

Robert F. Mujica Jr. Director, New York State Division of the Budget; Chair: Good morning. I would like to call to order the scheduled meeting of the Higher Education Capital Matching Grants Board.

I would like to welcome those who are joining us virtually via zoom and before we get started Sara Richards of DASNY has a legal announcement that she would like to read for the record.

Sara Richards, Managing Senior Director Governance and Administration, DASNY: Thank you and welcome everyone. As a result of the ongoing Public Health Emergency related to Covid-19, Executive Order 202.1 issued by Governor Cuomo, as extended, authorizes public boards to meet remotely and take authorized actions without permitting public in person, access to meetings. The public must have the ability to view and listen to the proceedings and the meetings must be recorded and transcribed. Therefore, an audio recording and video recording of today's meeting will be accessible from DASNY's website within two days. And today's proceedings will be transcribed and posted as soon as practicable, under the circumstances. For additional information regarding the emergency declaration or the Executive Order, please see the DASNY website. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Mujica: Thank you, Sara. At this time, for the record, I would like the Members and designees to identify themselves by name. I will start with myself; my name is Robert Mujica, I represent Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick, Board Member: Assembly Member Deborah Glick, representing the New York State Assembly.

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Board Member: State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, representing the State Senate.

Chairman Mujica: Thank you. I would like to also thank DASNY and the staff who serve as the staff for the HeCap Board, for all your hard work during this time. I also want to introduce Ms. Richards, she is the Managing Senior Director, Governance and Administration, who will introduce her staff. Sara.

Ms. Richards: Thank you. Many of the colleges will know these people as they have been dealing with them for years. I am happy to have been working on the HeCap Program for many years, and with me today as an attendee is Karen Hunter who is our Director of Grants Administration, Deanne DiPace, who is a Senior Grant Administrator at DASNY, Sarah Antonacci, an Assistant Director of Grants Administration and Sean Rosney, Grant Program Assistant. And that's our team that spearheads the HeCap program. We are all very honored to be working on this program, Mr. Chair, thank you.

Chairman Mujica: Thank you Sara. Again, thank you for all the hard work. At this time I would like to start moving some of the items on the Agenda. The first item being the Resolution for the Election of the Chair of the HeCap Board. Do we have a motion to elect the Chair?

Assembly Member Glick: We have a motion.

Senator Stavisky: Seconded.

Chairman Mujica: All in favor of the motion? All indicate with “Aye”. The motion is passed.

The next item on the Agenda is the approval of the Minutes from the July 30, 2019 Meeting. That was a while ago, do we have any comments on or corrections to the Minutes?

Senator Stavisky: Mr. Chair, I would like to be on the record as abstaining because I was not a Member of the Board at the time of this meeting.

Chairman Mujica: Thank you Senator, so recorded. Assembly Member Glick, any comments or any changes?

Assembly Member Glick: No changes, it looks fine. I moved to accept.

Chairman Mujica: I will second that and that motion will pass.

At this time I would like to go back to Ms. Richards to provide us a status update of the previously awarded grants summary of the applications we received for the fourth request for grant applications. Sara?

Ms. Richards: Thank you. For competitive round one, those were grants that were awarded back in February of 2016 for projects to be completed between April 2014 and March 31, 2017. Out of those 29 awardees, 19 have executed grant disbursement agreements. That is the contract between DASNY and the college or university. Those total about \$21 million. Eighteen of those have been fully paid out and one is in the requisition process. We did have eight institutions from that round withdraw from the program. Those grants totaled close to \$12 million and those funds have been rolled into future rounds of the HeCap Program. And we only have two left from competitive round one that are still in process.

For competitive round two, those grants were awarded June 27, 2018 by the Board for projects to be completed between August 12, 2017 and August 1, 2020. Out of the 39 institutions that received grants in that round, seven have executed grant disbursement agreements and nine institutions withdrew from the Program. As before, the amount of those withdrawn grants were rolled into future HeCap rounds. There are 23 from that round that we are still working with to finalize their projects to move forward to contract.

For competitive round three, those were the grants awarded the last time the Board met. Thirty-five institutions were awarded grants on July 30, 2019 for projects to be completed between August 2018 and August 1, 2021. We have one executed grant disbursement agreement and two institutions have withdrawn from the third round. Again, those funds have been rolled forward and the HeCap team is working diligently with all grantees to finalize their awards so that they can access their grant funds.

We have been made aware that a number of colleges and universities, not surprisingly, have experienced some delays as a result of COVID.

This brings us to where we are today with competitive round four. These are the projects that the Board is considering at this meeting. The request for grant applications was issued on January 29, 2020 and the applications were due in August 2020. That deadline was originally March, but was extended due to COVID.

The funding levels for the awards were structured to try to reach all colleges and universities, small to large, and all sizes of projects from small equipment purchases to large capital construction projects. The projects are to be completed between September 1, 2020 and September 1, 2024. We had 35 institutions who applied for a grant award. Those applications totaled \$57.2 million. We had a similar review process to what has taken place in the past. We had five DASNY staff members from the Grants Administration Unit and one in our Public Finance Department review and score the applications based upon project eligibility according to the Statute, as well as financial readiness.

As before, the applications needed to receive a minimum score of 70 in order to be awarded a grant. I am happy to report that all 35 applicants did score 70 or above on their applications. We are happy to say that these applications were very good as a group.

The list of grantees will be posted on our website after the meeting. And I will say also that COVID has forced us to move to electronic grant processing, which is a welcome change. We will be working with this round of colleges and universities in an electronic format, which should allow information to flow back and forth much more quickly. With that, I will turn it back to you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Mujica: Thank you, Ms. Richards. The next item of business is a Resolution to Award for those receiving grants for the fourth round and as set forth in the Resolution.

First, do we have any questions from any of the Members regarding any of the projects on the Resolution?

Assembly Member Glick: No. I have reviewed that and I have no questions based on the information provided.

Senator Stavisky: I reviewed it also and I want to thank Sara Richards for giving me a briefing in detail on, not just the grants, but the entire process. It was very helpful and I appreciate the transparency.

Ms. Richards: Thank you.

Chairman Mujica: So hearing no questions, I am going to ask for a motion to approve the Resolution. Do we have a motion?

Assembly Member Glick: So moved.

Chairman Mujica: Moved by Assembly Member Glick and do we have a second?

Senator Stavisky: Second.

Chairman Mujica: Seconded by Senator Stavisky and with that we are voting on the Resolution. All in favor of the Resolution?

All respond with "Aye".

Chairman Mujica: The Resolution passes. This concludes the business before the Board unless there's any other business that any of the Members would like to go over today.

Assembly Member Glick: None for me.

Chairman Mujica: With that, again I would like to thank DASNY and the staff for all the work that you've done to date, and for being flexible in the process, so that we can get the grants out during COVID and for revising the processes to make sure that these awards could happen. Thank you very much. Do we have a motion to adjourn this meeting?

Senator Stavisky: Move to adjourn.

Chairman Mujica: Move to adjourn by Senators Stavisky. Do I have a second?

Assembly Member Glick: Second.

Chairman Mujica: With that the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.