

Manufacturer's Round Table

March 8, 2017

Meeting Held at: Dickinson State University

Meeting Record

Present: Brad Boyd, Impact Dakota; Deborah Dragseth, DSU; Mary Massad, SWA; Cheryl Viola, Chamber of Commerce; Mary Urlacher, Job Service ND; Shirley Meyer, Senator Heitkamp; Erwin VanVeldhuizen, DPS; Bekki Hoff, ND Vocational Rehabilitation; Darrell Neubert, SBDC; Thomas Mitzel, DSU; Don Hedger, KMM; Patricia Hedger, KMM; Vince Reep, DPS, Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation; and Danita Tysver, Stark Development Corporation.

Business – Go – Round:

Ryan Jilek thanked DSU for hosting.

Thomas Mitzel provided a welcome.

Vince Reep, Dickinson Public Schools – Enrollment is down 10 students from this fall. Will have 194 seniors graduating this year. Next year's kindergarten class will be about 368 students and the following year will be over 400. The new middle school construction is on track. Will take ownership July first and start moving furniture in April. Invitations were sent out for the new middle school open house on July 31st. The following week will be an open house for the public. If you have not received an invitation contact the administration office. If you would like a tour prior to July 31st send an email to Danita at danita@starkdev.com. Hagen Jr High will house the Southwest Community High School, Partners in Parenting, West Dakota Parent & Family Resource Center, and the Adult Learning Center. Berg will be left vacant this year while they work on a logistical plan. The Southwest Community High School may become an early childhood center. See attached handout.

Don Hedger, KMM – Busy, especially in the Dickinson facility. Completed a 24,000 square foot expansion in Dickinson. Working twenty-four seven to keep up. Have about 300 employees in Dickinson. Their 3 other locations could use more work. Commercial work and military work is growing. Thank you to Stark Development Corporation for PACE assistance on the expansion.

Thomas Mitzel, DSU – Enrollment is up. With the help of the City of Dickinson the old pool room has been turned into a multi-purpose athletic room. Been meeting with legislatures. Thankful for the community support. DSU was awarded #4 in U.S. News & World Report's 2017 Best Regional Public Colleges in the Midwest. Getting ready for spring break.

Darrel Neubert, Small Business Development Center – He is the Small Business Development Center Adviser for the Dickinson area. Works part time as an adviser and also teaches. Started in early January. Working to establish a presence in the area. Started

assisting clients. Have started out reach to banks in the area and outlying communities. Working with Stark Development Corporation to develop a presence in the Chamber building and help with scheduling of clients.

Shirley Meyer, Senator Heidi Heitkamp –Advised the regulatory meeting that was held in Dickinson with Tyrell was beneficial and he has applied things he has learned. Working on Export/Import bank of the US. See attached handout.

Mary Urlacher, Job Service North Dakota – Region 8 has 916 job openings (up 250 from January) in a variety of positions. Oil activity has picked up north of us. Seasonal construction should be starting soon. Hosting a Job Fair along with West River Business Center on March 21st at the Biesiot Activities Center. 35 employers have signed up. Will be hiring for a temporary position to help with case management. See attached handout.

Cheryl Viola, Chamber of Commerce – Would like members to comment on repealing the remaining Blue Laws in ND. The mall has started a shop local campaign. See attached handouts.

Mary Massad, Southwest Water Authority – Water treatment plant under construction in Dickinson. The second intake is moving forward. The contractor has received a new micro tunnel machine from Germany. The DAPL pipeline crosses their lines 26 times. DAPL will pay for moving lines. Dirt needs to be replaced on a few lines where it has been removed due to the DAPL protest. Working on lime sludge issues. Working on policy and funding issues in the legislature.

Debora Dragseth, Dickinson State University – The first article of the manufacturing series in City Magazine was in January 2017 featuring manufacturing in Dickinson. Baker Boy was featured in February. Funshine will be in March, Steffes in April and KMM in May. Has been elected President to the Council of College Faculties for the State.

Don Hedger thanked Deb Dragseth for working with City Magazine for the manufacturing series in Dickinson.

Brad Boy, Impact Dakota – Assist manufacturers in many ways. Funded federally and by the ND Department of Commerce. Offer leadership programs, strategic planning and management. Working with the Chamber on a lunch and learn in April about generations in the workplace. Will be offering Strategic planning for small business in May.

Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation – Have been busy. Helped teach a DSU leadership class. Introduced an intern board member program idea to work with DSU honors leadership program students. The program would require students to intern on a community board with the hope of generating interest in future participation and board involvement. Will be having a strategic planning session in April. Have seen a lot of entrepreneurial activity in the office.

Bekki Hoff, ND Vocational Rehabilitation – Provided an overview of their services and benefits. Offer pre-screened and qualified applicants. Work to match employees based on employer's needs. Looking for businesses who would offer job shadowing. There would be no cost to the business. Help businesses recruit the right employee. Currently have 10-12 individuals looking for placement. Tax incentives may be available if requirements are met. See attached handouts

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 2:30 PM, hosted by Shirley Dukart at the Ramada Grand Dakota Lodge.