



**Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board  
May 1, 2008 at Augusta City Hall**



Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Robert Lad, Habib Dagher, John Burns, Bruce Bornstein, Bigelow Labs representative, Whitney King, Bates College representative, Betsy Biemann, Dale Syphere, Chris Davis, Jack Kartez, John Wright, Jacque Carter, Miles Theeman, Cathy Renault, Jennifer DeChant, Peter Merrill, Karin Gregory, Barbara Tennant, Patricia Hande, Ken Ault, Mike Eckhardt, Hemant Pendse, Steve Von Vogt, Janet Hock

**I. Welcome**

After people introduced themselves, DECD Commissioner John Richardson thanked board members for their commitment to the science and technology sectors in Maine. He explained that the agenda item to discuss budget priorities for the next funding cycle was a proactive way to make a lasting impact. He encouraged creative thinking when developing those recommendations.

**II. Presentation of Technology Innovation Program by Marc Stanley, NIST**

Marc discussed the upcoming competition and the application process. He explained the TIP is for early stage funding and is not open-ended. The funding priorities focus on national issues, such as: why would the government benefit from the proposed project; how does the project meet societal challenges; and how does the project address the seven topics detailed in his handout.

Marc encouraged projects that have “exhausted other sources.” He underscored the highly competitive nature of this funding. The RFP, targeting one of the top four critical needs, is expected by July 1 and will remain open for 60 days. The funding commitment is expected to be announced by Thanksgiving. And, he plans to designate \$10 million this year to the number one topic area.

**III. Old Business**

**A. Legislative update**

**1. Maine Technology Asset Fund (R&D Bond) Request for Application**

Betsy Biemann reported that 66 proposals were received. The AAAS will do reviews in June. There will be interviews in July. In September, \$25-30 million is likely to be awarded.

**2. Fund of Funds**

John Burns said that the bill was reported unanimously “ought to pass” by the BRED committee and it was enacted by the House and Senate; but, ultimately, the Governor pocket-vetoed it. Going forward, the goal is to have the legislation presented as a governor’s bill. There was active discussion about what role the MIEAB should play in Fund of Funds and broader issues.

**B. EPSCoR Dues**

Cathy Renault reported that the 2007 dues have been paid. There will be \$10,000 from the Office of Innovation to go toward 2008 dues. It was also noted that both USM and UMO received DEPCoR funding.

### C. ROI Calculations

Miles Theeman updated the board that these calculations are difficult to determine since there is inconsistent record keeping and comparisons.

## IV. New Business (2:30 pm)

### A. Science Bus

Ken Ault spoke on behalf of Jane Sheehan, who was not able to attend the meeting. The Science Bus underscores the need for expanding STEM educational opportunities in Maine. He said that six other states conduct a project like this. In Maine, they are looking for \$300,000 for the bus and \$200,000 for on-going operating costs on a yearly basis.

### B. Discussion of Priorities for Next Budget Cycle

Cathy Renault facilitated a discussion to identify projects and recommend funding allocations to support those endeavors. She explained that the Economic Growth Council will be looking for the same type of recommendations. Cathy will consolidate the notes for the next meeting, July 30.

- V. **Next meetings:** Wednesday, July 30, 2008. 1-4 pm, Cross Office Building, Room 105  
Wednesday, October 29, 2008. 1-4 pm, Cross Office Building, Room 105

#### Contact information:

Catherine S. Renault, director, 624-9801, [Catherine.s.renault@maine.gov](mailto:Catherine.s.renault@maine.gov)

Jennifer DeChant, policy coordinator, 624-9803, [Jennifer.dechant@maine.gov](mailto:Jennifer.dechant@maine.gov)

Claudette Coyne, administrative assistant, 624-9800, [claudette.coyne@maine.gov](mailto:claudette.coyne@maine.gov)

[www.maineinnovation.com](http://www.maineinnovation.com)