

Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Department of Economic and Community Development
June 29, 2023
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
via Teams Meeting

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Paul Lavoie, Kelli Vallieres, John Zoldy, Colin Cooper, Mike Rocheleau, Hannah Coombs, and Mark Burzynski
- Board Members Absent: Raquel Rivera, Emir Redzic, and Chris DiPentima
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders & Guests: Ron Angelo (CCAT), John Glidden (CCAT), Jessica Taylor (ACM), Mike Stimson (CONNSTEP), Todd Berch (DOL), Beatriz Gutierrez (CONNSTEP), Alan Davis (CONNEX/i5), Michael DiDonato (UConn POCC), Joseph Luciani (UConn POCC)
- DECD Staff: Michelle Hall and Carmen Molina-Rios

Welcome

Paul Lavoie opened the meeting at 1:04 PM

Introduction to new MIF Advisory Board member – Hannah Coombs

Minutes (Vote)

Paul requested a motion to approve the 5/18/23 meeting minutes. Kelli Vallieres moved the motion. Mark Burzynski seconded the motion. No comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Industry 4.0 Closeout Report

- Project purpose and budget review
- Required shift due to global pandemic
- Program outperformed – # of demonstrations, training, events, and grant awards
- Next steps – began Digital Transformation voucher program (MIF \$3M) and expanded scope

SIRI & Cybersecurity Assessment Update

- Project, budget, and activity review
- All grant to-date have been awarded for cyber (not SIRI/assessment)
- Understanding outreach and the underutilization of the program
- Recommend subcommittee explore ‘course corrections’

Action Required

IWT Subcommittee Update

- Meeting held 6/14/23 – Colin (MIF), Ron (CCAT), Paul (CCAT), Mike (CONNSTEP), Jessica (ACM), and Bernice (former DOL administrator)
- Reviewed challenges and recommendations
 - Increase company size (from 300 to 1,000 employees) –
Vote: Motion passes 6 to 1

- Change minimum application (\$5,000 to 0) –
Vote: Motion passes 5 to 2

Action Required

UConn – Workforce & Automation Proposal

- Project overview and work occurring at the UConn Proof of Concept Center (POCC)
- Targeting 40 companies and 8+ projects per year @ SMM (3-300)
- Reviewed budget (including cost-share) and outreach
- Concerned about finding reliable solutions that companies can support long-term

CONNEX – Risk illumination & Mitigation Proposal

- MEPs have received NIST grant, which aligns well with supply chain work in CT – CONNSTEP is the CT MEP and they also manage the CONNEX platform for the state
- Exiger illumination tool is an add-on module within the CONNEX platform
- Mitigation of ‘illuminated’ risk areas would be performed w/ a partnership between i5/CONNEX and CONNSTEP
- National level conversation – priority on mitigating supply chain risk
- CT is among the states considering the tool simultaneously (none launched)
- Can OEMs participate in underwriting this product? OEMs are currently paying for their own internal pilots and some of the CT suppliers.
- Understanding the difference between supplier-level and state-level
- Highlighting the importance of being able to see and mitigate risk – a) winning business and b) identifying state-level gaps
- Budget review

Meeting Adjournment

Paul Lavoie requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Rocheleau moved the motion. Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Paul Lavoie closed the meeting at 2:46 PM.