**Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

***Meeting Minutes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

January 14, 2016

9:00 AM-10:30 AM

505 Hudson Street

Hartford, Connecticut

**Attendance**

* Board Members: Commissioner Catherine Smith, Chris DiPentima, John Harrity, Beverlee Dacey, Donald Balducci, Colin Cooper, Jon Gavin
* Board Members via Phone: Todd Pihl
* Quorum: Yes
* Stakeholders: Elliot Ginsberg, Mark Stankiewicz, Bernice Zampano, Tracy Ariel, Bryan Garcia, Eleanor Lennon, Jeff Smith (representing Danny DiPerna), Hank Tesky, Bonnie Stewart, Genevieve Sherman, Paul Striebel, Bonnie Del Conte, Mackey Dykes
* Staff: Barbara Fernandez, Benjamin Arsenault and Alison Lubin

**Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:06 am.

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting and introductions were made.
2. Approval of December 14 Meeting Minutes – Catherine Smith asks for motion to approve, John Harrity moves, Chris DiPentima Seconds
3. CPACE Proposal:
   1. Genevieve Sherman provided a description of CPACE (financing product for capital improvements; provided proposal goal: incentivize manufacturers to undertake energy improvements to their buildings in order to make their businesses more competitive by lowering energy costs
   2. There were some concerns surrounding the original CPACE funding, including: 1.) state was assuming all risk for upfront energy audits, 2.) marketing funds were only targeted to three regions (instead of state-wide), 3.) wanted to increase manufacturer participation, 4.) logistical issues on the “interest rate buy down,” 5.) didn’t want to subsidize private capital, and 6.) too narrow of a focus
   3. Updated proposal includes:
      1. MIF grant will go to a company to buy down the interest rate costs
      2. Capping each project at $40,000 (so that CPACE can help with 20 projects minimum)
      3. Making marketing funds available in targeted areas and accept statewide proposals
      4. Requested: $800,000; additionally, CPACE anticipates a certain number of projects will be funded using private dollars – estimated at approximately $10m
   4. Concerns with proposal include:
      1. Catherine Smith: should it really be a statewide offering?
      2. Beverlee Dacey: red herring: what if someone does the program and decides to sell the building to a non-manufacturer?
      3. John Harrity: should a portion of marketing funds be directed to southeast CT?
      4. Elliot Ginsberg: Can we use OEB money? Then we can integrate it to make sure we target outreach
      5. All issues discussed and addressed.
   5. Motion to approve proposal made by Colin Cooper, Beverlee Dacey seconds the motion; Catherine Smith recused self from vote because she is Green Bank chair, all other board members unanimously approve
4. Manufacturing Voucher Program Proposal
   1. Ben Arsenault presented data on the Voucher Program (170 companies approved, 183 applications received, $6.4M approved funding, $25.6M total project costs, every $1 MIF puts in, private capital puts in $4; 70% of voucher funds spent on new technology)
   2. Elliot Ginsberg: CCAT would like more money ($3.5M) for the Voucher Program; there is significant buzz about the program, application numbers for December increased; an increase in funding would spread funding across to allow a lot of companies to be a part of Vouchers program
   3. Motion to approve increased funding for Voucher Program made by John Harrity, Chris DiPentima seconds, Don Balducci recused self from vote because he is a CCAT employee, all other board unanimously approves
5. Apprenticeship 6 Month Status Update
   1. Eleanor Lennon reports data since August 2015 (56 Registered Apprentices, spent $2,375,000 on wage subsidies, tuition reimbursement, and credentialing; details on marketing efforts
   2. Potential Changes:
      1. Increasing number of Registered Apprentices per company (Catherine Smith: fine to keep the number of RA per company as is and re-evaluate at a later date)
      2. Possibly waiving credentialing requirements (significant pushback from multiple stakeholders)
      3. Supporting pre-apprentices
   3. Next steps
      1. Increase marketing and communications support
      2. Recognition that program is still early and we should make sure we are getting the word out before making any changes
6. IMCP Co Chair Report Out:

Workforce Development: overview by Barbara Fernandez. Working with Courtney Murphy at EB; marketing being led by Sue Palisano – hope to have a full inventory of current marketing by the end of January (CHS concerns: make sure to also think about the long-term pipeline and workforce needs, not just marketing)

Supplier Network: overview by Chris DiPentima. Cluster associations will increase collaboration; work to create a partnership (maybe even a consortium); Hank Tesky: EB is doing well and timing is right for a partnership, he will help to get vendor list

Research and Innovation: overview by Barbara Fernandez. Meeting with 12 people from EB talking about a common aerospace and shipbuilding project; plan to ask federal government for $15M; fed contact is ready to put agencies together

Infrastructure and Site Development: overview by Colin Cooper. 1st meeting will be January 15

Trade and International: overview by Beverlee Dacey. Reached out to get information on Hanover trade show, will reach out to Barbara with more information

Operational Improvements: overview by John Harrity. Planning to meet in the next 10 days; spoke with Maura Dunne at EB; hoping to work with Chris or someone else from ACM; next meeting: Alison should create a Doodle poll for meeting day to discuss federal funding

Evaluation and Metrics: overview by Todd Pihl and Don Balducci. Working to alter energy metrics using feedback from last meeting; updated metric suggestions from Alison for the entire MIF

1. Other Business:
   1. Beverlee Dacey: voiced concern about where do we go from here with the Fund?; spoke about “innovation” and how we should charge board members to think about how we are going to be innovative and improve (and change the dialogue/ease the “doom and gloom” attitude of Fairfield County businesses)
   2. Catherine Smith: DECD will create a presentation looking at the positives/negatives of CT and competitors; will conduct research on best practices by March; also said that DECD will plan a strategic meeting to discuss the future of MIF and the direction we want to take it in
2. Commissioner Smith asks for motion to adjourned meeting, Chris DiPentima motions John Harrity seconds Meeting Adjourned at 10:38 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2016