

**Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Department of Economic and Community Development**  
March 21, 2024  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM  
*via Teams meeting*

**Attendance**

- Board Members Present: Paul Lavoie, John Zoldy, Mike Rocheleau, Emir Redzic, Dave Cremin Mark Burzynski, Kelli-Marie Vallieres and Chris DiPentima
- Board Members Absent: Raquel Rivera, Hannah Belmont, Colin Cooper
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders & Guests: Ron Angelo (CCAT), Barbara Fernandez (CONNSTEP), Bernice Zampano (CONNSTEP), Beatriz Gutierrez (CONNSTEP), Michael DiDonato (UConn), Eileen Candels (CCAT), Paul Striebel (CCAT), Kylene Perras (UCONN), Joe Budd (CBIA), Jang Jiong (UCONN), John Glidden (CCAT), Joseph Luciani (UCONN), Rich DuPont (Guest), Jeff Orszak (Guest), Debra Morgan (Guest), Jay Sloves (Guest), Jennifer Widness (Guest), Maura Provencher (Guest)
- DECD Staff: Michelle Hall, Cindy Hetu, Lakisha Pryor, Carmen Molina-Reyes

1. **Welcome** – Meeting was brought to order by Paul Lavoie at 1:02pm.
2. **2/15/24 Meeting Minutes\*** - Motion to approve 2/15/24 minutes by Paul Lavoie. Moved by David Cremin, seconded by Mark Burzynski. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Update - Program Budget** – FY24 and Proposed FY25 (with anticipated placeholders and commitments and forecasted projections), presented by Paul Lavoie and Michelle Hall.
4. **Proposal - Innovation Summit\*** Presentation made by Paul Lavoie. Rather than assuming \$350k and the lead on this event, motion was made by John Zoldy to instead have the MIF take the sponsorship of event for \$100k, the same amount as had been spent in prior years. No second on this motion, motion did not make it to the floor. Motion to approve MIF allocation of \$350k by Paul Lavoie. Moved by David Cremin, seconded by Emir Redzic. Motion passed. Two opposed, Michael Rocheleau and John Zoldy. Chris DePentima abstained.
5. **Update & Proposal - Innovation Voucher Program\*** Motion to approve additional \$750k over a 14 month time period (until the program expires in June of 2025), made by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Mike Rocheleau, seconded by Chris DePentima. Motion passed. Kelly Valliere abstained.
6. **Proposal – SMBD Grant and MIF \$\***- Motion to approve \$25k from MIF Admin to support the existing SMBD grant made by Paul Lavoie, Moved by David Cremin, seconded by Mark Burzynski. Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Proposal – VEX Robotics\***- Motion to approve an investment of \$250k for 12 CT Vex Robotics teams to travel to the World Championships made by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Mark Burzynski, seconded by Kelli Vallieres. Motion passed unanimously.
8. **Exploring Post Secondary Outcomes** – Update and data was presented by Jennifer Widness and Maura Provencher from CCIC.

9. **Update – Apprenticeship** – Update provided by John Zoldy, Michael Rocheleau and David Cremin.
  
10. **Update - Industrial Automation** – Update provided by Paul Lavoie. Plan is to do an RFP to use Admin funds to create fully developed plan. Plan will then be brought to the Board, and this must be done by August of this year as budget requests are due to the Office of the Governor by September. Proposal to be created to allow for enough funds to drive industrial automation in the State of CT in allotted time frame. Next step will be based on feedback, whether it be counter offer, or full approval, etc.
  
11. **Adjourn** - Motion to adjourn made at 2:30pm by Paul Lavoie. Moved by David Cremin, seconded by Chris DePentima. Motion carried.