



Southern  
Worcester  
County  
Economic  
Development  
Organization

c/o Central Massachusetts Regional  
Planning Commission  
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**Southern Worcester County Economic Development Organization  
Board of Directors  
Hybrid Meeting  
MassDOT District 3 Headquarters (Fourth Floor)  
499 Plantation St., Worcester, MA 01605  
Remote Meeting Option via Zoom  
May 4, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

**SWC EDO Board Members: (Exec Cmte)\***

Jeff Turgeon, Central Mass Hire\*  
Dave George, Rutland\*  
Brad Kadelski, Brookfield\*  
Jeremy Thompson, 495/MW\*  
Julie Holstrom, WBDC\*  
Jon Weaver, MBI  
Kathy Rentsch, QCC

**Advisors:**

Kevin Kuros, MOBD

**Guests:**

Hillary King, EEA  
Hoamy Tran, U.S. DOT Volpe Center  
Peg Dean, Southbridge  
Stuart Kirshner, Keller Williams  
Amy Poretysky, Northborough  
Paul Matthews, WRRB

**CMRPC Staff:**

Kerrie Salwa, CMRPC  
Ryan Saul, CMRPC  
Wenzheng Wang, CMRPC  
Will Talbot, CMRPC

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1. **Meeting called to order at 2:07 pm:** Jeff Turgeon called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm. Ryan Saul facilitated a roll call of the Executive Committee to note who was remotely in attendance. There was not a quorum present.
  2. **Minutes:** Due to the lack of quorum the Executive Committee was unable to vote to approve the meeting minutes from the April 6, 2023, Executive Committee meeting.
  3. **Project Review:** Kerrie updated the group that Robert (Bob) Minarik from the Town of Douglas will be joining the next Executive Committee meeting to present a project. The project involves North Street infrastructure upgrade. Kerrie asked the Executive Committee if they would be willing to hold a special meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. for an estimated 30 minutes to review

Bob's project. Kerrie added that Bob has a MassWorks deadline he is trying to meet. Jeff Turgeon said that he may personally have a scheduling conflict at that time, but that he does not have any issue with holding the meeting.

4. Partner Updates:

- Kathy Rentsch: Kathy said that QCC has generously received grant funding from MOBD to do a biomanufacturing technician onramp training program to get participants to entry-level positions in the field. The first cohort of students graduated this past Saturday. There are about ten students in each training cohort. This is the first cohort to graduate from the program since it has been approved as a pre-apprenticeship program, so those students graduated with that credential as well. It is a pre-apprenticeship program for the MassBioEd apprenticeship. At least four of the students have applied to be part of the apprenticeship program and others have gotten jobs already. Bristol Myers Squibb in the Devens area is looking at students' resumes now. Abbvie continues to be a partner.
- Jeff Turgeon: Jeff said there are not many updates. MassHire is working on finding summer jobs and partnering with a few different companies and organizations that are working on several different projects. MassMEP is looking at an older youth manufacturing-focused project, and the Massachusetts Restaurant Association is working on a project as well. MassHire is also looking to pursue an IT-focused healthcare planning grant.
- Kerrie Salwa: CMRPC's Annual Meeting is being held on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at Galliford's Restaurant at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon.

5. Review Meeting Dates/Locations and Other Important Dates: Kerrie said that the next Executive Committee meeting is tentatively on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. The next Quarterly meeting will be on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Went from HECCMA will be joining that meeting as the special guest.

6. Other Announcements: There were no other announcements.

7. Adjourn: Due to the lack of quorum, motions to adjourn could not be entertained. The meeting ended at 2:13 p.m.