

**St. Charles County
Workforce Development Board**

Manufacturing Task Force

Mission Statement:

The St. Charles County Workforce Development System is an alliance of public and private leaders dedicated to moving careers, companies and communities forward through workforce development that impacts local wages, economic development that impacts local business investment and community development that impacts the local tax base.

Committee: Manufacturing Task Force (May 27, 2020)

Attending Manufacturing Taskforce

WDB Members: Ben Abbott, George Herina and Mike Hurlbert

Attending

Manufacturing Task Force Members:

Patrick Brown – Fort Zumwalt School District
Scott Kearns – St. Charles Community College
Chris Lagemann – State Tech
Theresa Matlock - Newco
Dan Sutton – SAK Construction
Jeremy Sutton – BCI Skills Center
Louis Pounds – SAK Construction
Cheryl Renne—Nike
Amanda Schwab- EDC SCC

Staff: Lori Myers
Sharon Sontag

1. Welcome/Comments
Mike Hurlbert thanked everyone for their attendance.
2. Minutes from the last meeting: The minutes from the March 18, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Ben Abbott made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Chris Lagemann seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
3. Local Economic Trends Report
Lori Myers reviewed current unemployment data through March 2020.

Mike Hurlbert reviewed current housing permit data through March 2020.
4. Review of Employer Survey from 2016
The Survey was reviewed at the March 18, 2020 meeting. It was decided to hold off sending out the survey for a month or two. The same questions will be used. The plan will be to hold off sending the survey until July 2020. Lori Myers will act on the plan to send out the survey in July 2020.
5. COVID Impacts on North American Manufacturing Report.

Mike Hurlbert provided an update from the North American Manufacturing Report. He mentioned that this was from March and that he was not able to find one updated in this manner but wanted to use it to get the conversation going.

- About 5-10% of manufacturers showed impact from COVI in March 2020 as compared to February.
- Interest in Chinese disinvestment may provide an opportunity for reshoring in Missouri.
- Potential for company to change supply line or back to US or MO in general.

Ben Abbott provided comments.

- The report data is lagging and not updated yet for April/May but still found it to be interesting.
- For Plastics the pricing is low, and the demand is also low.
- Injection Mold pricing has gone up along with a 25% tariff for Chinese supply so we may see companies mitigating some risk in 1-2 years and having molds made in the US vs. China.
- Resident suppliers are seeing the pounds of resin sold down in March – May.

Patrick (K-12) provided feedback.

- Training/education impacts that it is too early to provide feedback on K-12 needs.

Chris Lagemann provided college education feedback.

- Colleges are being left to make their own decisions on these matters.

Jeremy Sutton provided skills training feedback.

- Students ready to start skills training.
- With layoffs, they are currently looking for new employers to partner with.

Mike Hurlbert provided feedback on the Job Center that he heard recently from Jenny Warren.

- With the CARES Act and Unemployment benefits, training opportunities at the Job Center have not been taken advantage of yet.
- Training dollars have not been spent yet but expect to see future impacts.

6. Update on Manufacturing Day 2020

Mike Hurlbert commented:

- The decision has not been made yet whether this will be an in-person event or a virtual event.
- A survey has gone out to Manufacturers for tours and event interest. This will dictate if virtual tours.
- The event space that we will use is still TBD. We were possibly looking at using the Family Arena or Convention Center. Venues will have to allow the space to be used so that will be a determining factor as well.

7. Updates from Task Force Attendees

Mike Hurlbert commented the St. Charles County buildings will open on Friday May 29 or Monday June 1. Some short-term restrictions to visitors will be in place at the Admin Building and some long-term changes will be made to the building as well.

Ben Abbott commented the labor market is still bad since people are making more money staying at home right now. Filling staffing positions has not improved.

There were no other updates from attending members.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.
All meetings will continue to be virtual through the end of the year.

9. Adjournment