

North Carolina Innovation Council
Wednesday, July 20, 2022
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
(WebEx Only)

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order – Commissioner Bosken, Chair
 - a. Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum
 - c. Conflict of Interest Statement/Call for Conflicts
- II. Approval of May 4, 2022 Minutes – Commissioner Bosken (Exhibit 1)
- III. Budget Update – Commissioner Bosken
- IV. Report of the IC Working Group – Vice Chair Baxter (Exhibit 2; with Appendices 2A - 2D)
 - a. Members: Tariq Bokhari, Stephanie Dunn, Agnes West, Phil Woods, & Bill Toole
 - b. Key Items:
 - 1. Infrastructure
 - 2. Applications
 - 3. Non-profit Assistance
 - 4. Rule-making
 - 5. Record keeping
- V. Open Forum/Public Comment

(Exhibit 1)

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Innovation Council**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

The North Carolina Innovation Council (IC) convened in virtual format, via Webex, for its third meeting, on May 4, 2022, at 3:00pm.

Chairman Katherine Bosken called the meeting to order and led the IC in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Bosken then called roll, and the following participants were in attendance:

Appointed Members		Government Members	
Lawrence Baxter	X	Commissioner Katherine M.R. Bosken (NCCOB)	X
Tariq Bokhari	X	Robert Croom (NCDOI Designee)	X
Leobardo Diosdado*	X	Bill Toole (NC SOS Designee)	X
Stephanie Dunn	X	Phil Woods (NCDOJ Designee)	X
Douglas Hague	X		
Vijay Srinivasan	X		
Agnes Gambill West	X		

Counsel for the IC, James Bernier, was also present.

**Councilmember Diosdado was late in joining the meeting because of internet connectivity issues.*

After determining that a quorum was present, Commissioner Bosken directed the Council's attention to the revised IC Mission Statement, which was attached to the meeting agenda as Exhibit 1. Ms. West asked if the third bullet point of the Mission Statement could be revised further to remove the word "financial" so that it will read:

- Grant experimental waivers, where authorized, of current rules and regulations to permit new services that benefit consumers and take advantage of emerging technology developments that render traditional business and regulatory arrangements out of date;

Chair Bosken asked Mr. Bernier to review the proposed amendment against the IC's authorizing statute to determine whether it accurately represents the IC's authority.

Chair Bosken then called for any conflicts of interest. Hearing none, Chair Bosken moved on to Agenda Item II, asking for comment regarding the March 31, 2022 Minutes (attached as Exhibit 2 to the meeting materials). None were offered. Dr. Hague moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Toole seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Bosken directed the IC's attention to a revised version of the minutes for the IC meeting held on February 18, 2022, which were amended to include a list of IC members in attendance. Because the amendment was requested at the prior meeting, the revisions did not require a vote.

Next, Chair Bosken opened conversation regarding Agenda Item III, regarding external communication policies. Professorial West expressed interest in the IC adopting communications guidelines. Mr. Bernier recommended that the IC have a set procedure (ideally established through the rulemaking process) and stated that his research on this issue indicated that general conversations regarding the IC between an IC member and the public should not generate a future conflict.

Chair Bosken requested that Mr. Bokhari debrief the IC on the information provided by the Ethics Commission regarding potential conflicts of interest. Mr. Bokhari noted that he has received informal responses from several sources (including the Ethics Commission, the UNC School of Government, and counsel for the Charlotte City Council) indicating that IC members should be able to discuss the IC's general work or mission in public. Bokhari noted that IC members should recuse themselves if they have a stake in an applicant and be aware of perceptions of conflicts of interest. Bokhari further noted that the Ethics Commission requested that IC members follow its procedures when requesting advice. Individual IC members should reach out to the IC's counsel and the Ethics Commission with individual questions as they arise.

The IC then engaged in an active discussion regarding what kind of information the IC can gather prior to the creation of a formal application process or hiring of IC staff. This discussion merged with the IC's discussion of Agenda Item IV (Discussion of a Public Feedback Model). Chair Bosken suggested that the IC create a working group to research issues surrounding the application process ("Applications Working Group"). Councilmembers Bokhari, Dunn, West, Woods, and Vice-Chair Baxter agreed to serve as members. Chair Bosken noted that the Applications Working Group will not have decision-making authority but will provide the IC with proposals related to application issues.

Vice-Chair Baxter inquired regarding Thrivant, a Wisconsin company whose interest was conveyed to the IC via the Governor's Office. Chair Bosken informed the IC that she has received no further information and does not view the expression of interest from Thrivant as a live application.

Chair Bosken then moved on to Agenda Item IV (Milestones for the Sandbox), directing the IC's attention to the letter from Chair Bosken and Councilmember Bokhari to Rep. Saine and Sen. Johnson (Exhibit 4 to the meeting materials). Councilmember Bokhari contacted the legislators, who expressed support for the request for funding. Chair Bosken informed the IC that the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) has provided a Sharepoint site for its use at no cost.

Chair Bosken then opened the floor for comment and feedback from IC members, and the IC discussed various scheduling issues. The Applications Working Group agreed to distribute a set of draft proposals a week prior to the next IC meeting. In addition, the IC settled on conducting meetings remotely for now, with an eye toward conducting in-person meetings around the state when the IC has resolved some of its outstanding administrative issues. Finally, Chair Bosken established a meeting cadence of the last Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm, beginning on June 29, 2022.

There being no further business, Councilmember Bokhari moved to adjourn, and Vice-Chair Baxter seconded. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

