



**Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board  
October 30, 2007**



Meeting Minutes

**I. Welcome and Organizational**

**A. INTRODUCTIONS (membership list)**

Cathy Renault, director of Office of Innovation, welcomed members to the first meeting. She drew attention to the membership list and asked for people to let staff know if there are changes. Members went around the room to introduce themselves and offer some background on the company or entity they represent.

**B. MIEAB STATUTE (provided)**

The role and responsibilities of the committee are detailed in this document.

**C. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Dr. Chris Davis, Director of Pemaquid Oyster Company, nominated Miles Theeman, President & CEO of Affiliated Healthcare Systems, as MIEAB Chair and Patricia Hand, Administrative Director for Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, as Vice Chair. The motioned was seconded and passed unanimously.

**D. BY-LAWS (proposed language provided)**

Miles presented the by-laws that were drafted based on legislative intent. He encouraged members to review the document, forward any changes or questions to staff and be prepared to discuss the by-laws at the next meeting.

**II. Office of Innovation Overview**

**A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (BRED Committee list)**

Cathy explained that the Joint Standing Committee on Business Research and Economic Development is the legislative committee that works most closely with Department of Economic and Community Development, and specifically, with the Office of Innovation.

1. **November Bond** – Cathy described the R&D bond initiative to be voted on Nov. 6. She reported that Maine Technology Institute (MTI) is preparing an RFP that currently contains the criteria developed by the Maine Science and Technology Advisory Committee last August.
2. **Fund of Funds** (provided). Cathy went over the handouts explaining the carry-over bill LD1215 “An Act to Attract New Capital for Innovative Businesses through Equity Investment in Maine” sponsored by Senator Peter Mills. The next steps are to: a) draft the legislation (Senator Mills is doing this); b) determine how to write the fiscal note with the least budget impact; c)

work with the Small Enterprise Growth Fund (SEGF) and the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) to determine their respective roles.

## B. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

1. **Target Cluster Report.** Cathy explained that the seven targeted technology sectors are being studied. The first draft of the report is expected the beginning of November. The MIEAB will see the report at the next meeting. The Target Cluster Report, which should align nicely with the bond proposals, will be a tool when preparing for FY08 funding requests.
2. **Evaluation.** The research and development efforts in Maine are evaluated annually. This year the evaluation has three parts: 1) Online survey to private sector recipients. 2) Survey to research institutions. 3) Case study on industrial research and development. The report is due in January and will be presented at the next meeting.

## C. EPSCoR

1. **Background** (provided). Jennifer DeChant, policy and program coordinator for the Office of Innovation, highlighted the different EPSCoR programs available in Maine. She explained how the role of MIEAB, as the state EPSCoR committee, varies by program. There was also an explanation of the EPSCoR dues that will be announced before the end of the year. Miles underscored the need for MIEAB to serve as the one voice when it comes to research and development questions whether it is about EPSCoR or other funding issues.
2. **Memo of Understanding (MOU).** To clarify the MIEAB's role as the state EPSCoR committee in relation to the NSF EPSCoR and NASA EPSCoR proposal review process, MOUs have been drafted. Members expressed an interest in having more background into EPSCoR programs.
3. **EPSCoR NASA review week of Dec. 10.** Jennifer contacted the Maine Space Grant Consortium to determine if the proposed Dec 11 meeting date to review RID proposals works and to get an indication of the types of proposals being submitted to eliminate a possible conflict of interest. No response was received before the meeting date.

#### D. APPLIED TECHNICAL CENTERS (provided)

Cathy explained that the Applied Technical Centers (ATC) is a line item in the Office of Innovation budget just as MTI is. The funding for these entities was reduced in the last budget that resulted in a more competitive review process. Four of the seven ATCs received funding: Target Tech Center in Orono; Maine Center for Enterprise Development in Portland; The Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center in Orono; and River Valley Technology Center in Rumford.

### III. Science and Technology Action Plan

- A. UPDATED REPORT. Each new member received a copy of the Science and Tech Action Plan. Per our legislation, MIEAB is required to submit a progress report on the Action Plan to BRED and the Governor each March.
- B. SUB-COMMITTEE. A subcommittee was formed to work on this action item. (Miles Theeman, Janet Hock, Jack Kartez, Rita Heimes, Chris Davis and Cathy Renault). If anyone else is interested, they should contact Cathy.

### IV. Next meeting(s). MIEAB meets quarterly. **The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2008 from 1:00pm – 3:30 pm in Rm 105, Cross Building, Augusta.**

In closing, members went around the room to express their expectations for serving on the MIEAB. Miles underscored the importance for the MIEAB, now that it is in statute, to become the voice for research and development and to advocate for innovation in Maine. The MIEAB, although advisory in nature, has the advantage of articulating a single vision to the Legislature to strengthen the need for R&D funding. Miles thanked everyone for their willingness to be involved and said that he would like to meet with as many members as possible before the next meeting to get a better understanding of the individual strengths.

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