

Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Department of Economic and Community Development
February 15, 2024
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
via Teams meeting

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Paul Lavoie, Hannah Belmont, Kelli-Marie Vallieres, John Zoldy, Mike Rocheleau, Emir Redzic, Dave Cremin and Colin Cooper
- Board Members Absent: Raquel Rivera, Mark Burzynski and Chris DiPentima
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders & Guests: Ron Angelo (CCAT), Barbara Fernandez (CONNSTEP), Bernice Zampano (CONNSTEP), Michael DiDonato (UConn), Amy Thompson (CCAT), Eileen Candels (CCAT), Paul Striebel (CCAT), Kylene Perras (UConn), Joe Budd (CBIA), Jang Jiong (UConn), Emmanouil Anagnostou (UConn), John Glidden (CCAT), Linda Iovanna (CCARC), Lori-Ann Hoberman (CCARC), Deb Presbie (ReadyCT), Joseph Luciani (UConn), Tracy Ariel (Guest)
- DECD Staff: Michelle Hall, Carmen Molina-Rios, Cindy Hetu, Lakisha Pryor

1. **Welcome**

Meeting was brought to order by Paul Lavoie at 1:03pm

2. **1/18/24 Meeting Minutes** - Motion to approve 1/18/24 minutes by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Michael Rocheleau, David Cremin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion - **Industrial Automation Vision**

4. Proposal - **Apprenticeship Funding Program (AFP)** – Motion to approve one of the 3 different options put together by CCAT:

Option 1: Provide current AFP users with \$15k for each apprentice. \$675k would be the funding required for this, (Add \$275,000 + extension to 6/30/24).

Option 2: Provide current AFP users with \$11,250 for each apprentice (75% of the total \$15k anticipated). Funding required: \$383,500 (w/AFP balance \$16,500) + extension to 6/30/24.

Option 3: Provide current AFP users with (1) more payment before 3/31/24. Funding required: \$283,000 (w/AFP balance of \$107k). We would also need to process an extension to 6/30/24 for admin closeout.

Paul Lavoie stated that there is also a 4th Option. This option would keep the program active and providing whatever funds necessary to keep the program running.

Motion put forth by Paul Lavoie to keep program at a no cost extension and then have a committee come back in April with a recommendation. Motion moved by Kelly Vallieres, seconded by Colin Cooper. Michael Rocheleau abstained from the vote. Paul Lavoie voted no.

5. Update - **Digital Transformation Program (DTP + IVP)** Motion to allocate an additional \$500,000 to continue the success of this program by Paul Lavoie, moved by Michael Rocheleau, seconded by Emir Redzic. Further discussion held pointing out that there was no report on impact and outcomes. Motion made to revisit after CCAT provided the data, preferably sooner than the next regularly scheduled meeting of MIF. CCAT pointed out that the program would in the meantime run out of funding if this option was decided. Motion moved by Michael Rocheleau, seconded by Colin Cooper. Motion passed, Colin Cooper recorded as opposed pending data received by CCAT. ACTION ITEM: CCAT to produce data how monies are being used for and its impacts before final approval at the March MIF meeting. Concern over program stop and re-start was raised. Paul Lavoie offered that if the data was produced more quickly, there could be an earlier special meeting in order to avoid this issue.

6. Proposal - **Inclusive Manufacturing Study & Pilot Internship** – VOTE – Motion to provide requested \$152,107 to CCARC for a 1 year pilot program for an inclusive manufacturing study and pilot internship by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Hannah Belmont, seconded by Michael Rocheleau. Motion passed.

Adjourn

- Vote: Motion to adjourn made at 2:44pm by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Michael Rocheleau, seconded by Dave Cremin. Motion approved.