

# Commission on Connecticut's Future

## *Meeting Minutes*



Thursday, October 23, 2014

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Burroughs Community Center  
Community Room

2470 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605

**Members Present:** Commissioner Catherine Smith (Chair), John Harrity, Henry Lowendorf, Rich McCombs, Commissioner Sharon Palmer, Steve Paulone, Andrew Zehner

Meeting commenced at 9:07 AM

- 1.) Welcome by Commissioner Smith and Introductions
- 2.) Presentation by Mitch Horowitz, Vice President and Managing Director, Battelle Technology Partnership Practice, “Commission on Connecticut’s Future: Best Practices in Economic Development and Connecticut’s Position”
  - a. Government funded research in the Department of Defense is often where innovation happens
  - b. Emphasis in Connecticut should be on manufacturing commercialization (of that innovation as well as other academia-driven innovations)
  - c. Small-midsize defense contractors sometimes have a hard time diversifying; may need support
- 3.) Presentation by Liddy Karter, Managing Director, Enhanced Capital Partners, “Status of Venture Investing in CT”
  - a. Connecticut as a state drew 4<sup>th</sup> largest amount of capital until 2005, dropped to 20<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Connecticut is now around 9<sup>th</sup> in the country because of investment in early stage companies
  - c. Connecticut number 4 in the U.S. in dollars managed by venture capitalists

- d. Need more angel groups in Connecticut, currently only 1
- 4.) Presentation by Dr. Heidi Garrett-Peltier, Assistant Research Professor, Political Economy Research Institute - University of Massachusetts, “Revitalizing Manufacturing: Climate Policy and Industrial Policy”
  - a. A centralized electric grid is a national security threat
  - b. Because of renewable commitments there is nearly a guaranteed demand for green technologies
  - c. Renewable energy sources are more labor intensive, so a shift means more jobs created
  - d. Challenge is to get those new green jobs in CT
- 5.) Presentation by Susan Winkler, Executive Director, Connecticut Insurance & Financial Services (IFS), “Strengthening and Advancing the Industry”
  - a. Connecticut still a leader in insurance and a hub of talent in industry-related skills (actuaries, accountants, etc)
  - b. Focus of the industry (through IFS) is on workforce development to ensure we stay competitive on talent
- 6.) Discussion of presentations by Commission members

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.