

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

April 1, 2022

This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams teleconference.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present: Public Voting Members: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Vice Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Treasurer; Charlene Brown (AT&T, Retired); Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Ex-Officio Voting Members: Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education; Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; and Ralph Hoag for Angelica McMillan, Commissioner, DOE.

Members of the Commission present: (Non-Voting) Legislative Members: Senator Robert Singer, Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips; and Assemblyman Christopher Tully.

Member of the Commission absent: Public Voting Member: Dr. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT.

Member of the Commission absent: (Non-Voting): Legislative Members - Senator Paul Sarlo, and; University Members - Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology and Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Greg Townsend for Stevens Institute of Technology; Vince Smeraglia, for Rutgers University; Raymond Cottiers from Assemblyman DePhillips' office; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Elizabeth Marshall, Deputy Attorney General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor's Authorities Unit; Jeffrey Oakman, Governor's Office; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Mahako Etta, Program Manager; Fatou Jobe, Project Officer; Hector Serrano, Governance Officer; and Muneerah Sanders, Board Liaison.

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

Prior to commencing the meeting, Vice 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 January 7, 2022, meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Brown **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 7**

Mr. Erdogan abstained because he was not present for the meeting.

COMMISSION MATTERS

The Vice Chair asked Danielle Esser to present this item which requested approval of the CSIT officers, acknowledged the re-appointment of the three active committees, with Chairs for each respective committee, the Executive Committee, Audit Committee and the Program Committee, and requested the members' approval of the Calendar of Meetings through April 2023.

ITEM: Annual Organizational Meeting

REQUEST: To approve the Election of Officers and the Calendar of meetings through April 2023.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Brown **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

Assemblyman DePhillips left the meeting at this time.

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

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

CSIT ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Sheft summarized the 2021 Annual Report for the members.

ITEM: 2021 Annual Report

REQUEST: To approve the Commission's Annual Report for 2021.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Kornhauser **SECOND:** Dr. Bridges **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Ms. Sheft summarized the CSIT Budget proposal.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of the Increase in Funding Available for Catalyst Seed Grant Program – Round 1

Request: To approve a \$1.5 million increase in the funding of the Catalyst Seed Grant Program Round 1. The funding will come from the current CSIT budget available funds balance

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Bridges **SECOND:** Mr. Erdogan **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Memorandum of Understanding – NJ Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology and New Jersey Institute of Technology

Request: To approve a 12-month Memorandum of Understanding with New Jersey Institute of Technology for evaluation of the economic impact of CSIT grant programs (SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance, Clean Tech Seed Grant and Clean Tech R&D Voucher).

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Ms. Brown **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

Assemblyman Tully joined the meeting at this time.

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Clean Tech Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program, Round 2

Request: To approve the following:

- i. The closure of the pilot Clean Tech R&D Voucher Program (round 1) and rollover remaining funds of \$303,928 and any other unexpended funds into the pilot Clean Tech R&D Voucher Program, Round 2
- ii. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to launch the \$375,000 pilot Clean Tech R&D Voucher Program, Round 2. This amount includes the rolled over funds from round 1.
- iii. The following modifications to this voucher program:
 - a. Raise the voucher cap amount from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per applicant
 - b. Extend the length of voucher validity from 3 months to six months
 - c. Decrease the size of eligible businesses from up to 50 employees to up to 25 employees.
 - d. Increase the voucher value to 100%. Instead of covering 75% of costs (for businesses with 1 to 10 employees) or 50% of costs (for businesses with 11 to 50 employees), voucher recipients will have 100% of their cost of facility access or services covered.
- iv. Grant delegated authority to the Executive Director to:
 - a. Approve or decline Voucher applications and issue approval/declination letters and appoint a Hearing Officer if necessary.
 - b. Approve or decline additional participating Facilities into the Round 2 of the Clean Tech R&D Voucher Program.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Kornhauser **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **AYES: 8**
RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

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

Request: To approve the following:

- i. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to launch the \$275,000 Catalyst R&D Voucher Pilot Program.
- ii. Grant delegated authority to the Executive Director to:
 - a. Approve or decline Voucher applications and issue approval/declination letters and appoint a Hearing Officer to hear any appeals.
 - b. Approve or decline facilities for participation in the Catalyst R&D Voucher Pilot Program.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Ms. Brown **AYES: 8**
RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 6

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

Item: CSIT Sponsorship Policy

Request: To approve CSIT’s sponsorship policy and to delegate to the Executive Director the approval of sponsorship opportunities in line with the policy up to a maximum of \$15,000 per event. and consistent with the overall CSIT annual budget approved by the CSIT board.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Erdogan **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 7

Ms. Hart recused because BioNJ may request funds.

NEW JERSEY INNOVATION EVERGREEN FUND

Ms. Coviello provided an update on the New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Fund that Governor Murphy signed into law in 2021. The Evergreen Fund will create partnerships between the state and private sector to collaboratively align New Jersey’s corporations, and national investors to support entrepreneurs and grow the state’s innovation economy.

The Evergreen Fund is designed to create mentoring, networking, and educational opportunities, while also incentivizing investment in emerging New Jersey companies.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

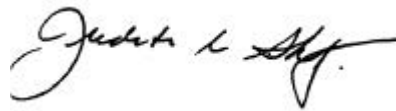
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Bridges, and seconded by Ms. Coviello, Bridges, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for May 13, 2022, 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 April 1, 2022.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
Secretary