WATERLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes – 8 Sep 2004

The 8 Sep 2004 meeting of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at the Greenstreets Restaurant located at the Cedar Falls Holiday Inn, with 36 members, 1 speaker, and 3 guests attending (40 dinners total). President Cal Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Cal announced that the financial audit of the WTS books was completed. Rest of the normal business meeting agenda was deferred and Program Chairman Dick Michael introduced Thomas G. Didelot, Manager of John Deere Westfield Avenue Site Redevelopment. Dinner meeting was adjourned at Greenstreets at 7:10 PM for the tour at the site. After reassembling at the Westfield site, the program (7:30 PM) and tour followed.

Meeting Notice
http://www.waterlootechnicalsociety.org/090804.html

Program: Chairman Dick Michael

Topic: ***John Deere Westfield Site Redevelopment***

Speaker: Mr. Thomas G. Didelot, Manager
DidelotThomasG@JohnDeere.com

Tom outlined the future Cedar Valley Tech Works. A 100 million dollar redevelopment plan involving 3 major areas. Cast Iron machining, gear and shaft processing including Heat Treat, and Power Train assembly.

Business Plan Objectives are:
- Improved Quality
- Reduced Costs
  - by reducing floor space from 4 million sq ft to 2 million sq ft.
  - by reducing number of fork trucks from 250 to 50.
  - by limiting construction to 400,000 sq ft of new space
  - by Increasing inventory turns from 11 to 44
  - by Increasing speed to delivery from 44 days to 6 days

Embrace New Tools
- Value Stream management – A process of identifying non-value added steps and seeking ways to eliminate those steps.
- Electronics - use of virtual software tools to electronically build up an assembly prior to physically producing any parts.
- Inventory Pull System - establishing the replenishment of components based on consumption (use) of inventory so that only what is used is trigged to be replaced.

Cast Iron Machining
- Include more Moki Seiko Machining centers
- Space reductions

Gear and Shaft Machining success stories

New Heat Treat Equipment for 14 million dollars
- Natural Gas savings of 50% over present methods

Assembly
- 7000 Series Transaxle
- 8000 Series Independent Link Suspension Assembly
- 9000 Series Axles

Tour then began covering H building (Machining and Heat Treat), Z Building (Cast Iron Machining) and T10 Assembly Building. Meeting adjourned after the tour at 9:15 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Roger Mott and Gary Dorhout, Co-Secretaries