

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

July 15, 2022

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, Vice Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Treasurer, and Adam Sternbach; Ex-Officio Voting Members: Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education; Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Members of the Commission present via conference call: Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Dr. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT, Public Voting Members; Ralph Hoag for Angelica McMillan, Commissioner, DOE, Ex-Officio Voting Member; and Senator Robert Singer, Non-Voting Legislative Member.

Members of the Commission absent: Charlene Brown, AT&T, Retired; Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering, Public Voting Members; Senator Paul Sarlo, Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips, and Assemblyman Christopher Tully, Non-Voting Legislative Members; Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University; Non-Voting University Members.

Also present: Greg Townsend for Stevens Institute of Technology, Dr. Jorden Schiff, Dept of Education; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Elizabeth Kern, Deputy Attorney General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor's Authorities Unit; Jeffrey Oakman, Governor's Office; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Mahako Etta, CSIT Program Manager; Frances Keel, CSIT Program Officer; Hector Serrano, Governance Officer; Muneerah Sanders, Board Liaison; and Lenzie Harcum, Director, NJ Bioscience Center.

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 May 13, 2022, meeting minutes.

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

Adam Sternbach abstained as he was not present for the meeting.

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.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Catalyst Seed Grant awardees

Request: To approve twenty-seven (27) grants for a total of \$2,696,546 in funding, for awards to twenty-seven (27) NJ based early-stage companies selected under the Catalyst Seed Grant Program. Staff is recommending to decline 43 applications because they did not obtain the average minimum score of 70 required by the program.

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

Ms. Hart recused as a member of BioNJ applied for the grant program.

Mr. Sternbach recused as he worked with one of the applicants in his former role with the Governor's Authorities Unit.

Questions rose about the program criteria as it relates to Opportunity Zones which were referred to the Program Committee for review and consideration.

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Round 2 Clean Tech Seed Grant awardees

Request: To approve eighteen (18) grants for a total of \$ 1,333,965 in funding, for awards to eighteen (18) NJ based early-stage companies selected under the Round 2 Clean Tech Seed Grant Program. Staff is recommending to decline 9 applications because they did not obtain the average minimum score of 70 required by the program.

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Increase in Funding Available for Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program

Request: To approve a \$500,000 increase in the funding of the Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program ("Program") and clarify that the initial Program budget of \$275,000 approved for the Program on April 1, 2022 is from the Commission's FY22 budget. The funding increase of \$500,000 will come from CSIT FY23 budget and support an additional 20 applications

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Sternbach **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **AYES: 8**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Month to Month Extension of Existing of ResearchwithNJ ("RwNJ") Contract

Request: To approve the payment of up to \$150,000 in CSIT funds to support a month to month extension of the current contract with Elsevier until the subsequent contracted is awarded and executed for the ResearchwithNJ program, including any allowable transition period, for a maximum of six (6) months.

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

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

PRESENTATION:

NJ BioScience Center, North Brunswick

Lenzie Harcum, Director, NJ BioScience Center

Mr. Harcum provided an overview of the BioScience Center, including the Incubator and Step-Out Labs, highlighting prestigious tenants and incubator graduates.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

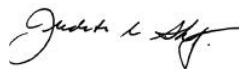
There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Coviello, and seconded by Mr. Sternbach, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for September 16, 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 July 15, 2022.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
Secretary