

# **Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

## ***Meeting Minutes***

### **Department of Economic and Community Development**

January 8, 2019

1:30-3:00 PM

450 Columbus Boulevard, Conference Room B, Plaza, South Tower

#### **Attendance**

- Board Members Present: Commissioner Catherine Smith, Don Balducci, John Zoldy, Kelli Vallieres
- Board Members via phone: Shane Eddy, Beverlee Dacey, Colin Cooper, Chris DiPentima
- Quorum: Yes
- Absent: Emir Redzic, Todd Phil
- Stakeholders Present: Sue Palisano, Paul Striebel, Tom Maloney, Ron Angelo
- Stakeholders via phone: Bernice Zampano
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Barbara Fernandez

#### **Minutes**

Catherine Smith opened the meeting at 1:30 PM. Commissioner Smith designated John Zoldy as chair for the meeting because she had laryngitis and had problems speaking.

Commissioner Smith moved to have the December minutes approved. Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Dream It. Do It. & YMA (Vote)**

Dream It. Do It. presented a summary of the new concept for the program. This will be a big change in the delivery of the program but totally doable. CCAT sees this proposal as having stretch goals in the right direction: more social media, more digital, more involvement at the school level. Commissioner Smith asked CCAT to describe the metrics and deliverables for the program. CCAT provided an overview of the key metrics listed in the proposal: Social media- 20,000 first level clicks and 5,000 second level/engagement hits. Virtual- real time tours done at the schools using Go-Pro cameras, 40 schools to subscribe to the on-line content this year and 80 schools next year. CCAT presented the budget request. Commissioner Smith moved the board approve the \$362,622 request for the Dream It Do It program. Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion. The motion passed. Seven board members voted YES, however, Colin Cooper said he was voting YES even though he thought the administrative costs of the program was high. Beverlee Dacey voted NO because the administrative costs of the program was too high.

#### **High Rate Additive Program (VOTE) - Don abstained from vote**

Ron Angelo presented the High Rate Additive Manufacturing program. The goal of the program is to design and commission a high rate additive manufacturing cell to manufacture metal components for aerospace, defense, power generation, medical and commercial sectors. This cell will be flexible and modular and capable of building metal parts 5-20 times faster than existing power bed machines. This is

type of system configuration does not currently exist in CT and will totally new. CCAT has spoken to many manufacturers and is confident of the system requirements and the vendor they have chosen (Fraunhofer USA). The total budget is \$3,500,000; \$600,000 was authorized by the board in December of 2016. The board expressed concerns about the request:

- Kelli Vallieres wanted to know the historic ROI for the equipment currently in the AMC. Ron Angelo stated that they do not have this information but he knows that it's important and he is working to develop metrics for the Center. Ms. Vallieres stated that the board wants to see more accountability; how this investment will be different from other investments in the past where the board did not see an ROI. Ms. Vallieres does not want to continue to use state funds to only benefit the big companies vs. the small companies. She wanted to know how this investment fit into the CCAT strategic plan.
- Beverlee Dacey asked how CCAT was going to promote this capacity throughout the state-beyond the Metro Hartford Region. She also wanted to know if CCAT had looked at alternative ways to fund the project, such as the federal government.
- Colin Cooper wanted to know what companies would be using this equipment. He was concerned the state has spent millions on equipment to be housed at CCAT but equipment is not being fully utilized, for example the Zimmerman. It seems as though only a handful of large OEMs or primes are using the equipment vs small manufacturers. Ron Angelo explained that some of the equipment at the Center is underutilized but he is working to resolve that problem. They have had only one project on the Zimmerman. Mr. Cooper stated that spending \$2.7 million in one piece of equipment for only a handful of big companies or one big project does not seem a good use of state funds. Scalability is not there for the small companies. Finally Mr. Cooper questioned whether the plan as presented was sustainable.

The board wanted specifics on how this program would benefit the 4,000+ manufacturers in the state. Ms. Dacey asked how the \$600,000 already authorized was spent and Mr. Angelo answered that it was spent on CCAT staff salaries and a consultant.

The board asked CCAT to rework the plan based on their feedback and come back to the board with a new proposal. The board agreed to send CCAT a list of questions CCAT needs to answer in the next proposal. The vote was postponed until a new proposal is received.

### **Annual Report (Discussion)**

The annual report was discussed. The approval will be an e-mail vote.

**Other Business:** All the board members thanked Commissioner Smith for her leadership and hard work as the chairperson of the board. They deeply appreciated her dedication and commitment to the manufacturing sector of the state and wished well.

### **Meeting Closed**

Commissioner Smith requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kelli Vallieres seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Smith closed the meeting at 3:00 PM.

