

RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING OF THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC SESSION

April 11, 2014

The Rhode Island Science & Technology Advisory Council (“STAC”) met on Friday, April 11, 2014 in the Material Resource Center of the Fleet Library at RISD, Providence, Rhode Island pursuant to notice of the meeting to all Members and public notice of meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by applicable Rhode Island Law.

The following Members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: David Savitz (Co-Chair), Janet Coit, Molly Magee, Jay Marshall and Peter Snyder. Gerald Sonnenfeld (Co-Chair), Pierre Corriveau, David Hibbitt, Patricia Phillips, Thomas Rockett, Donald Stanford and Marcel Valois were absent.

Also present was Governor Chafee. Co-chair Savitz presided over the meeting assisted by Christine Smith.

Welcome

Co-chair Savitz welcomed everyone and extended additional congratulations to the recipients of the 2014 RIRA Collaborative Research Grant awards which were announced immediately preceding the meeting in the Fleet Library. He also informed the Council of two EPSCoR grants the state will be applying for. One is a new DOE EPSCoR application being submitted this week. The second application is the renewal of the existing NSF EPSCoR grant. In preparation of the renewal application, the NSF EPSCoR staff and Steering Committee have been working to develop questions for the next grant so that teams are in place to begin writing the proposal once the RFP is released by NSF. Co-Chair Savitz also noted that because a quorum of the membership is not present, this will be an informational meeting and no business will be conducted.

Approval of Minutes

Being no quorum a vote was not taken and the agenda item will be moved to the next meeting of the Council.

The Material Resource Center at the Fleet Library at RISD

Carol Terry, Director of the Library gave a brief overview of the purpose and history of the Center. She introduced RISD graduate student Diana Wagner who assists managing the Center provided a student perspective. Ms. Wagner noted the library is open to all disciplines at RISD

from painters to architects and contains a very broad range of materials representing both the historic and emerging technologies for materials.

Executive Climate Change Council

STAC member and Director of the RI Department of Environmental Management Janet Coit presented a briefing on the activities of the RI Executive Climate Change Council (EC3) that was created on February 21, 2014 by Executive Order of Governor Chafee and which she chairs. Multiple RI state agencies are addressing climate change related work from monitoring disease vectors to emergency management response to flood and rising sea levels. The EC3 was created to bring together the leadership of the many state agencies, catalogue what is being done, what are the vulnerabilities and recommend policies and a permanent governance structure for the EC3 that can be presented to the General Assembly. The EC3 has been meeting with the goal of presenting a report to the Governor by May 1, 2014.

Innovate RI Small Business Fund

Christine Smith thanked STAC members Molly Magee, Peter Snyder and Marcel Valois for their assistance and guidance in developing Guidelines for the three new programs created through this Fund. All three programs are operational with \$495,000 of the funding targeted to direct grant assistance to small business. The remaining \$5,000 is dedicated to administrative costs including the attendance for the first time by a Rhode Island state representative to the National SBIR/STTR Conference. As of this application, all of the funding targeted to matching grants has been committed to eight Rhode Island small businesses, leveraging \$1,424,592 in funding from three federal agencies (Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation). Three of the companies receiving matching grants have already submitted Phase II applications that are under review. Applications for grants to reimburse small businesses for the costs associated with applying for an SBIR/STTR Phase I award and hiring of interns are being accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. There are fourteen applications for internships. Ms. Smith also stated that STAC had submitted a grant to the Small Business Administration's Federal State Technical Partnership (FAST) program which if funded will provide \$95,000 for outreach activities regarding SBIR/STTR.

Discussion and Adjournment

Christine Smith noted the next Council meeting will include an agenda item to review the scientific questions contained in the next NSF EPSCoR proposal.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Christine M.B. Smith
Secretary