participants to imagine the future.

As a result the best solution for risk identification is to use a combination of techniques, perhaps selecting one of each type: past, present and future. For example it may be best to use a risk identification checklist (historical review), together with assumptions analysis (current assessment) and brainstorming (creativity). It is also good practice to involve different stakeholders in identifying risks, preferably in groups, as they are likely to see things from a variety of perspectives. An organisation which relies on a single point of view or only uses one type of risk identification technique is likely to miss important risks, leaving it exposed to threats that could have been avoided, and resulting in missed opportunities. Multiple perspectives offer a broader view of risks that might have an impact, leading to more effective risk identification.

To provide feedback on this Briefing Note, or for more details on how to develop effective risk management, contact the Risk Doctor (info@risk-doctor.com), or visit the Risk Doctor website (www.risk-doctor.com).

Monthly Program Meeting Information

The MCAC Chapter Program Meetings are held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 3600 Dunckel Drive, Lansing, MI 48910

MCAC Chapter Program Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, excluding December. Bonus Programs are often held prior to the Program Meeting (normally from 5:15 to 6:00). Please go to <http://www.pmi-mcac.org> for additional information.

Costs: \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Anyone who does not register in advance will be charged an additional \$5 at the door. If you are not pre-registered, we may be unable to accommodate you due to restaurant limitations.