

Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

December 3, 2020

9:00-10:30 AM

via Teams Meeting

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Colin Cooper, Kelli Vallieres, John Zoldy, Shane Eddy
- Board Members Absent: Don Balducci, Chris DiPentima, Beverlee Dacey, Emir Redzic
- Quorum: No
- Presenters: Jill Adams (Adams & Knight), Bernice Zampano (DOL), Nicholas Zuba (CT Green Bank)
- Stakeholders: Ron Angelo (CCAT), Paul Striebel (CCAT), Todd Berch (DOL), Eric Brown (CBIA), Mary Bidwell (CSCU), Jim Frawley (Adams & Knight)
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Beth Trenchard

Welcome & Introductions

Colin Cooper opened the meeting at 9:07 AM.

Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum of the members of the Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) Advisory Board, approval of the October minutes will be voted upon at a subsequent scheduled time to continue the meeting.

2020 Annual Report (Vote)

Colin Cooper discussed the goal for this year's annual report is to emphasize the cumulative benefits the MIF has provided for CT manufacturers in accelerating growth, fostering innovation, and cultivating talent. The report also emphasizes the flexibility of the MIF and the contribution to the resiliency of the CT manufacturing community as demonstrated by the rapid implementation of the COVID-19 grant program.

Jill Adams reviewed the draft annual report with the MIF Advisory Board (Board). A discussion ensued among Board members with Kelli Vallieres' suggestion to include the importance of continued support for these important initiatives going forward. Shane Eddy suggested highlighting the importance of manufacturing in Connecticut and the current needs of the

industry. Ron Angelo inquired whether it would be beneficial to include a discussion of potential new programs in the future if/when additional funding is provided and spoke of the benefits of capturing the amount of financial support by specific community. A discussion also ensued about the benefit of calculating the financial ROI when the available information supports such an endeavor.

Due to the lack of a quorum of the members of the Board, approval of the 2020 Annual Report will be voted upon at a subsequent scheduled time to continue the meeting.

Portfolio Update

Colin Cooper provided an update on the MIF Financial Portfolio noting that there were no new program allocations or expenditures since the previous report in October. There remains a current balance of unexpended administrative funding of approximately \$2.7 million.

Incumbent Worker Training (Vote)

Bernice Zampano provided an overview of the current status of the Incumbent Worker Training Program. She highlighted the following impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Delay, cancellation, redefining training plans due to furloughs and travel restrictions of trainers has impacted training plans for manufacturers statewide
- Shifts in production has impacted training
- Training vendors shifted to remote learning for some classes
- Cancellations occurred and training funds have been returned
- Companies are slowly returning to the training mindset and are planning for the upcoming year: 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021

The request to the MIF Board is to extend the use of unallocated funding of approximately **\$629,631** for the Incumbent Worker Training Program until December 31, 2021.

Due to the lack of a quorum of the members of the Board, approval of the no-cost extension request for the Incumbent Worker Training Program will be voted upon at a subsequent scheduled time to continue the meeting.

Energy on the Line (Vote)

Nicholas Zuba provided an update on the Energy on the Line Program and the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic became an unprecedented event that affected the Connecticut Green Bank's ability to expend all remaining unallocated funds. The Program's progress slowed down once the pandemic hit and severely impacted the ability to get new projects into the pipeline and financed in 2020. The request to the MIF Board is to extend the use of unallocated funding of \$280,760 for the Energy on the Line Program until December 31, 2021.

Due to the lack of a quorum of the members of the Board, approval of the no-cost extension request for the Energy on the Line Program will be voted upon at a subsequent scheduled time to continue the meeting.

Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program – CT Digital Model Initiative

Colin Cooper highlighted the roles of the MIF Board and DECD in implementing Connecticut's Digital Model Initiative for the Connecticut Defense Manufacturing Community Consortium (CDMCC). Mr. Cooper also discussed the partners and key stakeholders of the CDMCC who will be collaborating to introduce and foster adoption of "Digital Transformation" in Connecticut's defense manufacturing supply base.

The Digital Model Initiative is a pilot program that will track desired high-level outcomes and metrics to demonstrate the development and transformation of the supply chain from a 2-dimensional (2D) design and manufacturing platform to a 3-dimensional (3D) platform. Following the successful pilot, the long-term desired outcome will be to begin a coordinated integration across the Connecticut defense manufacturing supply chain. Ultimately this initiative is intended to produce cost savings and efficiencies to the Department of Defense, in addition to making Connecticut defense manufacturing supply chain companies and workforce more competitive.

The outcomes of the Digital Model Initiative:

- A completed pilot program that educates six supply chain companies that are part of the defense vertical lift, propulsion and submarine supply chain in the principles and benefits of Model Based Definition (MBD) 3-D modeling, design and production.
- Lessons learned and best practices for implementation will be created and shared through a digital guide playbook.
- The partners will identify training and curriculum requirements for workforce development.

Program Update: Manufacturing Voucher Program (MVP)

Colin Cooper provided an update on continuing the Manufacturing Voucher Program (MVP). The \$5 million allocated by DECD is in place and requirements to administer the program are currently being finalized. Mr. Cooper anticipates the program to be up and running within the next few weeks to begin providing grants to the applicants in the pipeline.

2021 Schedule of Meetings

Colin Cooper discussed the schedule of meetings for calendar year 2021. Board meetings are typically held on the first Thursday of every other month. However, due to scheduling conflicts for some Board members, a new schedule will be forthcoming based upon the Board's input.

Other Business

Shane Eddy commended Colin Cooper and the team for the CT Digital Model Initiative, emphasizing the importance of Model Based Definition (MBD). Mr. Eddy shared with the Board that Pratt & Whitney's goal is to have MBD implemented across its supply base by 2025.

Meeting Adjournment

Colin Cooper announced that the Board meeting will be continued at a later date when there is a quorum in place for voting purposes. Mr. Cooper closed the meeting at 10:15 AM