



IIN Council Meeting
Thursday, January 28, 2021
1:00 – 3:00 PM

Welcome and Introductions.

Jerry Blazey, IIN Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Council members and guests were welcomed to the first Council meeting of the new year.

The following Council members answered present to roll call: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine (proxy by Kristy Kuzmuk), Mike Bedell, Matt Bell, Beth Cada, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis (proxy by Melanie Loots), Craig McLauchlin, Chris Merrett, Leslie Roundtree, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnero-Green. Council member Ryan Spain not present for roll joined the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Also present, Jay Walsh, Kyle Harfst, Ben Taylor, Lori Pflugmacher, Jeannette Tamayo, Jisu Hong, Suzi Stadel, Ken Anderson, Lynn Anderson Lindberg, Marissa Brewer, John Charles, Jennifer Creasey, Mary Daniels, Gireesh Gupchup, Teresa Johnston, Paul Leamon, Leslie Matuszewich, Kip McCoy, Kristi Mindrup, Rob Patino, Vicky Rhine, Andy Singer, Rex Schaeffer, and Nancy Sullivan.

Jay Walsh, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation at the University of Illinois welcomed everyone and expressed how pleased he is with witnessing the continued activity with all the partners and protentional partners even in the middle of a pandemic.

Approval of November 19 Council Meeting Minutes:

With no discussion of minutes as presented, motion to approve by Alex Stagnero-Green
Second by Leslie Roundtree

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Jerry Blazey, Proxy Kristi Kuzmuk, Mike Bedell, Matt Bell, Beth Cada, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Proxy Melanie Loots, Craig McLauchlin, Chris Merrett, Leslie Roundtree, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnero-Green

NAY: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – None received



DCEO Broadband READY Planning Grant Update

Kyle Harfst and Jeannette Tamayo presented an overview of the DCEO Broadband ready program and the Broadband Ready awarded grants as presented from the slides. Of the four regional grants awarded, 3 were awarded to IIN Hubs that have partnered with local stakeholders in Phase 1 of the program.

Capital Funding Discussion

John Charles shared a presentation that had previously been presented to the IIN Executive committee.

- Continuing advocacy for IIN Hub Funding
- 2021 Advocacy goals and objectives
- IIN Council next steps
- Individual Hub next steps

Discussion focused on crafting a letter from each Hub that would be shared with the Governor's office. Work to develop a unifying template with a prepared statement at the front end how the network is helping to drive forward the individual efforts and advocating for each other.

In moving forward, it was suggested that each of the IIN Hubs should plan to meet with the University of Illinois Capital programs to form that relationship in addition to CDB.

Working Committee Chairs Meeting Report

Jerry Blazey presented on each of the working committees as asked for reports on their first year of review of their charges and reconsideration of their committee composition.

- Education & Workforce Development – charge content and objectives required no change. With respect to composition of the committee, a co-chair with very strong community college relationship would be appropriate.
- Entrepreneurship & Corporate Engagement – the charge remains appropriate. They reported a well-developed six subcommittee structure. An interest in splitting into two committees to improve the focus and accelerate progress was discussed. This could be considered a first reading for a later action for the Council. Next steps included preparing separate charges for consideration.
- Public Policy – Charge remains appropriate. Should consider the importance of adding advocacy as a partner to policy.
- Research & Collaboration – The committee is working on a revised charter and rescaling to focus on the annual research conference, fostering research topics and collaborations, and focusing on the seed grant program.



Research & Collaboration Working Committee

Ryan Hendrickson led the discussion and included a PowerPoint to assist with his presentation.

- EIU-IIN Graduate Course on Sustainability
- IIN Sustainability Research Conference
- Sustaining Illinois Seed Grants

Sustaining Illinois Seed Grant Awards

Kyle Harfst presented on Round 2 with a total of 15 different submissions received from across eight different hubs. With an increase in funding eight proposals totaling \$229,000 were awarded. Funding of \$120,000 will be awarded for Round 3 with a deadline of May 2021. With an announcement before the start of the new fiscal year.

Technical Assistance for Hubs

Jeannette Tamayo summarized her assignment. Here under the CARES Act, this requires she focuses on resiliency and economic resiliency for the state of Illinois. As outlined from her slide presentation Jeannette discussed the technical assistance she can provide for the Hubs:

- Brainstorming and translating the who, what, where, when, why, how approach to application development and program review.
- Aligning with federal priorities

Rural Economic Development Conference

Chris Merrett summarized the upcoming IIRA Rural Economic Development Conference scheduled for February 24-25, 2021. A complete breakdown of the conference days was detailed in the presentation.

Strategic Planning Discussion

Jerry Blazey initiated discussion around future direction and strategic planning for the IIN. Selecting focus areas that we can work on together corporately, or as a group. It was determined that it would be a useful exercise. Options for moving forward and next steps were discussed. It was decided to have the original planning documents be made available with this the primary agenda topic for the Executive Council meeting next month.



Adjournment:

Motion was made by Mike Bedell and seconded by Beth Cada to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Matt Bell, Beth Cada, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis – Proxy, Melanie Loots, Craig McLauchlin, Chris Merrett, Leslie Roundtree, Bruce Sommer

NAY: None. Motion carried

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 pm