



EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS HYBRID MEETING

May 23, 2023

8:00 a.m.

MINUTES

- MEMBERS:** Jeff Beadle; Jim Butler; Ray Coombs, Jr.; Jessica Corneau; Nicole Galo; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Linda Ladas; Andrew McKillop; Deborah Monahan; Courtney Murphy; Michael Phelps; Caleb Roseme; & Paul Whitescarver
- STAFF:** Michael Nogelo; Guy Saporito, Jr.; Carol LaBelle; & Sheila Taurianen
- OTHERS:** Tony Benoit, Ayanti Grant, Kristin Hempel, Kevin Ryan, Denise Spellman, Kelli Vallieres, Cyndi Wells, & Carol Williams
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CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and welcomed Ayanti Grant from U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney's (CT-2) office, CT Rep. Kevin Ryan (139th Dist.), and Carol Williams from the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes from the March 28, 2023 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*HIBBARD/BUTLER*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Nogelo covered the following items:

1. **FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Application** – EWIB was recently notified that CT's Senators Blumenthal & Murphy submitted EWIB's CDS application to the Senate Appropriations Committee for \$5.24M. EWIB's proposed *Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) Capacity Expansion Project* includes training cohorts and several capacity building investments.
2. **GNACC Manufacturing & Health & Wellness Career Fair** – EWIB partnered with the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce (GNACC) for the Chamber Career Fair, which was held on May 5. The fair hosted local high school students preparing to enter the workforce and regional manufacturing & healthcare employers looking to hire.
3. **State of CT Appropriations Committee Proposed FY24 & FY25 Budget** – The Appropriations Committee's proposed budget recommends increasing the State General Fund line item for the MPI by \$2.62M for both FY24 and FY25, bringing the line item to a proposed \$4.62M for each fiscal year. Mr. Nogelo expressed the Board's appreciation for the support of CT Sen. Cathy Osten (19th Dist.) and the

Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance Regional Sector Partnership (*EAMA RSP*) for increasing MPI funding to a level that would put overall MPI funding next fiscal year on par with funding in the current fiscal year. EWIB understands that Gov. Lamont supports the proposed funding increase.

4. **[Griswold Public Schools Alumni Stories Video](#)** – The video features 2022 Griswold High School and Youth MPI (*YMPI*) graduate A.J. Hamel discussing the YMPI and how it prepared him for a full-time job immediately after graduation. The video can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqFk2_FQ8Z8
5. **[WINY Radio Interview](#)** – American Job Center-East partner TVCCA staff & a QVCC Business Services Representative discussed the American Job Centers-East during the radio station's broadcast on March 31. The interview can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/winyradio/videos/132963836406123>

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL (GWC) REPORT

CT Chief Workforce Officer Kelli Vallieres reported that a Workforce Summit was held April 21 where 420+ individuals attended. The GWC will soon update and simplify its Strategic Plan with support from the workforce boards. She reported that the launch of CareerConneCT (*modeled after EWIB's MPI program*) is going well, with 6,500+ individuals registered on the statewide portal. She thanked EWIB for all their efforts in developing the portal. She noted that the Office of Workforce Strategy (*OWS*) recently hired a staff attorney who will initially focus on completing *Good Jobs Challenge* grant contracts. OWS is working on three bond-funded projects: 1) An adult education contextualized learning pilot program; 2) A Request for Proposals (*RFP*) to replicate & expand EWIB's transportation program model; and 3) A Career Accelerator for support services. The CT Clean Economy Council, which will support offshore wind workforce efforts, will ramp up soon. The GWC will meet again on June 8.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **[Good Jobs Challenge Procurement](#)** – Will be covered under the Executive Committee Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **[Executive Committee Report](#)** – Chairman Jewell reported that the Committee met on May 16 where their discussion included:
 - **[EWIB Cost Allocation Plan](#)** – EWIB's Cost Allocation Plan is required to be approved each year. Mr. Saporito reported that no changes had been made to last year's Plan.
 - **[FY23 Operating Budget Status Report](#)** – Mr. Saporito updated the Board on the current fiscal year's budget, noting that it was a record year, and expenditures are projected to come in under budget by \$27,844.
 - **[FY24 Revenue Availability Projections](#)** – Mr. Saporito reviewed EWIB's projected FY24 revenue availability, currently forecasted at ~\$28M (*including multi-year contracts not expected to be fully expended in FY24*), noting that the figure will be revised over the next quarter to reflect the close out of the current fiscal year as well as execution of pending contracts.
 - **[FY23 Accomplishments](#)** – Chairman Jewell reviewed a list of accomplishments the organization has achieved over the past fiscal year. Highlights included:
 - Achieving the highest level of revenue & best efficiency measures in EWIB history
 - On track to deliver 79 MPI cohorts & train 900+ people, with a consistent placement rate of 90%+
 - Helping to coordinate (*then*) U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh's visit to Grasso Technical High School to learn about the CareerConneCT program's statewide replication of EWIB's MPI model
 - Supporting the re-launch of E/CT Healthcare Regional Sector Partnership (*RSP*), which is comprised of 34 employers & 22 support partners
 - Meeting with CT Appropriations Committee Co-Chair Sen. Cathy Osten to strategize further State investment in the MPI program
 - Meeting with Electric Boat (*EB*) & senior U.S. Navy leadership to provide Navy representatives with an overview of the MPI & Youth MPI (*YMPI*) as key elements of the shipbuilding industry New England Regional Training System
 - Launching a pilot program expanding the YMPI into four middle schools to spark interest in manufacturing careers among students aged 12-14
 - Increasing the number of youths served (*380*) by 33% over the previous year for EWIB's 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program paid work experience for regional youth ages 14-24
 - Being recognized by the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce as the 2022 Non-Profit of the Year

- **Good Jobs Challenge Procurements** – President Nogelo shared that EWIB is designated by OWS as the regional lead for the \$23.9M *Good Jobs Challenge* grant, which will expand both the EAMA RSP & the Healthcare RSP and expand both the YMPI & establish a Youth Healthcare Pipeline. He reported that EWIB plans to release a request for qualifications (*RFQ*) and a request for proposals (*RFP*) later this week for both youth initiatives, as well as coordination & management assistance for the Healthcare RSP. EWIB will aim to complete both procurements prior to July 1 – the anticipated execution date for EWIB’s contract with OWS.
- **EWIB Resolution EWIB-23-09** – President Nogelo reviewed Board Resolution EWIB-23-09, noting that its purpose is to ensure timely execution of contracts issued during the Board’s summer recess.
- **FY24 Operating Budget Recommendation** – President Nogelo provided an overview of EWIB’s recommended FY24 operating budget of \$1,947,094, which reflects a ~6% increase (+\$125,202) over the current year. Stephanie Wisniewski has accepted a position as EWIB’s Strategic Executive Assistant and will start July 10, 2023. The recommended budget includes increased investments in staff professional development, the EWIB website, and a diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (*DEIA*) consultant. He noted that the documents reflect the changes approved during the May 16, 2023 Executive Committee meeting. He also stated a priority to revisit EWIB’s organizational goals during FY24.
 - Mr. Whitescarver suggested that EWIB staff consider attending conferences related to offshore wind and childcare workforce development.
 - Ms. Murphy expressed support for the budget’s investments in frontline and administrative staff needed to effectively serve the continued high volume of jobseeker customers.
- **Personnel Discussion** – Chairman Jewell reported that the Executive Committee report reflected personnel-related actions approved by the Executive Committee during its May 16, 2023 meeting.

A **MOTION** was made to accept the May 16, 2023 Executive Committee Report, which includes approving EWIB’s Cost Allocation Plan, Resolution EWIB-23-09, and EWIB’s FY24 Operating Budget as presented (*COOMBS/MONAHAN*).
ACTION: Unanimously approved.

- **EAMA Regional Sector Partnership (EAMA RSP) Report** – EAMA RSP Director Tony Benoit reported that the group of ~35 regional manufacturers meet quarterly and have recently added Prysmian Group, Performance Compounding, & Unicorr Packaging as new members. Much work is underway since the full group last convened in March, including outreach to employer members to identify volunteers to participate on the three work groups: Plastics, Workforce & Outreach, and Business to Business. He reported that there are two upcoming participation opportunities of note for members: 1) the E/CT Manufacturing Roadshow on September 28 at Dodd Stadium in Norwich will expose youth to possible careers in manufacturing, and 2) an effort to solicit member input on the YMPI through EWIB’s engagement with ReadyCT to bring the YMPI to the next level. Mr. Benoit reported that the EAMA RSP has also discussed the impact to manufacturers of changes to the tax treatment of research and development (*R&D*) expenses.
 - Mr. Coombs stated that Congressman Courtney and U.S. Congressman Larson have been supportive of efforts to address issues related to the tax treatment of R&D expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING SURVEY & ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

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