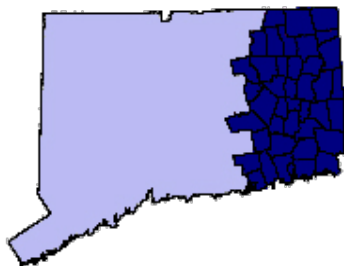


EASTERN CT WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL OF CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS

[HTTP://WWW.EWIB.ORG](http://www.ewib.org)



Hon. Thomas Sparkman, Chair
1st Selectman, Lisbon

Hon. Ronald McDaniel, Vice-Chair
Mayor, Montville

Hon. Christopher Lippke, Secretary/Treasurer
1st Selectman, Canterbury

Hon. Peter Nystrom, Member
Mayor, Norwich

Hon. Kevin Cunningham, Member
1st Selectman, Plainfield

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

**MEETING MINUTES -
OCTOBER 5, 2023**

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS: Thomas Sparkman, *Lisbon*; Ron McDaniel, *Montville*; Chris Lippke, *Canterbury*; Kevin Cunningham, *Plainfield*; & Peter Nystrom, *Norwich*

OTHERS: Amanda Kennedy, Carol LaBelle, Michael Nogelo, Guy Saporito, Sheila Taurianen & Stephanie Wisniewski

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sparkman called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes from the June 1, 2023 CEO Council virtual meeting (**NYSTROM/LIPPKE**).

ACTION: Unanimously approved.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- **Correspondence Highlights** – Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) President/CEO Michael Nogelo covered the following items:
 - **Explore Manufacturing: A Stop on CT Manufacturing Roadshow '23** – The event, coordinated by The Greater Norwich Area Chamber, EWIB, Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance Regional Sector Partnership (EAMA RSP) & ReadyCT, was held 9/28 at Dodd Stadium in Norwich. 560 middle and high school students attended and over 30 manufacturing companies were represented.
 - **Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Application Notice** – EWIB was notified on August 1 by the offices of U.S. Senators Blumenthal and Murphy that its CDS application submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee for Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) training and capacity was well received but was not among the 39 applications funded out of 247 applications received in its category.
 - Chairman Sparkman asked if Senator Murphy's staff person who said application was well received explained why it did not move forward. Mr. Nogelo responded that the application



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passed the first screen of being compliant and competitive, but the Senators do not receive information about how final award decisions are made.

- **Industrial Base Analysis & Sustainment (IBAS) Program Visit** – U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (CT 2nd Dist.) and representatives of the U.S. Dept. of Defense IBAS program visited EWIB on August 1 to discuss the state of the submarine industrial base (SIB), Rep. Courtney’s work to keep the SIB strong, and the important role of the MPI. IBAS invited EWIB to submit a white paper for funding for MPI training and capacity expansion. IBAS will notify EWIB if it will be invited to submit a full application.
- **Eastern CT Healthcare Partnership (ECHP) MSW Partnership** – In July, the ECHP announced an agreement making CT Health Horizons grant funding available to provide partial or full tuition support for ECHP employees to enroll in the University of St. Joseph’s Master of Social Work (MSW) program now offered at satellite locations in New London (at Mitchell College) and Mansfield (at United Services) in response to a need identified by ECHP employers. Fifteen people from six ECHP members enrolled in the program this fall. The Governor’s Workforce Council highlighted this agreement at its July meeting.
- **Good Jobs Challenge (GJC) Grant Start Up** – EWIB was designated by regional stakeholders and the CT Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) as regional lead in the manufacturing and healthcare regional sector partnerships (RSP) as part of an OWS \$23.9 million U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) GJC award. Goals of CT’s statewide Strengthening Sectoral Partnerships Initiative (SSPI) are to boost two RSPs in each of the five (5) workforce areas plus train and place 2,000+ people (focused on underserved populations) in quality jobs on career pathways in manufacturing, healthcare, and IT. Eastern CT’s projects will elevate the EAMA RSP and ECHP with additional resources for RSP coordination, marketing, and employer outreach, and strengthen and expand the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI) and Youth Healthcare Pipeline Initiative (YHPI). EWIB’s GJC contract with OWS was executed August 30, 2023.
- **EWIB Strategic Direction Pillars** – Mr. Nogelo stated that EWIB has not formally updated its mission and vision in several years. The EWIB senior team will work with the Executive Committee, Board, and CEO Council to update both. The updated statements will not create a new direction for EWIB, but rather will reflect the organization’s strategic direction more clearly for the benefit of staff, Board and CEO Council members, and outside parties (including funders). After the new vision and mission statements are in place, the organization will establish its core values and will then revisit and update its strategies, goals, and objectives.
 - In response to a question posed by Chairman Sparkman regarding the date of the previous update, the EWIB Goals updates were kept current until 2022, when the Board chose to postpone the process in acknowledgment of an approaching leadership change.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Recap** – Carol LaBelle reported on the 2023 SYEP, noting that there were ~1,600 applicants, ~520 youth who enrolled and worked at ~145 worksites with a ~94% completion rate. Funding from State, municipal, corporate, philanthropic, and nonprofit funders totaled ~\$1.73 million. Ms. LaBelle thanked Mayor Peter Nystrom and the City of Norwich- Human Services for their generous contribution.
- **New MPI Portal Launch** – Guy Saporito reported the growth of the MPI program has resulted in the need for a new pre-application portal (launched Sept. 20) and more robust database. Mr. Saporito described the three phases of the process of transitioning from the current MPI portal and database to a new database.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Nogelo announced Stephanie Wisniewski joined EWIB in July as the Strategic Executive Assistant and thanked Sheila Taurianen for leading Stephanie’s onboarding. Mr. Nogelo thanked Mayor Ron McDaniel for his 12 years of service as the mayor of Montville and for his leadership on the CEO Council. EWIB has appreciated his partnership.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (**MCDANIEL/LIPPKE**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.