



IIN Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 24, 2020

Zoom Meeting

IIN Council Members Present:

Jerry Blazey, Alex Stagnaro-Green, Ryan Hendrickson, Ryan Spain, Susan Martinis, Chris Merrett, Denise Cobb, Bruce Sommer, Beth Cada, TJ Augustine, Gary Kinsel, Leslie Roundtree, Mike Bedell, Craig McLauchlan

Meeting Attendees:

Jay Walsh, Kyle Harfst, Ben Taylor, Lori Pflugmacher, Suzi Stadel, Matt Schmit, Jeannette Tamayo, Angelica Alfaro, Gireesh Gupchup, Hana Hinkle, Kip McCoy, James Hazzard, Jennifer Creasey, Jisu Hong, Jun Zhao, Martin MacDowell, Matt Bell, Melanie Loots, Rex Schaeffer, Teresa Johnston, Tracy Smith

Welcome and Introductions

Jerry Blazey, IIN Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and offered a greeting and welcome to all in attendance. He introduced two guests, Matt Schmit, Deputy Director of Broadband from the Illinois Department and Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Gireesh Gupchup, newly appointed Vice President at Southern Illinois University.

Jay Walsh, Interim Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation at the University of Illinois System office, also provided a welcome and spoke about the governance of this Council and its establishment one year ago at the Governors State meeting.

Guest Speaker – Matt Schmit, DCEO Deputy Director for Broadband

Matt gave a presentation (see attached Power Point) outlining the Connect Illinois strategic broadband plan. Connect Illinois is the state's \$420 million initiative that will focus on access, adoption, and utilization. He discussed a regional current conditions report, a critical dashboard, and creating a regional plan. A two-phase proposal was offered to the IIN Hubs with a meeting of those interested to be arranged for the following week.

Hub Update – Rockford

Alex Stagnaro-Green discussed the ongoing process at the Rockford campus over 25 years with World Health Education and how being part of the IIN can aid in its expansion. See attached Power Point presentation.

Appoint At-Large Executive Committee Member and Revision to Bylaws

Harfst reported that an election to appoint new “at-Large” Executive Committee member took place via email. He announced that Chris Merrett from Western Illinois University is the new “At-Large” Executive Committee of the IIN Council.

Harfst also mentioned the need to change bylaws as a result of the At-Large Executive Committee Vacancy. He indicated that the proposed change in Article VII was sent previously to Council members for review. Council Chair Blazey entertained a motion to approve the revised Bylaws, so moved by Craig McLauchlan. Mike Bedell seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

Capital Funding update

Jennifer Creasey provided an update on the September 11 meeting with Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz. She mentioned that Kyle Harfst and Jay Walsh were part of the meeting. They briefed him of each hub in the IIN, their projects, the total budget, and the amount that was requested. Creasey further described it as a good meeting with a reminder for a push to be started with the Illinois Capital Development Board for funds to be released. She encouraged each hub to work with their local government relations liaisons to continue dialogue regarding their own capital projects.

Open Discussion

Sustaining Illinois Seed Funding

Harfst started off this discussion with a reminder that Sustaining Illinois Seed Funding is now open, and a provision for equity and representing underserved populations is included. The deadline for proposal submittals is December 1, 2020, with no more than \$30,000 per project, and the overall initiative not to exceed \$120,000. He also noted the four proposals submitted for the deadline of June 30 were all funded. Harfst gave thanks to the Office of the Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation at the University of Illinois and Northern Illinois University for once again providing the resources.

Preparing Illinois for Climate Impacts

Jerry Blazey lead a discussion to address the issue of climate migration. He sees the climate change accelerating and wonders if the IIN should start thinking about preparing Illinois for the particular aspect of climate impact in the Midwest. This would be a long-term, state-wide commitment on behalf of the IIN. See Power Point for more details. Matt Bell suggested focusing on the area of food supply, Susan Martinis would like to know what funding is out there, Jay Walsh noted this as an opportunity to find places to grow, and Ryan Hendrickson thought his upcoming sustainability conference would be a good place for this discussion.

Shield Illinois

Jay Walsh provided several slides during his presentation on U of I’s saliva-based PCR test for SARS-CoV-2. He noted the three levels – Illinois SHIELD for UI System campus’, SHIELD Illinois, across the state, and SHIELD T3 which will go beyond Illinois. The cost of each test is \$20, and the governments, local, state federal are being

worked with to help with this cost. Private sources are also being looking into for assistance. U of I's very interested in working with public universities across the state.

Additional topics

Jerry Blazey asked the group if any hub would like to provide an update at the next meeting on November 19. This great opportunity brings people up to speed on what's happening on your campus. Anyone interested should contact Kyle, Ben, or Lori.

Adjourn

Jerry Blazey adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m. and reminded the group of the next meeting on November 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Cobb, Council Secretary