PMI-NH Chapter Newsletter

February 2010

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

March 17, 2010 **(Wednesday)**

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
The Yard
Manchester, NH

Smart Ways to use MS Project (or other tools) to Manage Project Work

Speakers: **Scott Lynde & Courtney Henry**

Discount cutoff date: **March 12**

Please visit www.pmi-nh.org/meetings.htm
for additional details about this upcoming meeting.

Inside This Issue:

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings,

Funny all the ways that you can use your skills acquired as a project manager; the world is filled with projects large and small. This past couple weeks I helped as a mentor to a small project that my granddaughter asked me to help. She is a Girl Scout and the Cub Scouts invited the girls to design, build and race a Pinewood Derby car with them. This is the first year that this invitation had ever been extended to the girls in my town, different indeed. So, I guess by now you are probably wondering, what this has to do with project management and more to the point, the New Hampshire chapter.

Well here are the ways I applied what I have gathered at recent dinner meetings to help Kayla successfully manage her project. First we identified the charter and scope. It took us a little while as we read over it and in the end decided that the major deliverable was a demonstration of friction reduction and not just a model car. We followed that by looking at the risks. Risks you say, on a derby car project?

(Continued on Pg. 2)

President's Message – February 2010 (continued from front page)

Yep, and plenty of them, such as personal injury or property damage from using tools and paint, damage to the completed car by dropping, car not being able to pass "tech" inspection, one child not having fun. This is a short list, but only the last is almost impossible to plan for and mitigate. If you were at the last chapter meeting you would have seen that the Board is exposed to a great deal of risk in running a successful dinner meeting each month. Risks you say, on a monthly dinner meeting project? Yep, and plenty of them such as, the room not being ready, equipment failure on a laptop or projector, bad or cold food due to long winded president, speaker not showing up due to illness or late due to a flat tire, our members not having fun. This is a short list, but only the last is almost impossible to plan for and mitigate.

If you had been there you would have seen that we, as a group are Agile in our management of the risks, and more important how we react and recover our simple projects from the jaws of destruction and total failure. To help try and mitigate the last risk, we ask that you, our members, provide feedback, attend the dinner meetings and contribute to the newsletter and journal. It is only with these things that we close the gap and minimize the risk of you not enjoying, or deriving value from the presentations and your local chapter.

I would like you to join me in welcoming our new **Director of Communication, Nora Colliton**. If you have a story to tell we would like to hear from you. We are always looking for content to add to the newsletter and journal. Nora can be reached at communications@pmi-nh.org; and Steve Lapinskas at newsletter@pmi-nh.org.

As always our continued mission this year will be to provide networking and education opportunities that deliver real value, to you our members. This is your chapter and we are always we are open to, comments, ideas and suggestion, please feel free to contact me or any of your chapter leadership.

See you at the next chapter meeting!

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Peeples Jr.

President

PMI New Hampshire Chapter

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at: president@pmi-nh.org

PMI New Hampshire Chapter's Networking Group
Networking *by* Project Managers *for* Project Managers

- Regular bi-weekly meetings held in Derry, NH.
- No cost to chapter members.
- Visit the chapter website at PMI-NH.org for more information and contact details.

CHAPTER NEWS

Volunteer needed:

The Director of Programs position is currently open.

As a member of the Board, the Director of Programs is responsible for developing the programs presented at the chapter meetings. This role includes setting the theme, arranging for speakers, and organizing the event.

Contact Ray Peeples at president@pmi-nh.org if you are interested in the position or for more details about it.

PMP Certification:

We are especially pleased to recognize our members who have recently earned their PMP certification:

Mr. Stephen Cobb, PMP

Mr. William Holscher, PMP

Ms. Lisa Kavarnos, PMP

Ms. Andrea Moy, PMP

Mr. Kyle Nickerson, PMP

Ms. Janice Paterson, PMP

New Members:

We'd like to welcome the following to the chapter:

Ms. Kathleen Connolly	Ms. Michele LaCourse, PMP
Mr. Jeffrey Duval, PMP	Mr. Michael Laliberte
Ms. Nancy Ell	Mr. Brian McCarthy
Ms. Nancy Frick	Mr. Stephen Pike
Ms. Cathy Rogers-Holmes	
Ms. Wendy Dufresne, PMP	
Ms. Debbie Feinman, PMP	

Consider contributing time:

Have you ever wondered what it really takes to put together the monthly chapter meetings? What does it take to keep up with the chapter membership? How do all those emails get created and sent? These and many more questions about what it takes to keep PMI-NH chapter alive and well can be answered by attending a BOD meeting. Any chapter member is welcome to attend. We meet the first Wed of every month at The Yard. It's a great way to meet your BOD and watch them in action.

We are in need of a couple directors. Who knows, you might find you have just the right talent the chapter and the BOD keep this organization successful. Oh yes, if you are wondering why I'm not in the picture? I was busy taking pictures!

**– Diane George, PMP
  Past-President PMI-NH**

Board Member Profile

VP of Professional Development

The Vice President of Professional Development is a 2-year elected position and this is my second term.

The primary role of this position is to increase the number of professional development opportunities available to chapter PMP members. This is being done in three ways. First, through direct educational programs sponsored by the Chapter. Second, by collaboration with other PMI chapters and finally through Registered Education Providers (REP's). Recent chapter events include an all day seminar provided by noted PM expert Neal Whitten and a half-day seminar on team performance by Lisa DiTullio.

Recent professional development was focused on providing study group programs for members preparing to take the Project Management Professional (PMP) exam. After talking with members at our chapter meetings, I learned that many members were struggling to acquire Professional Development Units (PDU's) for certification renewal. Two reasons given were the high cost of PDU events and the accessibility of events due to location or time.

To address PDU accessibility, I'm working with the Board to develop a program of events. This will include the traditional classroom presentation format, such as our chapter meetings, and other options such as webinars that could be viewed during lunch hours. There's a rich pool of speakers available from local REP's and we've invited many of them for our monthly chapter meetings. One other option being investigated is discounted rates for chapter members at regional PMI chapter PDU events.

My recent career has focused on hospital project management through startup of Project Management Offices and the development of PM Methodologies for hospitals. Prior to this I began my career in healthcare operations management and consulting in the areas of MRI services, radiation therapy services, multi-hospital provider and cancer registry services.

I am a Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CPHIMS) in addition to being a Project Management Professional. I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve as your VP for Professional Development and continue to work to bring you further opportunities to grow your professional knowledge and experience.

Eric Johannesson, PMP, CPHIMST

The Alternate Angle …on See what I'm saying?

by Steven Lapinskas, PMP

Editor – PMI NH Chapter Newsletter

The Alternate Angle is a commentary on issues in project management. Feedback is welcome at `newsletter@pmi-nh.org`.

Agile development, and now agile project management, is inventing different ways of looking at project progress.

One particular display of progress is the Burndown chart. It's an interesting way of showing information, but it's questionable whether anyone really sees what's happening day to day. Take this chart as an example:


Source: Pablo Straub - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SampleBurndownChart.png
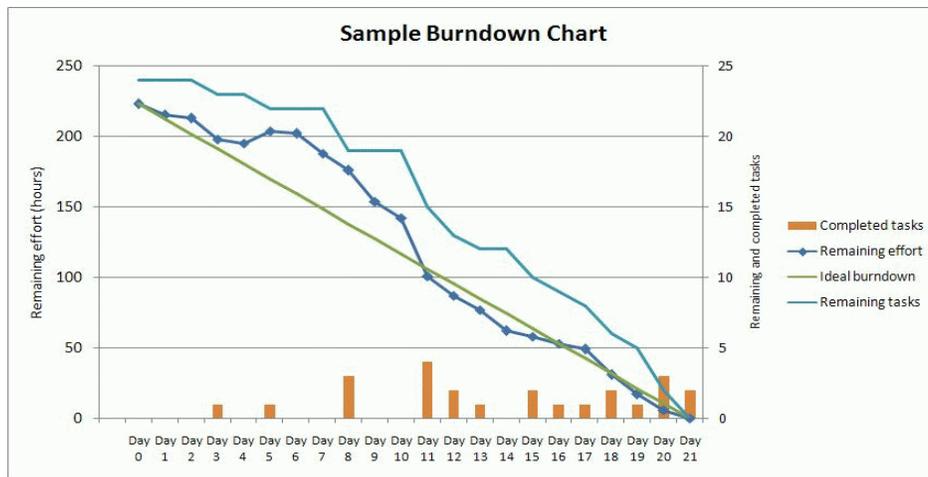
There's a lot of information contained in this Burndown chart, but there are things working against it for effective communication. First, the vertical axis represents both Remaining Hours and Remaining and Completed Tasks. You need to mentally juggle which line, or bar, corresponds with the correct vertical axis. There are many trend lines forcing you to try and piece together what line belongs with the correct axis scale. A bleary eyed early morning stand-up is a place where simplicity should rule.

(**Continued from Pg. 5)**

If Agile is being able to see and respond quickly, then using charts with visual cues to show patterns can help. Here's a fictitious chart example to demonstrate the point. Data for each item is omitted for clarity.

Status as of: Monday November 22
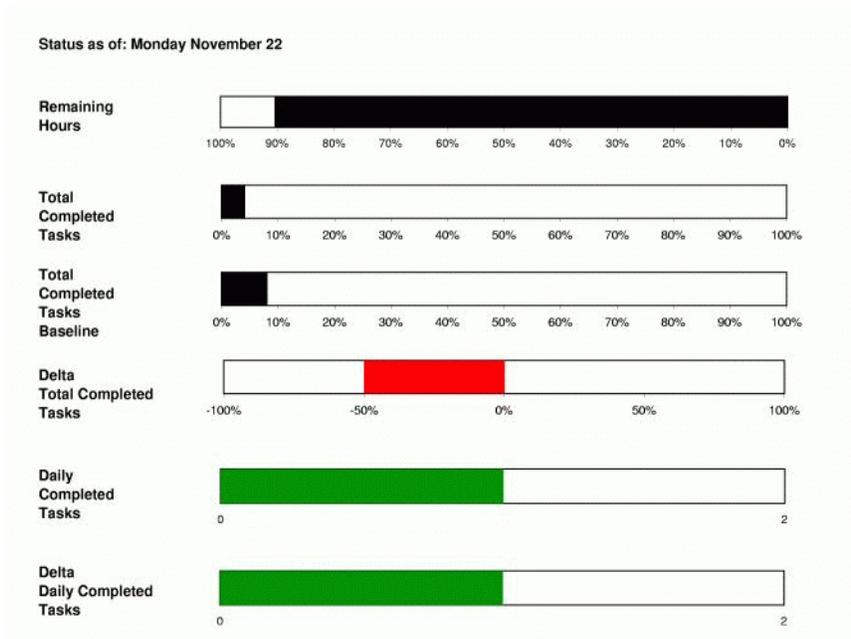
The chart takes a small slice of time for examination - one day's progress. Next, the numerical data is also presented in a universally understandable format - the thermometer. Now, numeric data takes on a spatial dimension to the viewer. You are either depleting (Remaining Hours) or filling up (Completed Tasks) the thermometer graph. Color draws your attention to details predetermined as important. Here the color red shows there's a lag in Task progress to date compared with the plan. On the other hand, the color green shows things were OK meeting Daily Completed Tasks. Once alerted by these cues the reader can turn their attention to the data details behind the cues.

There's no absolute one right way to graphically display number data on status. Asking whether your graphic is telling the story so everyone understands quickly is one way to begin a critique. Visual cues using both color and understandable spatial presentation can help. If you're interested in reading more about these concepts, see the many books on data presentation by the noted author Edwin Tufte.

.

LinkedIn™ Group Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the use of a LinkedIn Group for PMI New Hampshire Chapter. Extending the Chapter's mission to provide its members a forum for shared information and experiences, a Group is established on the LinkedIn social media site. LinkedIn defines a Group as follows. Many professionals advance their careers and business goals by counting on industry and professional groups, alumni organizations, industry conferences and corporate alumni groups to help them make new vital business contacts. LinkedIn Groups allows event organizers and group organizations to strengthen and expand their brand's reach by providing additional value through LinkedIn Group features. LinkedIn Groups allows you to join and organize communities of professionals who share a common experience, passion, interest, affiliation or goal. LinkedIn Groups features offer members a private space to strengthen old business contacts, and to be introduced to new ones. The space offers a forum for topics to be discussed and solutions to be discovered. Group members are also able to communicate freely with one another through LinkedIn messaging.

Implementation

The name of the Group is PMI New Hampshire Chapter. The President is the Owner of the Group, and will name as Managers: the Director of Networking, Director of Communications, Director of Operations and other members of the BoD as the President sees fit. It is the responsibility of the President to ensure the smooth transition of responsibility caused by any personnel change. The President will share all information needed to access, modify and control the Group, in writing, with the elected members of the BoD. This information will be treated as confidential information. Membership in the Group is limited to current Chapter members in good standing. It is the Director of Networking's responsibility to approve and manage Group membership requests in a timely manner. The default method of validating a request is to have the requestor submit their PMI Membership Number with their request, which will be verified with the current PMI database (DEP). Alternate methods may be used at the discretion of the Director of Networking with the concurrence of the Director of Membership. If a member is reported as having dropped their Chapter membership according to the PMI DEP, and that membership is not renewed for three consecutive months, the Director of Networking will remove that person's membership in the LinkedIn Group. Subsequent renewal of Chapter membership by a removed member will require that member to request Group membership reinstatement. Note that current LinkedIn policy allows only the Group Owner or a Group Manager to re-admit a member once they have been removed. The Director of Networking may create Subgroups with the consent of a majority of the BoD. Each Subgroup will, at a minimum, have a stated purpose prior to its approval. The Director of Networking will share all information needed to access, modify and control all Subgroups, in writing, with the President. Note that current LinkedIn policy establishes that members joining a Subgroup must already members of the parent Group. This is consistent with the Chapter's intent. The Group is unmoderated. The Director of Networking is authorized to delete any postings to the Group that are in violation of the PMI Code of Ethics.

Appeals of such decisions may be brought to the BoD by any Chapter member. Subgroups may be chartered as moderated or unmoderated. If moderated, the Moderator will be a member of the BoD and will share all information needed to perform the duties of a Moderator, in writing, to the Director of Networking.

Dependencies

Implementation of this policy is dependent on the policies of LinkedIn Corporation. The Director of Networking is responsible for keeping the BoD and membership updated of any pending or occurring changes.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to the membership through inclusion in the first newsletter published after its acceptance by the BoD, by being announced at the first Chapter meeting at each meeting site after its acceptance, and by being added to all relevant places in the Chapter archives, website, and other Chapter communication vehicles.

Responsibility

Responsibility for implementing this policy lies with the President, Director of Networking, and Director of Communication.

Attribution

LinkedIn, the LinkedIn logo, the IN logo and InMail are registered trademarks or trademarks of LinkedIn Corporation and its affiliates in the United States and/or other countries.

Version 1.0   Date: Feb. 3, 2010
Primary Author(s): Howie Lyhte

PMI-NH BoD Approval
Date: Feb. 3, 2010

Published: Feb. 2010 Newsletter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raymond C. Peeples Jr.
President

Salvatore Angelone, PMP
President–Elect

Karen Thorpe, PMP
Treasurer

Lynda Sawicki, PMP
Recording Secretary

Eric Johannesson, PMP
VP, Professional Development

Diane George, PMP
Past-President

Howie Lyhte, PMP
Director at Large

Ken Crowley, PMP
Director at Large

Bob Blaney, PMP
Director at Large

Charlie Bahn, PMP
Director of Education

Symantha Gates, PMP
Director of Marketing

- Vacant -
Director of Programs

Peg Duggan, PMP
Director of Operations

Paul Ryan, PMP
Director of Sponsorship

Andrea Moy, PMP
Director of Membership

Nora Colliton
Director of Communications

Ken Crowley, PMP
Director at Large

– Vacant –
Chairman – Networking Committee

Dave Connors, PMP
Chairman - Ambassador Program

 Proud to be your local project management connection.

 PMI–NH is a member–supported nonprofit organization.

PMI NH Chapter, Inc.
P.O. Box 4496
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Visit us at: www.pmi-nh.org

General E-mail Addresses:

membership@pmi-nh.org
programs@pmi-nh.org