

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

May 17, 2024

This meeting was held in-person and via Microsoft Teams teleconference.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present in person: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Kathleen Coviello for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; and Ralph Hoag for Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner, DOE.

Members of the Commission present via conference call: Ex-Officio Voting Member Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary, OSHE; and Non-Voting Legislative Member Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips.

Members of the Commission absent: Public voting members: Adam Sternbach, Tessara, Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; and Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; and Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Robert Singer, and Assemblyman Christopher Tully; Non-Voting University Members: Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Matthew Bonasia from Assemblyman Tully's office, Christopher Reeves from Assemblyman DePhillips office; Greg Townsend for Stevens Institute of Technology, Vincent Smeraglia for Rutgers University; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Mahako Etta, Frances Keel, CSIT Staff; Elizabeth Marshall, Christine Machnowsky, and Christopher Kay, Deputy Attorneys General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor's Authorities Unit; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; and Hector Serrano, Sr. Project Officer.

Per the Chair's request, Ms. Esser read the Open Public Meetings announcement and performed the roll call of the Commission.

Prior to commencing the meeting, 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 March 22, 2024, meeting minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Mr. Hoag **AYES: 5**

COMMISSION MATTERS

The Chair presented this item which requested election 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 May 2025.

ITEM: Annual Organizational Meeting

REQUEST: To approve the Election of Officers and the Calendar of meetings through May 2025.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Dr. Bridges **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1

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

Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips addressed the board regarding the CSIT budget. He also congratulated the CSIT members on their annual meeting.

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

Ms. Sheft announced that Ms. Shruti Kaul has joined the CSIT team. Ms. Shruti introduced herself and provided a brief bio.

CSIT ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Sheft presented the 2023 Annual Report for the members.

ITEM: 2023 Annual Report

REQUEST: To approve the Commission's Annual Report for 2023.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the Update on CSIT SFY25 Budget.

Ms. Sheft also presented the Board with an update on the CSIT proposed SFY25 Budget at this time.

Assemblyman DePhillips left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

SEED GRANTS

CATALYST SEED GRANT

Item: Increase in funding for Catalyst Seed Grant Program – Round 3

Request: To approve a \$522,105 increase in the funding of the Catalyst Seed Grant Program – Round 3. The funding will come from the CSIT FY24 budget.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

Item: Approval of Catalyst R&D Seed Grant Program- Round 3 awardees & declinations

Request: To approve twenty-seven grants at a total of \$2,022,105 for awards to twenty-seven New Jersey-based early-stage companies selected under the Catalyst R&D Seed Grant Program - Round 3 pilot.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Dr. Bridges **AYES: 4**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4

Ms. Hart recused herself because Members of BioNJ are on the list of applicants.

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

CLEAN TECH SEED GRANT

Item: Approval of Round 3 Clean Tech Seed Grant awardees

Request: To approve fifteen grants for a total of \$1,124,520 in funding, for awards to fifteen NJ based early-stage companies selected under the Round 3 Clean Tech Seed Grant Program. Staff also recommends that the Members decline two applications because they did not obtain the minimum score of 70 required by the program.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Dr. Bridges **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

VOUCHER GRANTS

CATALYST R&D VOUCHER PROGRAM

Item: Increase in Funding for Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2

Request: To approve an additional \$800,000 in funding for the Catalyst Research and Development Voucher Pilot Program, Round 2.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Mr. Hoag **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 6

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

CLEAN TECH R&D VOUCHER PROGRAM

Item: Increase in Funding for Clean Tech Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program, Round 3

Request: To approve an additional \$1,280,000 in funding for the Clean Tech Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Pilot Program, Round 3.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Mr. Pascrell **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 7

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board.

SBIR/STTR DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Item: Increase in Funding for CSIT NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program Pilot, Round 5

Request: To approve an additional \$325,000 in funding for the CSIT NJ SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance Program Pilot, Round 5 (“Program”).

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Coviello **SECOND:** Mr.. Pascrell **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 8

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

MOUs

Item: Providing \$125,000 to Rutgers/NJSBDC for Federal FAST Application

Request: To approve:

1. Approve a \$125,000 payment to Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey’s NJ Small Business Development Center (NJSBDC), contingent on the NJSBDC’s receipt of a 2024 SBA FAST (Small Business Association Federal and State Technology Partnership) program.
2. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CSIT and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey provided it is in substantially the same form as attached to this memorandum (Exhibit A).

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Ms. Coviello **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 9

Ms. Sheft presented the next item before the Board:

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

Request: To approve:

1. The Members are requested to approve a transfer of \$20,000 from the CSIT FY2024 budget to New Jersey Institute of Technology, so that their Leir Research Institute for Business, Technology, and Society (LRI) can conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the economic impact of CSIT grant programs since its inception.
2. The Members are asked to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NJIT, attached hereto as Exhibit A, provided the final form is in substantially the same form.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Pascrell **SECOND:** Mr. Hoag **AYES: 5**

RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 10

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was a presentation of an update on EDA initiatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

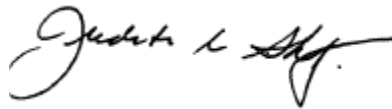
There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Coviello, and seconded by Mr. Pascrell, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for Friday, July 26, 2024 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 May 17, 2024.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology