



Illinois Innovation Network  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
2:00-3:00 pm, August 27, 2020

**Committee members Present:**

Jerry Blazey, Chair  
Denise Cobb  
Kyle Harfst  
Leslie Roundtree  
Jay Walsh

**Staff Present:**

Lori Pflugmacher  
Ben Taylor

Council Chair Jerry Blazey called to order at 2:04 PM.

**Sustaining Illinois Seed Funding – Fall 2020**

Round I of Sustaining Illinois has announced the winners and contracts are being put in place. Round II – Fall of 2020 announcement for the second round will be announced after Labor Day. Included in the second round will be language include referring to underserved populations and communities. Equity, education and workforce development, water agriculture, diversity, equity inclusion, and underserved populations are the themes in this round of funding. Taylor will get out in a news release after Labor Day. Seed funding will be an agenda item for council meeting on Sept. 24.

**Open Meetings Act**

This item was discussed at the Council meeting in July. University of Illinois General Counsel will provide an interpretation whether or not the IIN Council meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. This interpretation will be reported – perhaps at the Council meeting in September.

**Executive Committee Membership**

Harfst summarized composition of the Executive Committee as identified in the by-laws. He reminded the group that there was a charge made at the July Council meeting for nominations. Harfst was directed to send another email reminder to Council members and Blazey said the vote should take place for the appointment at the Council meeting in September.

Discussion ensued regarding how to address the at-large appointment when an opening takes place. After reviewing the bylaws, committee members agreed that language should be changed in Article VII Elections to include the at-large executive committee member. The revised bylaws will be presented for approval at the September meeting.

**DCEO Broadband Initiative**

Internally, IIN staff has had several conversations with Matt Schmit, DCEO Deputy Director for Broadband. Mr. Schmit is interested in collaborating with IIN to increase broadband utilization as a way to improve economic development within the state. Mr.

Schmit indicating that in addition to internal funding from DCEO, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) may have funding available to support planning efforts around broadband. The creation of an Illinois Broadband lab could be a result of this collaboration. Staff will further investigate a proposal that could separate planning by each of the 10 designated EDA regions within the state. Walsh reminded the group that some evaluation needs to take place regarding the level of involvement with each of the Hub institutions. Roundtree asked for clarification regarding the level of activity and defining the work. Discussion also took place regarding a fit in one of the working committee – perhaps Education and Workforce Development. Staff will continue working on this concept and will provide a summary at the September IIN Council meeting.

Harfst mentioned that he is working with Jeanette Tamayo, a U.S. Department of Commerce employee, in receiving a “detail” from the federal government to work with the University of Illinois and IIN. Ms. Tamayo is a licensed attorney and recently served as Regional Director of EDA. It is anticipated that Ms. Tamayo would start prior to the new federal fiscal year.

#### **Update of Capital Programs**

University of Illinois has employed Mike Wilson to work with Capital programs. Staff met with Mr. Wilson earlier and briefed him on the IIN programs. Under Wilson’s recommendations, staff are reaching out to each of the hubs, confirming that the project remain the same. During that briefing Wilson suggested acquisition of data on diversity procurement history at each of the hubs. Roundtree asked staff to get further clarification as this question caused some concern across the network. Harfst will discuss with Wilson and report back.

#### **Shield Illinois**

Walsh briefed the committee on Shield and UIUC testing for the COVID-19 virus. He mentioned that the goal is to replicate the shield protocol in the entire state. It is likely the next lab will be located in Springfield. The biggest challenge now is data management.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM. The next Executive Committee meeting will be 2:00 PM October 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Cobb, IIN Council Secretary