

**Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**  
***Meeting Minutes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

September 16, 2025

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

*via Teams meeting*

**Attendance**

Board Members Present: Dan O’Keefe (MIF Acting Board Chair), Kirti Patel (incoming BIF Board Chair), Hannah Belmont, Dave Cremin, Mike Rocheleau, Mark Burzynski, Paul Amarone (delegate for Chris DiPentima), Lydia Blanche, John Zoldy, Emir Redzic, Kelli-Marie Vallieres.

Quorum: Yes

Absent: Colin Cooper, Chris DePentima

Stakeholders & Guests: Heather Burns (GreenBank); Robert Schmitt (GreenBank); Amy Thompson (CCAT); Paul Striebel (CCAT); Ron Angelo (CCAT); Deb Presbie (ReadyCT); Lisa Nollman (ReadyCT); Shannon Marimon (AdvanceCT); William McDonough; Eileen Candels (CCAT), Andrew Bond (CCAT), Michael Fantom (FIRST), Ron Angelo (CCAT), Barbara Fernandez (CONNSTEP), Bernice Zampano (CONNSTEP), Mark Bliek (Guest), Adam

DECD Staff: Michelle Hall, Cindy Hetu, Carmen Molina-Rios

**1. Welcome to new CMO**

2. **Meeting Minutes 5/28/25 (vote) and 7/21/25 (vote)** – Motion to accept 5/28/25 minutes by Dan O’Keefe, carried by Kelli Vallieres, second by Mark Burzynski. 7/21/25 Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting as they have not yet been reviewed by the Board.

**3. Budget Review**

4. **Update and Proposal – Faculty Fellowship 2.0 (vote)** – Motion to accept proposal of expanding and increasing the current program award to \$449,718 and proposed start date of 1/1/26 made by Dan O’Keefe, carried by Mike Rocheleau, second by Hannah Belmont.
5. **Update and Proposal – GreenGain 2.0 (vote)** - Motion to consider additional funding for this program made by Dan O’Keefe, carried by Mike Rocheleau, second by Hannah Belmont. All in favor, zero. Motion did not pass
6. **Update and Proposal – Robotics 2.0 (vote)** – Motion to accept proposal of \$4,264,000 for 2 year budget period made by Dan O’Keefe, carried by Mike Rocheleau, second by Hannah Belmont.

7. **Reschedule December 2025 mtg** – December's current meeting date of 12/16/25 will now be held on 12/9/25 in order to the annual report completion and the legislative deadline.
8. **Schedule a strategy session** – In person MIF strategy session tentatively scheduled for the morning of 10/21, prior to the already scheduled MIF meeting that afternoon.
9. **New Business**: Mark Blik made a request to put forth a proposal, no Board member chose to move on this motion.
10. Advisory Board Members and guests were thanked for their time and meeting was adjourned at 2:59pm.