



**MINUTES**  
**EWIB VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
*TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021*  
*8:00 A.M.*

**Members Present:** Ray Coombs, Jr.; Tony Cronin; Shannon Flanagan; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Andrew McKillop; Travis Monroe; Courtney Murphy; Michael O'Connor; Michael Phelps; Caleb Roseme; Pat Feeney; Deborah Monahan; Kelli Vallieres; Marcy Reed; Jessica Corneau; Linda Ladas; & Jim Butler.

**Staff Present:** Mark Hill, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, Sheila Taurianen, & Amanda Nagle.

**Others Present:** CT Sen Cathy Osten, Jody Lefkowicz, Denise Collins, Bibi Amin; & Susan Kocaba.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. He congratulated Board members Ray Coombs (*Westminster Tool*) for being selected as “2021 Moldmaking Technology Leadtime Leader,” and Jim Butler (*SE/CT Council of Governments*) for his upcoming retirement. Chairman Jewell noted that Mr. Butler will remain at the SECCOG in an advisory role as well as remain a member of EWIB’s Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes from the September 21, 2021 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*HIBBARD/BUTLER*). **ACTION:** Approved with Vallieres abstaining.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Covered under Chairman/Presidents Report.

**CETC/GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE COUNCIL REPORT**

GWC Vice-Chairman Kelli Vallieres reported that the Council’s main focus is the Career ConneCT launch of sector-based (*manufacturing, healthcare, construction, information technology, and other industries*) training to help individuals affected by COVID-19; these programs will also include support services and stipends to financially assist trainees. The Council is overseeing Regional Sector Partnerships across the state as well in support of the Career ConneCT initiative.

**CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Hill informed the Board of the recent passing of Eileen Ossen, Executive Director of the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, noting the tremendous impact she had on the region and EWIB.

- **Correspondence** – Mr. Hill reported that he participated in the *Made In America* podcast in early November discussing EWIB and its programs. He thanked Mayor Peter Nystrom (*City of Norwich & CEO Council member*) for his comments in the recent *Norwich Bulletin* article, “Nordson needs to fill 110 jobs after expansion,” which stated that one of the reasons behind Nordson’s decision to remain in CT is a result of its ability to add talent from the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) & the Youth MPI (YMPI).
- **Funding Update** – Mr. Hill expressed the Board’s appreciation to Sen. Osten for her efforts towards EWIB being awarded a \$10,000 grant from AT&T for youth training programs. He also noted that EWIB’s portion of a statewide \$2.5 million dollar procured grant to upgrade services at the American Job Centers will be \$672,255. Funding will be used to provide a “chat” feature, translation capabilities for non-English speakers on EWIB and AJC websites, and *SkillUp CT* online training courses.
- **Manufacturing Pipeline Update** – Mr. Hill announced that more than 2,000 people have been placed into employment through the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative since its inception in 2016, an important milestone. He also noted that two additional high schools, East Lyme and Putnam, have been added to the list of schools participating in the YMPI.
- **Why We Do What We Do** – Mr. Hill provided five client success stories to showcase the important work being done by EWIB staff and its partners in the American Job Centers and in various workforce training programs. He thanked the CEO Council, Board, staff and partners for their commitment and accomplishments in these initiatives to result in such compelling success stories.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

- **Nominating Committee Report** – Committee Chairman Susan Hibbard provided the Nominating Committee Report, which put forth the following slate of Officers:

<b><u>CHAIRMAN:</u></b>	<b>Christopher Jewell</b>
<b><u>VICE-CHAIR:</u></b>	<b>Thayne Hutchins, Jr.</b>
<b><u>SECRETARY:</u></b>	<b>James S. Butler</b>
<b><u>TREASURER:</u></b>	<b>Michael Phelps</b>

A **MOTION** was made to approve the 2021 EWIB Slate of Officers, as presented (**REED/MONAHAN**). **ACTION:** Approved with Vallieres abstaining.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Board Member Information & Conflict of Interest Forms** – Board members are asked to complete & return their Conflict of Interest Statements to Sheila Taurianen (*taurianens@ewib.org*) by the close of business December 3.
- **EWIB Legislative Update** – Sen. Cathy Osten (*CT 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.*) noted that EWIB will be providing a virtual update to the Eastern CT legislative delegation on Dec. 10, 2021. She asked that if any Board members had any comments or questions for the legislators be submitted prior to Dec. 10.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

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