

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

January 8, 2021

This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams teleconference.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present: Public Voting Members: Gunjan Doshi, InRhythm, Chairman; Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Vice Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Treasurer; Dr. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT; Charlene Brown, former President AT&T, retired; and Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University.

Ex-Officio Voting Members: Brian Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education; and Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; and Dr. Lisa J. Gleason, Assistant Commissioner, for Angelica McMillan, Commissioner, DOE.

University Members - Non-Voting: Vince Smeraglia for Rutgers University; and David Zimmerman for Stevens Institute of Technology.

Legislative Members - Non-Voting: Assemblyman DePhillips, Assemblyman Zwicker, and Senator Singer.

Members of the Commission absent: Legislative Member - Non-Voting: Senator Paul Sarlo.

Also present: Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Deputy Attorney General Elizabeth Tillou; Stephanie Brown, Governor's Authorities Unit; Kai Feder, NJ Office of Innovation; Jeffrey Oakman, Governor's Office; Nikki Sandelier, NJBIA; Ralph Zucker, Bell Works; Ralph Hoag, DOE; EDA: Danielle Esser, Director; Fatou Jobe, Project Officer; Pallavi Madakasira, Director; DeAnna Croner, Project Officer; and Muneerah Sanders, Executive Assistant.

Chairman Doshi called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with a quorum of the Commission present, including nine voting members and five non-voting members.

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

Prior to commencing the meeting, Chairman Doshi 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 20, 2020 meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Debbie Hart **SECOND:** Dr. Joel Bloom **AYES: 9**

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the Chairman’s Remarks to the Commission.

Chairman Doshi greeted everyone present, and thanked the Board Members and staff for quickly adapting to the current meeting environment.

Chairman Doshi expressed his excitement that Governor Murphy had just signed the Economic Recovery Act, and that it would be very impactful for the CSIT. He asked Kathleen Coviello to share innovation-specific details of the new legislation.

Ms. Coviello stated that Governor Murphy signed the Economic Recovery Act on January 7th, and that it was a game changing day in New Jersey. The signing was held in Hamilton, and attended by many stakeholders and enjoyed strong support from legislators across the board.

Ms. Coviello stated that the Act includes a number of new initiatives including the Main Street Recovery Finance Program which will provide \$50 million for grants, loans, and technical assistance to small and microbusinesses, and the Evergreen Fund, a first-of-its-kind program. The Evergreen Fund will make available approximately \$500 million in venture capital funds to be invested into New Jersey-based startups.

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

Chairman Doshi asked Ms. Sheft to summarize the approval items before the Board. Ms. Sheft provided an update of the activity of the CSIT to date and advised that she would be presenting each voting item before the Board.

CSIT CLEAN TECH SEED GRANT PROGRAM (ROUND 1)

Ms. Sheft stated that the Members of the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology requested to approve the following items for Clean Tech Seed Grant program: i. Notice of Funding for the Clean Tech Seed Grant program, ii. Evaluation Method, and iii. Scoring Method.

Additionally, the Members of the CSIT are requested to delegate authority to the Executive Director to decline and issue decline letters to applicants with applications that are deemed incomplete following the resubmission deadline and appoint a Hearing Officer for appeals.

REQUEST: CSIT Clean Tech Seed Grant Program (Round 1)

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bloom **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **AYES: 9**

EXPANSION OF MOU BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE NJEDA

Ms. Sheft stated that Members of the Commission are requested to approve a second amendment to the MOU between CSIT and NJEDA to include the ability for other personnel hires of the CSIT to be NJEDA employees. All final decisions related to the hiring and compensation of other personnel will be made jointly by CSIT and EDA. All personnel hires shall report solely to CSIT.

EDA will provide office space and ancillary support and services to the other personnel as described in the second amendment to the MOU. All salary, fringe benefits, and expenses for any additional CSIT personnel would be paid for out of the Commission's appropriated funds which are currently being managed by the NJEDA.

REQUEST: Expansion of Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Ms. Brown **AYES: 9**

HIRING OF ADDITIONAL CSIT EMPLOYEE

Ms. Sheft stated that the Members of the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology are requested to approve CSIT's hiring of one additional full-time program staff and to delegate to the Executive Director the hiring decision after following EDA human resources processes. All personnel hires shall report solely to CSIT. EDA will provide office space and ancillary support and services to the other personnel as described in the second amendment to the MOU. All salary, fringe benefits, and expenses for any additional CSIT personnel would be paid from CSIT's appropriated funds which are currently being managed by the EDA.

REQUEST: Hiring of Additional CSIT Employee

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bloom **SECOND:** Dr. Kornhauser **AYES: 9**

INDICATORS OF INNOVATION REPORT

Nikki Sandelier, Director, Economic Policy Research, NJBIA

Ms. Sheft to introduced Ms. Sandelier and requested the she begin her presentation.

Ms. Sandelier provided an overview of a study on innovation indicators which was undertaken by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association. Ms. Sandelier discussed the Garden State's ranking across various categories, including State R&D expenditures, number of patents granted, business tax climate, and net business growth amongst neighboring states in the region, including Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF BELL WORKS

Ralph Zucker, President, Somerset Development, at Bell Works

Chairman Doshi introduced Ralph Zucker, President, Somerset Development, at Bell Works and requested that he begin his presentation.

Mr. Zucker stated that Bell Works is the former home of Bell Labs, the scientific research arm of Bell Telephone Company, that was home to some of the brightest minds in the 50s and 60s and well into the 90s. Several historic discoveries were made at Bell Labs, including the laser, cell phone technology and fiber optics. In addition, 8 Nobel Prizes were won by Bell Labs.

Mr. Zucker stated that the building was bought in 2008, when it was slated for demolition. Mr. Zucker said that Bell Works has been transformed into a 24 hour/day building, with a diverse roster of tenants, with access to office, retail, and entertainment.

Chairman Doshi thanked Ms. Sandelier and Mr. Zucker for their informative presentations.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

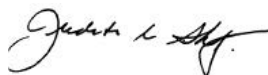
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Kornhauser, and seconded by Ms. Hart, the meeting was adjourned at 12pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for February 19, 2021 at 10:00 am, 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 8, 2021.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
Secretary