

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS MEETING  
MARYLAND INNOVATION INITIATIVE (MII)**

July 16, 2019  
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Participating Board Members:**

Bob Hallenbeck  
Julie Lenzer  
Wendy Martin  
Mary Morris  
Renee Winsky  
Brian Stansky

**Participating TEDCO Staff**

Stephen Auvil  
Silvia Goncalves  
John Gustin  
Arti Santhanam  
Tammi Thomas  
Ira Schwartz, TEDCO Counsel

Guest: Erika Schissler, Maryland General Assembly  
Dept. of Legislative Services

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2019**

The Board considered the minutes from the May 14, 2019 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Chairman's Report**

R. Winsky volunteered to be co-chair for this meeting since Chair B. Hallenbeck started the meeting by phone but was not able to remain until the end.

B. Hallenbeck discussed the Retreat and asked the Board for topics that need to be discussed on that day.

B. Hallenbeck discussed wanting to meet with Legislators regarding the MII Program to highlight the success of the program.

**IV. Director's Report**

A. Santhanam reminded the Board that the MII Retreat will be on August 22, 2019 and it will be held at the Howard County Economic Development Authority in Columbia.

A.Santhanam announced that the TEDCO Marketing Team is working on a MII Annual Report that will be completed by the Retreat.

A.Santhanam announced the George Davis, CEO of TEDCO has stepped down.

S.Auvil updated the Board on how TEDCO Board is handing the transition and the plans to replace the employees that have stepped down.

A.Santhanam announced that MII had conducted a refresher review meeting with reviewers to go over the review process. The program intends to repeat the refresher training on an annual basis to maintain the consistency and high standard of reviews.

A.Santhanam announced that she presented the MII Program to the Life Science Angels and introduced several MII companies to them.

A.Santhanam discussed the July 2019 submissions.

It was announced that MII is sponsoring SBIR roadshow on September 20<sup>th</sup> hosted by University of Maryland, College Park.

#### **Statement for Closing the Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded that the Board go into closed session. The motion included the following:

#### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION**

##### **General Provisions Article of the MD Code, Section 3-305(b)(5):**

A public body may meet in closed session ... to consider the investment of public funds.

**TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED: The MII board will discuss which pending grant applications to consider, given the rankings received and other relevant factors. The discussion might also relate to the characteristics of specific applications.**

**REASON FOR CLOSING: The MII board believes that confidentiality is essential to protect sensitive information about plans and processes that applicants divulge, to avoid a chilling effect on future submissions, and to enable candid discussion of how best to invest limited resources.**

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Board went into a closed session at 2:36 p.m. to consider and vote on various grant applications. Six of the nine applications from the May 2019 submissions were recommended to the Board for consideration. In accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Public Ethics Law, Board members recused themselves from that portion of the discussion that pertained to applications from their own universities. The members then discussed and approved six applications.

##### **State Government Article §10-508(a)(1)(ii):**

A public body may adjourn an open session to discuss “any . . . personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals”.

**TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:** The MII Board will discuss the evaluation of the performance of Program staff in helping it carry out its duties as regards the MII Program.

**REASON FOR CLOSING:** The MII Board believes that confidentiality is necessary to enable candid discussion of the evaluation of the performance of the Program staff.

The Board determined that its Chair would draft a proposal regarding the evaluation process for Program staff in an effort to promote transparency.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.