



Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board
October 29, 2008
1-4 pm
Cross Office Building, Augusta, Room 600



Meeting Minutes

Attendance: James Atwell, Pam Baker, Betsy Biemann, John Burns, Tim Ford (for Jacques Carter), Chris Davis, Mike Eckardt, Patricia Hand, Rita Heimes, Karin Gregory, Hemant Pendse, Graham Shimmield, Robert Peacock, Peter Merrill, John Wright, Jack Kartez, Don Perkins, Miles Theeman, Catherine Renault

I. Welcome

A. Introductions

Dr. George Hart, Ocean Energy Institute is guest presenter. Maggie Drummond of Grow Smart was also in attendance.

II. Presentations

Cathy gave a brief overview of her paper on Clean Tech and the opportunities for Maine to be competitive. She then introduced Dr. George Hart of the Ocean Energy Institute who made a presentation entitled, "Opportunity for Maine as National Leader in Offshore Wind Testing & Usage."

III. Old Business

A. Legislative Agenda.

Miles Theeman led a broad discussion of the recommendations of a small working group of the Board who had put forth a strawman proposal of legislative initiatives to support. Miles will draft a letter for all to approve that included the following:

- a. To support current R&D programs at FY2008 funding levels.
- b. To support a R&D bond, fully competitive under the Maine Technology Asset Fund model, for an amount consistent with the recommendations of Brookings and the Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy (\$150 million over three years).
- c. To support the recapitalization of the Small Enterprise Growth Fund at \$10,000,000 through a bond.
- d. To support the recommendation of the Office of Innovation on revitalizing the Technology Centers as a way to improve support for high growth entrepreneurs.
- e. To support some activities in the equity area and reaffirm our commitment to the Fund of Fund concept, even if it is not doable in this current economic climate.

B. Maine Technology Asset Fund (R&D Bond) Update and Cluster Initiative

Betsy Biemann described new Cluster Initiative Program and announced that round two of the MTAF is now open with letters of intent due Dec 17 and full applications January 21, 2009.

C. EPSCoR

DEPSCoR Funding will be increased and Maine will be able to submit up to five proposals. We have three in hand and have solicited more from the universities.

IV. New Business

- a. Miles mentioned that we have a vacant seat on the Board and that the Governor's office has asked for additional names beyond the one we submitted. Miles will write to the Governor to reaffirm our support for the individual that was nominated.
- b. Next meeting, we will be hearing our annual evaluation results and the annual Progress Report on the Science and Technology Action Plan. Cathy will solicit folks to help with the Progress Report.
- c. Next year we will need to develop a new Science and Technology Action Plan.

V. 2009 meetings (All will be at Maine Hospital Association, 33 Fuller Road, Augusta, ME):

Thursday, January 29, 2009. 1-4 pm

Thursday, April 30, 2009. 1-4 pm

Wednesday, July 29, 2009. 1-4 pm

Wednesday, October 28, 2009. 1-4 pm

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