

**Governor's Workforce Board RI**  
**Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee Meeting**  
**August 7, 2012**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present: Mario Bueno, Constance Howes, Brandon Melton, Martin Trueb  
Committee Members Absent: William McGowan, George Nee  
GWB Staff present: Rick Brooks, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney  
DLT Staff present: Sean Fontes, Paul Genovesi, Diane Gagne  
Others Present: Paul Harden, RIEDC; Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI; Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Judy Jones, Economic Progress Institute; Jen Cornwell, RIMTA; Andrew Cortes, Building Futures; Heather Singleton, RI Hospitality

**Call to Order**

Constance Howes called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes**

C. Howes asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the July 10, 2012 Strategic Investments & Evaluation Committee meeting. She asked if there was a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** M. Trueb moved to approve, seconded by B. Melton. All were in favor, the motion passed.

**Additional FY13 Investments**

C. Howes asked Rick Brooks to present information on proposed recommendations for additional investments for FY13.

R. Brooks reviewed the hand-out entitled "FY2013 Investments" and mentioned the specific programs that are currently budgeted for the total of \$8.7M. He explained that the funding for the FY13 Jobs Initiative (\$1M) was not yet obligated. He indicated that within the next month, the Jobs Initiative pilot originated in FY12 would be reviewed and evaluated. He noted the results of the pilot will be helpful in determining how to invest the \$1M for the FY13 Jobs Initiative.

R. Brooks explained that the funding for the additional FY13 investments comes from the \$2.3M which was restored to the GWB/JDF budget and carried into this fiscal year, noting this is a one time source of funds. He reviewed the proposed investments which include:

Incumbent Workers – rolling grants:	\$ 500,000
Industry Partners – training and special projects:	\$ 320,000
Innovation Grants:	\$1,400,000

C. Howes noted that the funding request for the RI Export Management Training Grant program, listed on the FY2013 Investments hand-out, would be voted on as a separate agenda item. She asked that any disclosures be made regarding the FY2013 Investment agenda items coming up for a vote. She disclosed that she is on the board of the Hospital Association of RI (HARI) and that she would be recusing herself from the vote on the Industry Partner funding for training and special projects. Brandon Melton disclosed he would be recusing himself from this vote due to

his affiliation with Stepping Up. C. Howes indicated the vote on the Industry Partner funding would be a separate vote.

There was an overview of the \$1.4M proposed for a new budget category of Innovation Grants. R. Brooks described the premise behind these grant awards. He indicated that the Biennial Plan would be discussed and adopted at the Board Retreat on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will ensure that the funding proposals would then be released and follow the statewide objectives of the Biennial Plan. C. Howes assured committee members that although the Innovation Grants will encourage innovation and partnerships, that the core mission of the GWB remains the same. M. Bueno emphasized the importance of delivering quality service, the evaluation process and providing a summary of the investment dollars.

C. Howes asked if there was a motion to approve recommendations for funding for additional FY13 investments. She stated there would be a separate vote on the funding for the Industry Partners and for the RI Export Management Training.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All were in favor, the motion passed.

C. Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the recommendation for funding for the Industry Partners for training and special projects.

**VOTE:** M. Bueno moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. C. Howes and B. Melton recused themselves from the vote due to their affiliations with the Industry Partners. The motion passed.

#### **Funding Request: RI Export Management Training**

C. Howes asked Paul Harden from the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to present the funding request for the RI Export Management Training Grant program.

P. Harden provided an overview of the program noting the program's inception in 1996. He stated that RIEDC has awarded more than \$530,000 in matching grants to a total of 378 Rhode Island businesses. He indicated that the match to these grants by the participating companies to train over 1,200 employees has exceeded \$600,000. He stated that a total return of \$151 in export revenue to every \$1 grant dollar spent has been measured.

C. Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the request for funding for the RI Export Management Training.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by M. Bueno. All were in favor, the motion passed.

C. Howes mentioned the GWB Financial Analysis provided in the meeting packets. She indicated there would be a budget update for the September meeting.

With no further business, C. Howes asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All were in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney