NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

January 20, 2023

This meeting was held in-person and via Microsoft Teams teleconference.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present: Public Voting Members: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Treasurer; and Adam Sternbach.

Members of the Commission present via conference call: Public Voting Members: Dr. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT; Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; Ex-Officio Voting Members: Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, Kathleen Comanto for Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education; Ralph Hoag for Angelica McMillan, Commissioner, DOE; and Non-Voting Legislative Member Senator Robert Singer.

Members of the Commission absent: Public Voting Member: Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University, Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips, and Assemblyman Christopher Tully; Non-Voting University Members: Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Former Public Voting Member Charlene Brown, AT&T, Retired; Dr. Jorden Schiff, DOE; Dana Walter, Assemblyman Tully's Office; Non-Voting University Representatives: Greg Townsend for Stevens Institute of Technology, Vincent Smeraglia for Rutgers University; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Elizabeth Kern, Deputy Attorney General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor's Authorities Unit; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Mahako Etta, CSIT Program Manager; Frances Keel, CSIT Program Officer; Franklin Dureke, CSIT Program Officer; Hector Serrano, Governance Officer; and Muneerah Sanders, Board Liaison.

Per the Chair's request, Muneerah Sanders read the Open Public Meetings announcement and performed the roll call of the Commission.

Prior to commencing the meeting, Chair Hart asked Ms. Esser to read aloud a statement regarding the process for public comment at the board meeting for any members of the public on the call. No members of the public presented themselves at this time.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The first item was the approval of the November 4, 2022, meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell SECOND: Mr. Sternbach AYES: 7

Dr. Bloom abstained as he was not present for the meeting.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the Chair's Report to the Commission.

Chair Hart announced that today was Dr. Bloom's last meeting and that Charlene Brown had stepped down as of December 31, 2022. She thanked them both for their hard work and dedication to the Board throughout their tenure. She also shared that Governor Murphy had sent thoughtful letters to each of them thanking them for their service to the CSIT.

Dr. Bloom stated that it was his pleasure to serve and implored the board to keep up the amazing work.

Ms. Brown stated that it was a honor to serve and thanked Ms. Hart and Ms. Sheft for their leadership.

Ms. Sheft stated that it was an honor and privilege to work with Dr. Bloom and Ms. Brown over the years.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the Executive Director's Report to the Commission presented by Judith Sheft.

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Round 4 – Direct Financial Assistance Grants for the New Jersey Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) Support Program, Phase I and Phase II

Request: To approve thirteen (13) Direct grants of \$25,000 each and four (4) Bridge grants of \$50,000 each for a total of \$525,000 in funding for Round 4 – Direct Financial Assistance component (Phase I&II) of the SBIR/STTR Program Phase.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello SECOND: Dr. Bloom AYES: 7

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

Chair Hart recused because there are members of BioNJ on the list of grantees.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Increase in Funding Available for The Maternal and Infant Health R&D Grant Program

Request: To approve a \$525,000 increase in the funding of the Maternal and Infant Health R&D Grant Program, from \$750,000 to \$1,275,000.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Sternbach SECOND: Dr. Bloom AYES: 8

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of The Maternal and Infant Health R&D Grant Awardees

Request: To approve seventeen (17) grants for a total of \$1,275,000 in funding, for awards to seventeen (17) NJ based early-stage companies selected under the Maternal and Infant Health R&D Grant Program. Staff is recommending to decline three (3) applications because they did not obtain the average minimum score of 10 required by the program.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello SECOND: Mr. Pascrell AYES: 7

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Chair Hart recused because there are members of BioNJ on the list of grantees.

Mr. Dureke presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Modifications to The Clean Tech Research and Development Voucher Program, Round 2

Request: To approve the following modifications to the voucher program:

- a. A funding increase of \$500,000 to the Pilot Clean Tech Research and Development Voucher Program Round 2;
- b. Extend the length of voucher project period from 6 months to 12 months; and
- **c.** Delegate to the Executive Director the authority to amend outstanding Clean Tech Research and Development Voucher Program Round 2 agreements to be consistent with the voucher project period amendment.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Sternbach SECOND: Mr. Erdogan AYES: 8

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Ms. Sheft provided an update on the CSIT Sponsorship Policy and Delegated Authority.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Ms. Coviello provided an update on EDA Initiatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Sternbach, and seconded by Dr. Bloom, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for March 24, 2023, at 10:00 am, in person and virtually.

CERTIFICATION:

The foregoing and attachments represent a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology at its Meeting on January 20, 2023.

Judith Sheft, Executive Director Secretary

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