

**North (Vancouver) PMI Roundtable Notes  
April 28, 2006**

<b>Attendee:</b>	<b>With:</b>
Dave Routtu	PBS Engineering & Enviro
Bo Schultz-Andersen	Clark PUD
Lori Comstock	Qwest
Ed Wilson	Conversys
Alan Strong	PMI-PDX
Jack Codron	-
Frances Turner	Clark PUD
John Leet	Skire
Joe Brookhouse	Accent Business Services
James Pilgrim	HP
Josef Pfister	MCM
Darin Bowman	FHWA
Bruce Rosenblatt	TRM Corp
Todd Williams	eCameron Inc
Tess Stewart	IBM

**Announcements:** The next CNF Roundtable will have a speaker from ABPMP - the Association of Business Process Management Professionals. Some folks knew of the group & wanted it noted that this could be a good meeting to attend. For more information about the group, their web site is:

<http://abpmp.org>

And the Portland Chapter's information is at:

<http://abpmp.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=5>

Thanks to Bruce for making us aware of this special speaker & to Todd for forwarding these URLs for inclusion in the notes!

**Topic 1: What technical knowledge does a PM need?**

A Program Manager normally has area knowledge / expertise in their "technical domain"

- need knowledge to do effective risk definitions & assessment
- need knowledge to challenge team members & ask questions
- need knowledge to overcome roadblocks
- need knowledge to validate PM requests

Reference Book: "It's Not a Cookbook"

- profession values experience
- we need to learn PM skills not tech domain

A leader is a PM with domain skills; need practical business knowledge & reasonableness  
PM needs to bring accountability to the team & raise issues to management for resolution

PM needs to understand the project requirements to make sure the project delivers the right product and to make sure the team has the right resources

PM also needs general business skills - organizational skills, leadership, team development, etc (some PMs don't have these....)

Need to know enough to know when you don't know - then call in the experts.

We are normally our own worst critic! There is a lot we don't know, which leads to insecurity & anxiety.

We need to define the PM view of a successful project:

- what do we own versus what do others own (outside of our control)
- bring sponsor into the discussion of issues / requirements when conflicts happen

PM leadership - resolve issues through decision & action, keeping the project requirements forefront in discussions

**Announcement** - due to the Memorial Day weekend, for the month of May we will move our meeting to the third Friday (May 19).

**Suggestions for future topics:**

- Working with a steering committee; how do you prioritize projects?
- Collaborative PM software
- Setting up an Internal PM Training program