



**MINUTES**  
**EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
*TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017*  
*8:00 A.M.*

- Members Present:** Ray Coombs, Jr.; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Howard Jenkins; Chris Jewell; Darlene Serra; Deb Monahan; Kelli Vallieres; Marcy Reed; Carlee Drummer; John Murphy; Lisa Arends; & *Mary Burgard*.
- Staff Present:** John Beauregard, Mark Hill, Virginia Sampietro, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.
- Others Present:** Cyndi Wells, Angela Adams, Katrina Arnott, Pat Dixe, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Carol Williams, Jody Lefkowitz, & Erica Moser.
- 

**Call to Order**

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. and welcomed Angela Adams of the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the September 26, 2017 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*MONAHAN/MURPHY*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items were reviewed:

- 1) The Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative honored Senators Osten & Formica during the joint Manufacturing Pipeline meeting on Friday, for their efforts in securing \$1.5M in state funding to continue the initiative.
- 2) An EWIB letter to U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (*CT 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.*), which the Congressman submitted into the record on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> during the House Education & Labor Committee meeting with U.S. Secretary of Labor Acosta. The Congressman commented on the Pipeline & encouraged the Secretary to come & see it.
- 3) An article in the *Wall Street Journal* on Nov. 16, 2017 on EB's anticipated upcoming hiring needs. The article includes EWIB's efforts to assist in filling those needs through the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*). Mr. Beauregard noted that the graph at the end of the article aligned with the recently reported housing numbers on the region.
- 4) An Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Fiscal Insights Report was submitted to the grant's Independent Evaluator (*PPA*), providing cost data for the second year of the grant.
- 5) An EWIB letter to the Regional Administrator of USDOL Employment & Training Administration seeking guidance regarding the infrastructure cost disbursement payment methodology under WIOA. Senior staff consulted with a Workforce Law attorney specializing in WIOA prior to sending the letter to USDOL. No response has been received to-date.

## CETC REPORT

EWIB CETC Representatives, Deb Monahan, reported that the Council met on November 9, 2017, with a new Chairman, Joanne Ryan.

## CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beauregard provided comments on the following items:

- **EWIB Program & Administration Update Presentation**
  - **Regional Economic Update** – Mr. Beauregard highlighted a recent *Area Development* national article that ranked Norwich/New London as the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing metro, year-over-year, in GMP, as well as a chart embedded in a recent *Wall Street Journal* article. Both articles credited the Manufacturing sector for the rapid growth.
  - **Pipeline Expansion** – Efforts to expand the Pipeline since last meeting include: participating in planning meetings with the CT State Colleges & Universities & DECD. A proposal was provided to the state that would allow the Manufacturing Pipeline to expand west, and would allow EB, EAMA, & their suppliers broader recruitment opportunities in a streamlined approach.
  - **Working Cities Challenge** – EWIB recently joined the Norwich application of the Working Cities Challenge. The Federal Reserve Bank (*Boston*) competition is a 3-year, \$450K program that is open to small/mid-size cities. The proposal implements the Pipeline approach for non-college bound high school juniors & seniors who are looking for a full-time job with benefits. Proposals are due Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Mfg. Pipeline Performance To-Date** – Mr. Beauregard reviewed current key grant metrics for the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*) as part of the federal Workforce Innovation Fund (*WIF*) grant. These data points were included in our letter to U.S. Rep. Courtney, which he submitted for the record during his comments to U.S. Secretary of Labor Acosta, as noted earlier in the agenda.
  - **Pre-Apprenticeship Certificates** – Pre-Apprenticeship certificates have been distributed to 205 graduates to-date, as approved by CTDOL Office of Apprenticeship Training, with another ~100 certificates to be sent out. Each certificate is sent with an explanatory letter and details of the program.
  - **MPI Training Schedule** – Mark Hill, EWIB Chief Operating Officer, provided a status update on Pipeline training noting that 24 classes have completed. He stated that employer & union roles in implementation is strong. Staff is meeting with EB next week to build out schedule for 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2018. Mr. Jenkins commended EWIB & EAMA for their efforts identifying & addressing employers' needs. He went on to thank Senators Osten & Formica for their efforts to secure funding.
  - **Budget Impact** – Guy Saporito, EWIB Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, reported to the Board that EWIB's revenue availability remains in line from the May 2017 projections. The recently passed state budget resulted in an ~\$107K decrease in JFES funding, while the Summer Youth Employment Program funding was put off until summer 2018.
  - **WIOA One-Stop Certification** – Carol LaBelle, EWIB Sr. Director of Programs & Special Projects, reported on the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (*WIOA*), which requires the state to establish criteria for certification of One-Stop Centers and delivery systems. A team, comprised of EWIB staff, Board members, OWC, & four (4) mandated One-Stop Partner representatives performed an independent evaluation of EWIB's One-Stops and confirmed that the East (*AJC-East*) meets the requirements for certification of a "*Comprehensive One-Stop Center*." This was performed with the knowledge that it will have to be re-done once the move to Montville has been made.
    - **Approval of Board Resolution EWIB-17-10** – The resolution authorizes the EWIB Chairman and President/CEO to submit the Application for One-Stop Certification for the New London American Job Center to CTDOL, on behalf of the Board. A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Board Resolution EWIB-17-10, as presented (**COOMBS/MONAHAN**).  
**ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Joint Manufacturing & Design Pipeline Meeting Report** – Sub-Committee Chairman Murphy reported that both groups jointly met on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Attendance remains strong, with 24 of the ~30 groups represented at the meeting. The team continues to search for additional funding. The program, far ahead of plan commitments, currently has a 92% job placement rate for trainees; 600+ jobs secured for website portal enrollees; 24 classes completed, 5 classes scheduled to complete next month; and employer feedback is strong. Estimated impact to the region is 1,545 jobs and an economic impact of \$52,500,000 from the Program. A **MOTION** was made to accept the Nov. 17, 2017 EWIB Joint Manufacturing & Design Pipeline Meeting Report, as presented (**ARENDS/MONAHAN**). **ACTION:**

Unanimously approved. Dr. Vallieres noted that EAMA companies are increasing their participation in the Pipeline, as a result of the program's responsiveness to EAMA manufacturer's needs & exceptional communication.

- **Nominating Committee Report** – Committee Chairman Jenkins reported that a confirmed nominee for office accepted a position out-of-state. Due to the short timeframe between the resignation and the Board meeting, the Committee has opted to defer its official report until January. Mr. Jenkins expressed his appreciation to all those who stepped-up in the interim, along with all those willing to continue in their roles, including and especially Chairman Hibbard, who has agreed to continue in her role as Chair for another meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (*JENKINS /MONAHAN*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted for Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board Secretary James S. Butler, by Executive Assistant, Sheila R. Taurianen.