

**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 (June 22, 2022)

Attending Manufacturing Taskforce

WDB Members: George Herina, Michael Hurlbert, Chris Seyer and Amanda Sizemore

Attending

Manufacturing Task Force Members:

Scott Drachnik – EDC of St. Charles County
Diana Forbes- General Motors
Debbie Muraski – National Cart
Jeremy Sutton- BCI Skills Center

Attending Guests:

Christine Crawford – City of O’Fallon
Colette Kelly - Nike

Staff: Lori Myers

1. Welcome/Comments

Lori Myers welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. Approve Task Force Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2021

The minutes from the November 17, 2021, meeting were reviewed. Chris Seyer made a motion to accept the minutes. Diana Forbes seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Minutes approved.

3. Presentation – Shared Work Program by Ethan Deimeke

Ethan Deimeke provided information on the Shared Work Program offered through the Missouri Division of Employment Security. This program is a layoff alternative for Missouri employers and employees. The presentation slides will be shared with task force members.

4. Discussion – Manufacturing Round Table held on 2/25/2022

Michael Hurlbert asked the group for feedback from the Manufacturing Roundtable held in February with Congressman Luetkemeyer. There were only a few individuals present that attended the session in February. Items discussed included a skilled trades discussion and the challenge with insurance and safety concerns regarding allowing high school students to get more involved in manufacturing.

5. Port Authority Update

Michael Hurlbert provided a brief update on the St. Charles County Port Authority. Michael discussed some proposed projects [that were presented to the Missouri Port Authority Association \(MPAA\) for possible funding](#). After surveying local municipalities, 6 projects were considered. The [Port Authority-MPAA](#) is interested in projects involving the river. Only 2 of the 6 projects involved the river so those were the projects chosen. These projects involve the dock and boat landing in St. Charles City. ~~The other project involves~~ [and the dock and](#) boat landing at Klondike Park.

Michael indicated that the Port Authority has other tools for inland projects. AIM Zones allow the Port Authority to establish zones which captures 50% of state withholding taxes. These funds are required to be reinvested into the zone. There are currently 2 zones: Missouri ~~riverfront~~ Riverfront from Boschertown to 364 and the Crossroads Zone in Wentzville. The Port Authority is looking ~~to add~~ at the possibility of additional AIM Zones.

6. Local Workforce & Economic Development Update

Lori gave an update on the latest local unemployment numbers. April had an unemployment rate of 2.0% down from 2.9% in March for St. Charles County. Labor force participations numbers decreased from 229,819 in March to 229,777 in April. Michael provided an update on housing data in St. Charles County. The multi-family sector continues to have strong growth with multi-family permits continuing to increase. Single-family numbers still continue to be down but the gap is slightly closing. New commercial permits have ticked up but is still off last year's pace.

7. Member Updates:

- Lori informed the group that the Job Center is relocating in the fall to Harry S. Truman Boulevard in St. Charles City. The relocation will take place during the last 2 weeks of September and will reopen to the public on October 3, 2022.
- Amanda discussed how she is seeing many individuals who cannot do online applications. They are lacking general computer skills. Many do not have email addresses.

8. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment

Chris Seyer made a motion to adjourn. Jeremy Sutton seconded it. All were in favor.