

Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Department of Economic and Community Development

July 24, 2023
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
via Teams Meeting

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Paul Lavoie, Kelli Vallieres, Colin Cooper, Mike Rocheleau, Hannah Coombs, David Cremin, and Mark Burzynski
- Board Members Absent: Raquel Rivera, Emir Redzic, John Zoldy and Chris DiPentima
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders & Guests: Ron Angelo (CCAT), John Glidden (CCAT), Mike Stimson (CONNSTEP), Michael Fantom (New England First), Shannon Marmon (ReadyCT), Deb Presbie (ReadyCT)
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Andrew Lavigne

Welcome

Paul Lavoie opened the meeting at 1:06 PM. Mr. Lavoie introduced the new MIF Advisory Board members – David Cremin (Straton Industries) and Hannah Coombs (Westminster Tools Inc.). Colin Cooper congratulated and welcomed both to the board. Paul commented that there is still one seat to be filled and he is working with Representative Rojas to fill the last seat.

Minutes (Vote)

Paul requested a motion to approve the 6/29/23 meeting minutes. Colin Cooper moved the motion. Mike Rocheleau seconded the motion. No comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Review

A program and administrative budget review and update was provided to the board. Mr. Lavoie highlighted that there is new projected revenue of \$14,250,000 (program) and \$750,000 (administrative) for both fiscal years 24 and 25 for a total of \$30 million. He informed the board that the FY24 funding is on the agenda for the August bond commission meeting. A breakdown of the balance and run rate on various MIF programs was discussed. It is anticipated that that the Manufacturing Voucher Program will need to be recapitalized in FY 24. The board will revisit that program funding when the FY 24 funds are available.

ReadyCT: First Robotics Proposal

Shannon Marimon of ReadyCT presented the First Robotics Proposal to the board. The statewide program will sustain and expand FIRST robotics teams in K-12 schools, with a focus on engaging students from Alliance Districts and fostering an interest in STEM careers at all grade levels. Michael Fantom of New England First commented on how the Connecticut program is very established and successful in pockets throughout the state, however, the program needs better coordination to optimize its success. Board members provided favorable commentaries on the program and its mission to reach underrepresented communities and populations. There was discussion on the administrative costs. Deb Presbie of ReadyCT, Shannon, and Michael put into context the amount of work it will require to get alignment of the educators, industry, and school systems to have a connected state program. The board has an opportunity to perform further due diligence over the next few weeks as the program will be brought to a vote when funding becomes available after the

August bond commissioner meeting.

Other Business: OLDCC Grant Match

Paul Lavoie asked for a motion to add to the agenda the Digital Model Initiative 2.0 Scalability Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) grant award of \$1.5 million and match request. Michael Rocheleau motioned, and Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion. Paul provided background on the grant application and award. After some discussion, Paul requested a motion to allow for the use of MIF administration funds to be the match of \$300,000 for the OLDCC grant. Collin Cooper moved the motion. Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment

Paul Lavoie requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Collin Cooper moved the motion. Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Paul Lavoie closed the meeting at 2:16 PM.