**Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) Advisory Board**

***Meeting Minutes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

December 11, 2020

*(continuation of December 3, 2020 MIF Advisory Board meeting)*

11:00 AM -12:00 PM

***via Teams Meeting***

**Attendance**

* Board Members Present: Colin Cooper, Shane Eddy, Kelli Vallieres, Don Balducci, Emir Redzic
* Board Members Absent: John Zoldy, Chris DiPentima, Beverlee Dacey
* Quorum: Yes
* Stakeholders: Bernice Zampano (DOL), Nicholas Zuba (CT Green Bank),

Ron Angelo (CCAT), Paul Striebel (CCAT), John Glidden (CCAT), Tom Maloney (CCAT), Eric Brown (CBIA), Mary Bidwell (CSCU), Jill Adams (Adams & Knight), Jim Frawley (Adams & Knight)

* Public: Tyler Anderson (Robinson & Cole), Andrew Droney (CT House Republican Office)
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Beth Trenchard

**Welcome & Introductions**

Colin Cooper opened the meeting at 11:06 AM.

**Minutes**

Kelli Vallieres moved to have the October minutes approved. Emir Redzic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2020 Annual Report (Vote)**

Colin Cooper discussed a few edits that were made to the draft annual report based upon the Board’s input. The following was voted upon: Approval of the 2020 MIF Annual Report with a few minor outstanding edits. Don Balducci motioned and Shane Eddy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**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)**

Colin Cooper provided a brief overview of the current status of the Incumbent Worker Training Program and the impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

A discussion ensued among Board members with Kelli Vallieres noting that the Office of Workforce Strategy is working with the Governor on funding for the Workforce Strategic Plan. The proposal includes funds for Incumbent Worker Training, which is considered a best practice.

As a result of the discussion, the following was voted upon:

Approval to continue the Incumbent Worker Training Program utilizing the unexpended MIF funding through 12/31/2021. Kelli Vallieres motioned and Don Balducci seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Energy on the Line (Vote)**

Colin Cooper provided a brief 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.

A discussion ensued among Board members with Kelli Vallieres noting that the program’s collateral requirements may limit a company’s participation in the program. Of all of the MIF programs, Colin Cooper stated that this program provides the highest leverage of state funding with third party funds. The Board discussed the option of allowing the requested one-year time extension but limiting the funding to the projects currently in the pipeline. In the end, the Board agreed to provide the one-year, no-cost extension and allow the program to access the full amount of the remaining funding over that period.

As a result of the discussion, the following was voted upon:

Approval to continue the Energy on the Line Program utilizing the unexpended MIF funding through 12/31/2021. Kelli Vallieres motioned and Shane Eddy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program – CT Digital Model Initiative**

Colin Cooper highlighted the Digital Model Initiative – a pilot program underway 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. 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 a brief summary on continuing the Manufacturing Voucher Program. 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**

A meeting schedule for 2021 will be forthcoming based upon the Board’s input.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Colin Cooper requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kelli Vallieres moved the motion and Shane Eddy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cooper closed the meeting at 12:00 PM