



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD

Draft Minutes
**Strategic Meeting of the
State Contracting Standards Board**
Friday, February 10, 2023 - 10:00 A.M. – 4:15 p.m.
Location: 165 Capitol Avenue, Conference Rooms G006D and G007E
Hartford, CT 06106

Members Present:

Lawrence Fox, Chair
Alfred Bertoline
Bruce Buff
Lauren Gauthier
Albert Ilg
Donna Karnes
Salvatore Luciano
Jean Morningstar
Robert Rinker
Daniel Rovero
Brenda Sisco
Gregory F. Daniels, Esq., Executive Director, ex-officio

Staff Present:

Jonathan M. Longman, Chief Procurement Officer
Samson F. Anderson, Research Analyst
Paul B. Netland Jr, Accounts Examiner
David L. Guay, Temporary Worker Retiree
Christopher Weishaupt, Investigative Attorney

1. Call to Order

Chairman Fox called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM

2. Opening Remarks

Chairman Fox made opening remarks about the hiring of the new State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB) staff. He expressed the excitement of not only having a staff but the extraordinary team that was assembled. Chair Fox noted that the team is the best at what they do, in each respective area of specialty.

3. Approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2023, meeting

Albert Ilg motioned to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2023, meeting, and Salvatore Luciano seconded the motion. The minutes of the January 13, 2023, meeting was approved and adopted unanimously.

4. Introductions of all Board and Staff members

Board and Staff members briefly introduced themselves and shared a personal factoid about themselves.

5. Review of Objectives and Agenda for the Meeting

Chair Fox opened discussions regarding the agenda of the strategic planning meeting, which included meeting objectives, ground rules, and expectations of the SCSB Members and newly acquired staff for the coming year and years moving forward. Chair Fox discussed that public procurement in the State of Connecticut has not been consistent or competitive, as much as preferred through the current procurement processes. The Chair also noted that the waiver process has been lacking in oversight and application of applicable regulations and statutes over the recent years, as many waivers are approved with a simple request. However, the Chair expressed that the Board's goal is to proactively help State procurement and contracting become more efficient, more transparent, and provide results-based outcomes with appropriate documentation to support the complete process.

6. Board Priorities for 2023

Before we discussed what our priorities are at each individual table, Chair Fox stated that our goal for this meeting was not to produce a work plan but to list priorities for the year that we can translate into a work plan later. This clarification was important as it provided a clear path as to what the objectives were for our break-out group sessions. Below is the list of sections with subsections of each area discussed in our individual groups and as a whole and shared after the break-out sessions:

- a. Legislative Fixes
 - i. Appeal rights for bidders (include SCSB in appeal complaint)
 - ii. Background Checks for Contractors (Expand beyond the State of Connecticut)
 - iii. MOAs and MOUs (Definitions and applicable regulations/statutes)
 - iv. Quasi-Public Agencies
 - v. Centralized Procurement Authority
 - vi. Tightening of Privatization Provisions of the Statute
 - vii. Public/Private partnerships

- b. Regulations
 - i. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group
 - 1. SCSB Members:
 - a. Lawrence Fox, Chair
 - 2. SCSB Staff:
 - a. Gregory Daniels, Executive Director
 - b. Jonathan Longman, Chief Procurement Officer
 - ii. Topics
 - 1. What regulations do we need?
 - 2. Clarify authority?
 - 3. Increase Agencies under the Board's Jurisdiction
- c. Reestablishing the Vendor & Agency Advisory Committees
 - i. Lawrence Fox, Chair
 - ii. Jonathan Longman, Chief Procurement Officer
- d. Data/Audit
 - i. Audit/Data Analysis Work Group
 - 1. SCSB Members:
 - a. Alfred Bertoline, Chair
 - b. Thomas Ahneman
 - c. Bruce Buff
 - d. Robert Rinker
 - e. Jean Morningstar
 - f. Lauren Gauthier
 - g. Daniels Rovero
 - h. Donna Karnes
 - 2. SCSB Staff:
 - a. Paul Netland Jr., Accounts Examiner
 - ii. Data/Audit Topics
 - 1. MOAs/MOUs
 - 2. Access to CORE System (STARS)
 - 3. Define the universe of state procurement
 - 4. Resume Triennial Audit process
 - 5. Streamline Audit process
- e. Privatization
 - i. Privatization Contract Committee
 - 1. SCSB Members
 - a. Lawrence Fox, Chair
 - b. Lauren Gauthier
 - c. Albert Ilg
 - d. Salvatore Luciano
 - e. Brenda Sisco
 - 2. SCSB Staff:
 - a. Jonathan Longman, Chief Procurement Officer
 - b. Christopher Weishaupt, Investigative Attorney

- ii. Privatization Topics
 - 1. Cost-Effectiveness Evaluations (CEE)
 - 2. Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)
 - 3. Look into obstacles to implementing Bridge Safety

- f. Training
 - i. Training Working Group
 - 1. SCSB Members
 - a. Bruce Buff, Chair
 - 2. SCSB Staff
 - a. Gregory Daniels, Executive Director
 - b. Jonathan Longman, Chief Procurement Officer
 - c. Carmen Hufcut, Trainer
 - ii. Training Topics
 - 1. Develop a Standardized Training Program
 - 2. Agency Procurement Officers
 - 3. Notification to Contractors of Bidder Appeal Rights

- g. Other
 - i. SCSB CGS 4e-36 Contest Committee
 - 1. SCSB Members
 - a. Robert Rinker, Chair
 - b. Bruce Buff
 - c. Stuart Mahler
 - 2. SCSB Staff
 - a. Gregory Daniels, Executive Director
 - b. Jonathan Longman, Chief Procurement Officer
 - ii. Miscellaneous Topics
 - 1. Contracting under emergency powers
 - 2. Follow-up to Attorney General's opinions
 - 3. Increase presence on social media
 - 4. Generalized legislative outreach (build relationships with legislature)

- 7. Discussion & Approval of Board-supported Legislation 2023
 - a. HB 5692 - Salvatore Luciano moved to support; Robert Rinker seconded (All board members in presence approved), support approved
 - b. SB 826 - Robert Rinker moved to support; Donna Karnes seconded (All board members in presence approved), support approved
 - c. SB 839 - Robert Rinker moved to support; Donna Karnes seconded (All board members in presence approved), support approved
 - d. SB 875 - Robert Rinker moved as #4 is duplicative of #2, Lawrence Fox chair sustained
 - e. SB 873 - Robert Rinker moved to support; Donna Karnes seconded (Brenda Sisco and Lauren Gauthier voted against, Jean Morningstar abstained, and all remaining board members in presence approved), support approved

- f. SB 473 (from 2022 Session) - After discussion, the Board decided to “watch” for the introduction of this bill from 2022 as there was concerns regarding the specific wording included in the proposal.

8. Review Work in Progress and Plan Moving Forward

- a. Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) – continuation of current work
- b. Respler – Referred to legal (Christopher Weishaupt, Investigative Attorney)
- c. UConn – Privatization

9. Closing Discussion

The scheduling and attendance of upcoming SCSB meetings were discussed, as the Board now has staff to work on Board activities. This new opportunity means that the Board and staff will be working closely on specific committees they are assigned to; therefore, it is most efficient to schedule committee meetings on the same day as the Board meetings. There was back and forth discussions related to the positive and negative impact of face-to-face requirements and the technology use, if the meetings were handled over a Teams Meeting. Chairman Fox delegated the technological applicability of future meetings to Gregory F. Daniels, Esq.

10. Public Comment

Although there was no public attendance at this meeting, it was open to the public, Mr. Kevin Meekum, the OPM procurement director, and Gene Burke, DAS’ Chief Procurement Officer, was in attendance and introduced themselves to the members of the Board and Staff that were present.

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Albert Ilg to adjourn the meeting; Jean Morningstar seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on February 10, 2023, at 4:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Paul B. Netland Jr., Accounts Examiner