

## **NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**September 15, 2023**

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

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Members of the Commission present in person: Public Voting Members: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; and David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Ex-Officio Voting Member: Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Members of the Commission present via conference call: Ex-Officio Voting Members: Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary, OSHE; Dr. Jorden Schiff for Angelica McMillan, Commissioner, DOE; Public Members: Adam Sternbach, Tessara; and Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University.

Members of the Commission absent: Public Voting Member Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Robert Singer, 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: Gilbert Gonzalez, DOE; Greg Townsend, Stevens; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Mahako Etta, Franklin Dureke, and Frances Keel, CSIT Staff; Elizabeth Marshall, Christine Machnowsky, Christopher Kay, Deputy Attorneys General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor's Authorities Unit; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Hector Serrano, Governance Officer, and Muneerah Sanders, Board Liaison.

Per the Chair's request, Ms. 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 July 14, 2023, meeting minutes.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser **AYES: 6**

The next item was the approval of a correction to the May 12, 2023, meeting minutes.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser **AYES: 6**

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

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

Dr. Schiff joined the meeting at this time.

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

**Item: Request for Approval of CSIT FY24 Budget**

**Request:** To approve the \$9,500,000 CSIT FY24 budget

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Dr. Kornhauser      **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 7**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1**

Mr. Sternbach left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

**Item: Delegated Authority to Allow Adjustments to current and future CSIT Grant Program Requirements.**

**Request:** To approve delegated authority to the Executive Director in the specific program areas outlined herein. Those areas are in Applications, Declinations, Appeals and Approvals.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Pascrell    **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser    **AYES: 6**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2**

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board:

**Item: Approval of Launch of CSIT NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program Pilot Round 5**

**Request:** To approve the launch of CSIT NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program Pilot Round 5 with a budget of \$875,000.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Pascrell    **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser    **AYES: 6**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3**

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board:

**Item: Approval of Launch of Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot Round 2**

**Request:** To approve:

- i. Approve the closure of the Catalyst R&D Voucher Pilot Program, Round 1 as of September 15, 2023.
- ii. Approve the launch Catalyst R&D Voucher Program Pilot Round 2. The total budget for the program is \$497,500 from the rollover funding from the FY23 CSIT budget.
- iii. Approve the following revisions to this Voucher program:
  - a. Raise the Voucher cap amount from \$25,000 up to \$40,000 per applicant.
- iv. Grant delegated authority to the Executive Director to:
  - a. Transfer remaining funds from Catalyst R&D Voucher Program Pilot Round 1 to Catalyst R&D Voucher Program Pilot Round 2 if funding is unused by March 15, 2024.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Pascrell    **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser    **AYES: 6**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4**

Mr. Dureke presented the next item before the Board:

**Item: Approval of Clean Tech Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot Round 3**

**Request:** To approve:

- i. The closure of the Clean Tech (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot Round 2 as of September 15, 2023.
- ii. The launch Clean Tech (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot Round 3. The total budget for the program is \$300,000 from the rollover funding from the FY23 BPU budget.
- iii. The following revisions to this Voucher program:
  - a. Raise the Voucher cap amount from \$25,000 up to \$40,000 per applicant.
- iv. Grant delegated authority to the Executive Director to:
  - a. Transfer remaining funds from Clean Tech (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot Round 2 to Clean Tech (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot Round 3 if funding is unused by March 15, 2024.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello

**AYES: 6**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5**

**PRESENTATION:**

**REPORT ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CLEAN TECH SEED GRANT PROGRAM**

Michael Ehrlich, PhD, NJIT

Dr. Ehrlich provided an analysis on the impact of the Clean Tech Seed Grant program as administered by the Commission.

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY:**

The next item was:

- Update on EDA Initiatives.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

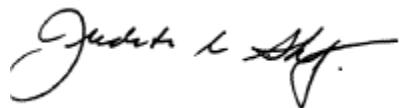
There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Coviello, and seconded by Mr. Pascrell, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for November 3, 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 September 15, 2023.



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Judith Sheft, Executive Director  
Secretary