



Illinois Innovation Network
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting – 2:00-3:00 p.m.
October 22, 2020

Call to Order – Jerry Blazey at 2:11 pm

Roll Call - Lori Pflugmacher

Members present: Jerry Blazey, Kyle Harfst, Suzi Stadel, Lori Pflugmacher, Ben Taylor, Chris Merrett, and Denise Cobb. Leslie Roundtree joined at 2:23 p.m.

Approval of August 27, 2020 Minutes -

Move for approval: Cobb – 2nd: Merrett

Roll Call:

Blazey - Aye, Harfst - Aye, Merrett - Aye, Cobb, Aye

Public Comment – none as presented

Open Meetings Act Discussion –

Harfst gave a brief overview of his findings on the Open Meetings Act and its effect on IIN Council, Executive Committee, and the four Working Committees. All mentioned meetings are subject to the open meetings act. In order for the Executive Committee to motion for action, a quorum of four (4) from the six (6) member committee must be present. All Executive Committee members are in favor of following the Open Meetings Act guidelines as presented.

DCEO Broadband Initiative –

Harfst presented on a recent meeting with Matt Schmitt and DCEO Broadband Initiative. Planning is at a regional level which will provide up to \$50,000 per region and maxing out at \$250,000; one submission per region is recommended. The VPEDI Office will contribute to assist with a project manager and digital dashboard.

There are three (3) key deliverables for the study:

- 1) Timing: Oct. 26 NOFO release (waiting on Governor Pritzker to sign off).
- 2) Responses will be due by December 14 with projects starting in January 2021, allowing a full calendar year for completion.
- 3) Five (5) hubs determined now and five (5) later for next round.

Update of Capital Programs -

Blazey: Capital Development Board (CDB) reached out to him to start the process for their large capital investment, a new building at NIU. IIN must be aware that Capital Projects funding will take precedence. Is this still coming out of Build Illinois Bond funds? He suggests reaching back to Jennifer Creasey for clarity on this subject and funding.

Roundtree: There is some confusion about some of their capital releases, such as trying to figure out what has been assigned and what has been released.

Harfst: Recently met with Jennifer Creasey to discuss talking points, setting up introductory meetings with each Hub and CDB, and to ensure our elected officials see the importance and urgency of getting the monies released. An updated set of talking points for the one pager to the legislators is currently in progress by Ben Taylor.

Cobb: Greater clarity would be beneficial from a standpoint of facilities issues, etc. We really need to know how to navigate the ask from CDB without jeopardizing what is already on the call sheet for each Hub. We do not want to put any university in the situation of having to put a priority to this. There is worry that the capacity is such that we are asking something that cannot be done. She suggests bringing these concerns to the IIN Council to get their thoughts.

Shield Illinois –

In Walsh's absence, the update was deferred for the IIN council meeting.

Frequency of Executive Committee Meetings –

Discussion was presented as to the frequency of scheduled Executive Committee meetings. With the IIN Council meeting bi-monthly, does the Executive Committee need to meet as often in between? It was decided to leave as currently scheduled and allow the Council Chair/Executive Director to cancel at their discretion.

Adjourn -

Meeting was adjourned by Jerry Blazey at 3:00 p.m.

Jerry Blazey, Chair

Denise Cobb, Secretary