

STATE OF CONNECTICUT | Community Investment Fund 2030
May 10, 2022, Board Meeting

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MINUTES (DRAFT)

A meeting of the Community Investment Fund was held at the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT on May 10, 2022. Meeting was called to order by Speaker Ritter at 11:30 AM.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Attendance:

Speaker Ritter
Minority Leader Candelora
Representative Felipe
Senator McCrory
Representative Borer
Margaret Chapple
Secretary Beckham
Paul Mounds
Jonathan Dach
Commissioner Gifford
Commissioner Gilman
Secretary Beckham
Deputy Secretary of State Bates
Deputy Commissioner Daum
Matthew Pugliese

Attended Online:

Senate President Looney
Majority Leader Duff
Minority Leader Kelly
Representative Felipe
Senator Moore
David Radcliff
Charlotte Moller
Commissioner Mosquera-Bruno

Absent: Majority Leader Rojas

Speaker Ritter invited opening comments from board members. Comments included: Secretary Beckham noted that this may be the first innovation in our state's history in terms of the bond process where the legislature and the executive will collaborate in a formal, transparent, open way to vet projects. Paul Mounds spoke of the administration's willingness to work in collaboration with the legislature to vet these projects.

Paul Mounds introduced the new Director for the Community Investment Fund 2030, Matthew Pugliese.

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of October 27, 2021

Speaker Ritter asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 10/27/2022.

Motion – by Representative Borer
Second – by Commissioner Lehman
Discussion – None
In Favor – All
Opposed – None
Motion Passed, minutes were approved.

Policy and Program Guidelines

Matthew Pugliese referred to the policy and program guidelines document, and stated that they will set the way that the CIF will operate. He spoke of the importance of communicating the timeline and process of the program. The Application will open late in May. Applications will close July 25, 2022.

Mr. Pugliese stated that he will provide an update on applications and process in early August. There is no scoring or rubric, but each application will be reviewed for eligibility and a summary of each will be written and shared with this board. At the next board in September, the board will vote on eligible applications, based on board members' own criteria.

Minority Leader Candelora asked about the applications that are not qualified. Deputy Commissioner Daum stated that ineligible applicants will be notified of the reasons they were not eligible. In the quarterly report from DECD, the board will have a complete tracking of applications and whether they were eligible, or not eligible, or eligible but unsuccessful.

Outreach Discussion

Deputy Commissioner Daum spoke of outreach plans, to include a public facing website that will have application information and official notices to eligible municipalities.

Speaker Ritter spoke of the role of municipalities to present projects, and the challenge to them to think larger and bigger about their projects. Deputy Commissioner Daum noted that the outreach will include information about the five-year timeframe for the program and that there will be later rounds of funding.

Paul Mounds spoke about the timing for the Governor's review process of applications, and noted that for the next board meeting, he will task himself along with Member Dach, and Secretary Beckham to review the process to get the recommended projects on the Bond Commission agenda within the timeframe.

Deputy Secretary Bates asked if two organizations or municipalities could submit a project together. Deputy Commissioner Daum noted there is no express limit on the number of entities that can apply together. Municipalities could work together on an application or, if an application needs extra capacity, a community development agency or non-profit could join the applicant team.

Senator McCrory asked, and Deputy Commissioner Daum confirmed that the approval of a municipality is not a requirement. She noted that a project will get preference if it has a letter of recommendation from a legislator. Representative Borer asked and Deputy Commissioner Daum confirmed that if the years \$175M is not fully allocated, the funding will roll over to the following year, but there is an overall five-year cap. Deputy Commissioner Daum confirmed that DECD will administer the projects and every project will have a designated project manager.

David Radcliff asked about, and Deputy Commissioner Daum discussed partial funding for a feasibility or capacity building phase. Deputy Commissioner Daum stated that while it is not explicitly mentioned in the guidelines, this board could recommend funding to get through an initial phase, if that is the wish of the board.

Minority Leader Candelora asked about language regarding the administrator for the program, and the potential for the program to be shifted to OPM. Paul Mounds noted that the administration for a particular project could be placed under the proper agency and gave examples, but based upon the statute he does not foresee that the Community Investment Fund 2030 program itself would be moved away from DECD.

Speaker Ritter asked for a motion to approve the policy and program guidelines.

Motion – by Paul Mounds

Second – by Senator McCrory

Discussion – None

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Motion Passed, the policy and program guidelines were approved.

Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Speaker Ritter asked for a motion to approve the amended meeting schedule with the next meeting scheduled for September 27, 2022.

Motion – by Minority Leader Candelora

Second – by Representative Borer

Discussion – None

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Motion Passed, the amended meeting schedule was approved.

Adjournment

Speaker Ritter asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Senator McCrory

Second – by Paul Mounds

Discussion – None

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Motion Passed, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.

Minutes are a draft until approved at a subsequent meeting.