

Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative

June 23rd, 2:30-4:30pm, Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mike Kennealy, Michael Tamasi, Jeffery Roy, Eric Lesser, Rosalin Acosta, Carolyn Kirk, Galen Nelson, Carla Reimold, Leslie Greiss, Stephen Boyd, Carlo Canetta, Ken Warnock, Katie Phelon, Robby Bitting, Vinit Nijhawan, Elisabeth Reynolds, Joseph Kunze, John Killam, Julie Chen, Megan Marszalek, and Lauren Liss. Additional Attendees: Robert LePage, Jennifer James, Marina Zhavoronkova, Christine Abrams, Jim Oliveira, Liz May, Helena Fruscio Altsman, Farhad Vazehgoo, Meghan Abella-Bowen, Damon Cox, Kelley French, Brian Norris, Donna Ramos, and Deborah Meggison (MassHire/Captains).

Welcome and Introductions

2:30-2:40pm

Helena Fruscio Altsman welcomed attendees, conducted a roll call, and approved the February 13, 2020 minutes.

Welcome from Co-Chair – Sec. Kennealy

2:40-2:50pm

Secretary Kennealy welcomed attendees and thanked the AMC for its role in the M-ERT and reopening process.

Welcome from Co-Chair – Mike Tamasi

2:50-2:55pm

Mike Tamasi welcomed attendees and thanked AMC members for the work they did during the pandemic.

Impacts of COVID 19 on Manufacturing – John Killam

2:55-3:10pm

John Killam provided an overview of the state of MA manufacturing during the pandemic.

- MassMEP surveyed MA manufacturers regarding their experiences during the pandemic. The survey indicated that the majority of manufacturers remained open during the pandemic and were on the frontlines of implementing safe working practices.

Mfg. -Emergency Response Team (M-ERT) Update – Carolyn Kirk 3:10-3:45pm

Carolyn Kirk provided an overview of the M-ERT's work, outcomes, and role moving forward.

- M-ERT assisted 27+ companies to successfully pivot to manufacturing PPE.
- Over 4000 items have been produced.
- The M-ERT supported pivoting manufacturers by distributing of FDA and Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) information, providing regulatory and packaging guidance, and access to testing.

- Key challenges faced by manufacturers included understanding supply and demand needs, and assistance in finding customers.
- As M-ERT transitions into the new normal, MERT 2.0 will become a component of the Innovation Ecosystem Working Group where it will be reviewed and assessed as a case study in how the ecosystem supported manufacturing.

Working Group Updates – Farhad Vazehgoo

3:45-4:25pm

Farhad Vazehgoo provided an overview of the Innovation Ecosystem, Business Environment, Talent/Branding, and One-Stop Working Groups.

- The working groups met in April during the height of the COVID-19 emergency. During these meetings each group reviewed the initial goals set in January and discussed the impact the pandemic had on its planned work.

Innovation Ecosystem

- The initial goal of this group was to analyze how innovation leads to manufacturing in MA; in particular how does R&D lead to new ventures that do, or use, manufacturing in MA.
- The COVID-19 emergency and M-ERT response has provided us with a case study to research and understand how the innovation ecosystem in MA supported manufacturers through the process. It provides an opportunity to assess the prospects, gaps, bottlenecks and success, and rethink the implications of the system as we move forward.

Business Environment:

- The goals of this group were to benchmark the business environment, regionally as well as against other states, to support manufacturing and to inventory existing Massachusetts programs.
- As we move into the new normal, how do we balance immediate needs of business with our initial goals?

Talent and Branding

- The initial goals focus on benchmark the talent supply vs. demand, inventorying the training and education programs in the state, and developing a marketing campaign with understanding of the target audience(s).
- The COVID-19 emergency has provided us an opportunity to highlight manufacturing. During this time manufacturing was seen as an essential industry and solved real world problems. Capitalize on this moment to profile pivoting companies and change the perception of the industry.

One-Stop

- The Manufacturing in Massachusetts (<https://www.mamanufacturing.com/>) website was migrated over to Mass Tech in April.

- Mass Tech will work with all three working groups to develop a unified Advanced Manufacturing message and establish a single port of entry for manufacturers looking for information.

Wrap-up & Next Steps

4:25-4:30pm

Remaining meeting dates for 2020:

- Tuesday, September 15 at 2:00pm at PTC (pending)
- Thursday, December 10 at 10:00 am

Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:

1. Draft Minutes – February 13, 2020 AMC Quarterly Meeting
2. Presentation – AMC June 23, 2020 Quarterly Meeting