



MINUTES

EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING *Tuesday, March 28, 2023* 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jeffrey Beadle; Jim Butler; Ray Coombs; Jessica Corneau; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Susan Kocaba; Linda Ladas; Bill Louis; Deborah Monahan; Courtney Murphy; Mike O'Connor; Michael Phelps; Caleb Roseme; & Paul Whitescarver.

Staff Present: Michael Nogelo, Guy Saporito, Carol LaBelle, & Sheila Taurianen.

Others Present: Denise Collins, Karen Hynick, & Denise Spellman.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2023 EWIB Board of Directors meeting (*BUTLER/PHELPS*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Michael Nogelo covered the following items:

- **Career & Technical Education Discussion with U.S. Rep. Courtney** – U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney's Office (*CT-2*) invited EWIB – with state education and workforce agencies – to participate in a March 20 discussion of the expansion of Career & Technical Education (*CTE*). The discussion focused on planning an application to the U.S. Department of Education's Career Z Challenge competition to enhance work-based learning (*WBL*) opportunities in CTE programs through the expansion of WBL ecosystems.
- **2023 EB Legislative Update** – On February 27, Electric Boat (*EB*) President Kevin Graney shared updates on EB's current and future hiring needs. EB hired 884 Groton trades workers in 2022 and expects to hire close to 1,300 Groton trades workers in 2023. President Graney, U.S. Rep. Courtney, and Sen. Cathy Osten (*19th Dist.*) all mentioned EWIB's Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*) as critical for helping meet the workforce needs of EB and its supply chain.
- **Industrial Base Analysis & Sustainment (IBAS) Program Review** – EWIB participated in a review of IBAS' draft CT Region Roadmap to strengthen the shipbuilding industrial base in CT. The event convened stakeholders to validate/refine proposed programs and initiative investments related to raising awareness of shipbuilding careers, workforce training, supplier development, and technology.
- **Letters of Support** – EWIB submitted four letters in support of its partners' grant applications.

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL REPORT

No report.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **Biennium Governor's Budget (and EWIB Strategy)** – Chairman Jewell informed the Board that the MPI funding in Gov. Lamont's proposed budgets for FY24 (\$2,023,476) and FY25 (\$2,024,271) was lower than the amount allocated in the FY23 budget (\$3,436,135). If enacted, these reductions would, combined with the exhaustion of ACI-MPI funding, cause MPI budget shortfalls of \$2,563,838 in FY24 and \$2,561,838 in FY25. Chairman Jewell noted that he provided testimony to the CT Legislature's Appropriations Committee on behalf of EWIB and the EAMA Regional Sector Partnership (*EAMA RSP*) opposing these State funding reductions. EWIB has since answered several questions about the program from the Governor's office, and Sen. Osten has expressed support for adding funding back to the MPI line item.
 - Michael O'Connor asked about a "Plan B" in case the funding is not restored to FY23 levels.
 - Mr. Nogelo replied that additional federal funding through the National Defense Authorization Act (*NDAA*) will likely become available at some point but cannot be counted on for FY24. EWIB is pursuing other funding opportunities in the meantime.
- **Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Application** – Mr. Nogelo shared that, on March 19, EWIB submitted a 2-year, \$5.24M FY24 CDS application to CT's two U.S. Senators for funding through the U.S. Dept. of Labor for the Eastern CT MPI Capacity Expansion Project. If approved, the funding will unlock long-term MPI capability to leverage other funding to train more workers through training expansion (*20 MPI cohorts training 300 people*) & capacity building investments. The funding would complement current EB-specific funding by focusing more on the EB supply chain & other regional manufacturers.
- **Healthcare Regional Sector Partnership (RSP) Meeting** – Mr. Nogelo covered the history of the Eastern CT Healthcare RSP dating back to the EWIB Healthcare Pipeline Sub-Committee created in 2015. seCTer and Quinebaug Valley Community College coordinated a kickoff meeting for the current RSP iteration on January 30 at Backus Hospital with 32 healthcare executives and 15 community support partners. Industry-identified RSP priorities are: a) attracting more healthcare workers; b) improving the quality, quantity & accessibility of training programs; c) improving employees' quality of life; d) leveraging employers' collective voice to promote policies that benefit patients; and e) addressing labor costs & services. Next steps include action team meetings; procuring an RSP coordinator & Youth HPI technical assistance provider; & Good Jobs Challenge funding from the Office of Workforce Strategy (*OWS*) to EWIB.
- **National Pathways Summit** – At the invitation of OWS, Mr. Nogelo participated in a panel discussion on the Youth MPI during the National Pathways Summit on March 16 in Washington, DC. CT's Chief Workforce Officer Kelli Vallieres facilitated the panel. Mr. Nogelo was joined as a panelist by EB Director of Workforce Development Courtney Murphy, and ReadyCT Executive Director Shannon Marimón.
 - Deborah Monahan suggested reaching out to homeschoolers for youth pipeline opportunities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **EAMA Regional Sector Partnership (EAMA RSP) Report** – Chairman Jewell reported that the group met on March 15 with 23 manufacturers from 21 companies attending (*including two new members: LBI and Rand Whitney*) along with 16 community support partners. The group discussed changes to the IRS treatment of research & development expenses that took effect for tax year 2022 – potentially hurting cash flow for innovative companies and dis-incentivizing innovation. Nearly all EAMA RSP employer members volunteered to participate in one of the three EAMA RSP standing committees.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Board Resolutions EWIB-23-03 thru EWIB-23-08** – Mr. Nogelo summarized six Board resolutions that authorize EWIB to enter into contracts related to: a) Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (*WIOA*) services (*with CTDOL*); b) American Job Centers-East infrastructure cost sharing (*with CSDE*); c) Jobs First

Employment Services (*JFES*) services (*with CTDOL*); d) Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative programming (*with CTDOL*); e) SFY24 State Youth Employment & Training Program (*with DCF*); and f) Summer Youth Internship program (*with CTDOL*). A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Board Resolutions EWIB-23-03 thru EWIB-23-08, as presented (*HIBBARD/MONAHAN*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

MEETING SURVEY & ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jewell asked participants to complete a brief online meeting feedback survey.

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (*O'CONNOR/HIBBARD*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

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