



Minutes of the
Innovation Technology Loan Fund (LIFT)
Via TEAMS Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
January 7, 2021

Members Present: Shawn Kessel, Bart Holaday, Lauris Molbert, Michael Jablon, Kodee Furst
Guests Present: James Leiman, Josh Teigen, Carla Valentine, Kylee Merkel, Sherri Frieze

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Carla Valentine called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcoming members and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Kodee Furst and seconded by Bart Holaday to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020.

JULY APPLICATION REVIEWS AND VOTING

Five applications from July 2020, were not reviewed at the last LIFT committee meeting on August 12th, due to all LIFT funds expended. Recently, the LIFT program recouped more funding and has therefore allowed the July applicants to have their applications be considered. Applicants were contacted with the option to update their application before committee review.

1. GOLDEN PATH SOLUTIONS

MOTION: It was moved by Bart Holaday to advance to the next level. It was seconded by Lauris Molbert. Motion carried.

2. JAARVIK

MOTION: It was moved by Bart Holaday to **NOT** advance to the next level. It was seconded by Lauris Molbert. Motion carried.

3. OMNIBYTE

MOTION: It was moved by Bart Holaday to advance to the next level. It was seconded by Michael Jablon. Motion carried.

4. POEM

MOTION: It was moved by Kodee Furst to advance to the next level, with the submission of more financial information. It was seconded by Bart Holaday. Motion carried.

5. SKYCHARGE

MOTION: It was moved by Lauris Molbert to **NOT** advance to the next level. It was seconded by Kodee Furst. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION/OTHER

Going into the next biennium, the Governor’s budget recommends \$30 million for the Innovation Technology Loan Fund (LIFT). In 2019, the legislature established the \$15 million fund to support technology advancement in North Dakota. The fund has proved value to ND in many success stories and with that, Commerce would like to invite multiple recipients of the LIFT dollars to testify this legislature this session.

LIFT members are invited to attend Commerce testimony to the Industry Business and Labor committee, and the Commerce budget to the Senate Appropriations hearing later in January. A fact sheet will be sent to members soon, that gives an overview of LIFT along with successful funded projects.

Lastly, Chairman Shawn Kessel informed the committee of a private sector replacement for resigned LIFT member Rick Thoreson, is being sought for and may be filled by next meeting.

NEXT STEPS and DATES for PRESENTATIONS IN FEBRUARY

Carla will share post award monitoring at the next scheduled meeting.

The next proposed LIFT meeting is February 3rd or 4th. A DOODLE POLL will be sent to members for verification.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 11:15 a.m.

Shawn Kessel	02/03/21
Shawn Kessel	Date
Interim Chairman	

Sherri Frieze	02/03/21
Sherri Frieze	Date
Boards and Commissions E.A.	