



**Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board
July 30, 2008
1-4 pm
Cross Office Building, Augusta, Room 105**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: James Atwell, Pam Baker, Betsy Biemann, John Burns, Jaques Carter, Chris Davis, Mike Eckhardt, Patricia Hand, Rita Heimes, Whitney King, Robert Lad, Dale Syphers, Steve Von Vogt, John Pierce Wise, Miles Theeman. Catherine Renault and Jennifer DeChant.

I. Welcome

A. Introductions

Jill Goldwaite represented Barbara Tennant. Nancy Martz represented Jack Kartez, Willie Wilson represented Graham Shimmield. Jaques Carter introduced Tim Ford as the new Vice President of Research at UNE. Bruce Segee, Jeff Letourneau and David Hart of UMO were presenters. Maggie Drummund of Grow Smart was also in attendance.

II. Old Business

A. Discussion of Priorities for Next Budget Cycle

1. Maine Economic Growth Council (MEGC) letter

The letter to the MEGC was part of the handouts available. Cathy Renault discussed the process that started with feedback from the stakeholders meetings and culminated with additions made by the MIEAB. The letter represents 90% of the feedback gathered from those two sources.

2. Maine Pre-Emergency Energy Task Force

The Emergency Energy Task Force report was part of the handouts available. Cathy underscored that the report was focused on the immediacy of heating Maine citizens instead of recommending large investments for infrastructure changes.

3. Research and Development legislative agenda

Cathy highlighted concepts of the Technology Commercialization Initiative that goes beyond investment in research. The concepts of address high growth entrepreneurship, funding young talented faculty, and tech transfer. Other legislative agenda items discussed with the Governor were Fund of Funds, capitalization of SEGF, change in FAME rules regarding seed tax funds, and a \$50million R&D bond.

Chair Miles Theeman discussed what role MIEAB wants to have in making recommendations to the Governor on research and development priorities. An ad hoc committee of Mike Eckhardt, Chris Davis, James Atwell, and Steve Von Vogt along with Miles was formed to solicit and organize recommendations on behalf of MIEAB. Advisory board members should contact these individuals with priorities.

B. Maine Technology Asset Fund (R&D Bond) Update and Initial Feedback

Betsy Biemann announced that the MTAF review committee is mostly complete with the first round of proposal reviews. While work still needs to be done around the final vote and announcement, the target date is Monday, August 11. Betsy invited all MIEAB to attend the announcement and she will share details as they become available.

After soliciting feedback on the how the first round of funding was conducted, Betsy said the second round could start in November but that timeline remains tentative.

C. EPSCoR

1. NSF EPSCoR Presentation and Discussion

Mike Eckhart introduced Dr. David Hart from the Center for Sustainability Solutions as the principal investigator for the project that was chosen to move ahead for NSF EPSCoR funding. David's powerpoint presentation illustrated the core elements of this multidisciplinary undertaking. The project involves all academic institutions in the state with the ultimate benefits of enhancing clusters, improve land planning, preserve quality of place and enhance research and workforce capacity.

2. EPSCoR/Idea EPA Representative

Patricia Hand explained the structure of this committee opening and reported that Jack Kartez will serve as the MIEAB representative.

3. DEPSCoR Funding Announcement

No report was given

III. New Business

A. Maine's Cyber Infrastructure-Next Steps

Bruce Segee and Jeff Letourneau, U Maine Orono, discussed the fiber optic access available for research facility and higher education institutions along the I-95 corridor. This technology enables virtual organizations to interact with other people, exchange high volume of information and link facilities.

IV. Next meeting:

Wednesday, October 29, 2008. 1-4 pm, Cross Office Building, Room 105

UPDATED CORRECTION: location Room 600

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