

# NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

January 7, 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. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT; Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Ex-Officio Voting Members: Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education; Brian Sabina for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; and Gilbert Gonzalez for Angelica McMillan, Commissioner, DOE.

Members of the Commission present: Legislative Member - Non-Voting: Senator Robert Singer.

Member of the Commission absent: Public Voting Member: Gunjan Doshi, InRhythm, Chairman

Member of the Commission absent (Non-Voting): Legislative Members - Senator Paul Sarlo, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, and Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips; 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; Raymond Cottiers from Assemblyman DePhillips' office; Ralph Hoag, DOE; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Elizabeth Kern, Deputy Attorney General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor's Authorities Unit; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Pallavi Madakasira, Director; Mahako Etta, Program Manager; Fatou Jobe, Project Officer, Alex Hydrean, Sr. Project Officer; Hector Serrano, Project 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 November 19, 2021, meeting minutes.

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

**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.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

**Item:** Approval of Round 3 Direct Financial Assistance Grants for the New Jersey Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Program Support Program, Phase I and Phase II

**Request:** To approve thirty-one grants totaling \$775,000 and six grants totaling \$300,00 for a grand total of \$1,075,000 in funding as part of Direct Financial Assistance component (Phase I&II) of the SBIR/STTR Program.

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

Ms. Jobe summarized the next item before the Board:

**Item:** Approval of Round 2 Clean Tech Seed Grant Pilot Program

**Request:** To approve the following items for Round 2 of the Clean Tech Seed Grant Pilot program:

- i. Notice of Funding for Round 2 Clean Tech Seed Grant Pilot program (\$1,500,000 grant program)
- ii. Evaluation method
- iii. Scoring criteria

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 to appoint a Hearing Officer for appeals.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Dr. Bloom      **SECOND:** Ms. Brown      **AYES: 8**

Ms. Sheft provided the quarterly update regarding the Cleantech R&D Voucher Programs and Delegated Authority approvals as of December 20, 2021.

### **CSIT Budget / Proposed Programs**

Ms. Sheft stated that the next CSIT budget was approximately 4.7 Million.

ResearchwithNJ had provided a presentation to the NJEDA.

There was an information Webinar on the Catalyst Seed Grant program, which was attended by over 1200.

Senator Singer stated we must continually explain to the legislature where jobs are going to be created, and that we don't have enough in the hopper to show how jobs will be created.

Ms. Sheft stated that companies report to us regarding new, full-time, and part-time jobs, for up to three years, after receipt of the awards.

The Clean Tech Voucher 2.0 gives to companies to understand what their needs are. There was a survey and Round Table discussion with number of companies regarding the Clean Tech Voucher program.

Ms. Hart congratulated Dr. Bloom on his upcoming retirement. Dr. Bloom stated that although he is retiring; he would also be starting a two-year term as President – Emeritus. He added that Dr. Lim is now the President – Elect.

## **NJ Build Back Better – Smart Port Project**

Ms. Sheft gave an overview of the proposed Smart Port project, saying that it is one of 60 finalists in the \$1 Billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge, and it could be awarded up to \$100 million to be implemented in the project.

The proposed project, led by the city of Newark, has approximately 26 partners, including NJIT, Rutgers, the NJEDA, the city of Elizabeth, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and others, aspires to transform the port facilities in Newark and Elizabeth by developing and implementing critical smart infrastructure through innovative technologies for freight handling, transportation, tracking and delivery, and by supporting more efficient smart port operations to increase port capacity and security.

The proposed project would create thousands of new jobs and business opportunities throughout the region.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

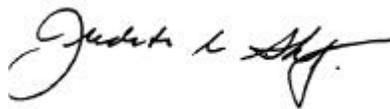
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Bloom, and seconded by Dr. Bridges, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for February 18, 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 7, 2022.



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Judith Sheft, Executive Director  
Secretary