

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

April 28, 2026

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Attendance

Board Members Present: Kirti Patel, Hannah Belmont, Dave Cremin, Mike Rocheleau, Mark Burzynski, Lydia Blanche, Colin Cooper, Chris DiPentima, Emir Redzic, Tracy Ariel (for Kelli-Marie Vallieres)

Quorum: Yes

Absent: John Zoldy, Kelli-Marie Vallieres (Tracy Ariel)

Stakeholders & Guests: Christopher Knox (CSMI), John Stevens (Talisen Tech), Walker Potts (NMC), Jessica Taylor (ACM), Coby Whitehead (Blue Forge Alliance), Jessica Stevens (ACM), Paul Stribel (CCAT), Ron Angelo (CCAT), Amy Thompson (CCAT), Debra Morgan (CCAT), Tyler Scott (CONNSTEP), Rick Mullins (CONNSTEP), Barbara Fernandez (CONNSTEP), Beatriz Gutierrez (CONNSTEP)

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

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Meeting Minutes 3/17/26 (vote)** - Motion to accept 3/17/26 Minutes made by Kirti Patel. Moved by Colin Cooper, second by Lydia Blanche. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Quick Fiscal Review**
- 4. CT-Defense Cybersecurity Adoption Program (vote)** – Motion to accept allocation of \$2M for the development of a Connecticut Defense Cybersecurity Council adoption program, with initial Website/portal development for the CMMC proposal charged to MIF Admin Account up to \$50k, was made by Kirti Patel. Moved by Mike Rocheleau, second by Dave Cremin. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Motion to adjourn meeting made by Kirti Patel at 2:20pm. Motion moved by Colin Cooper, second by Mike Rocheleau. Meeting adjourned.**