

**MINUTES OF THE 141ST MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LITTLE ROCK, AR
NOVEMBER 20, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. George Williams, Chair of the Board, in the Authority's conference room, located at 423 Main Street in Little Rock.

A quorum of Board members was present and included: Mr. Bradford Caldwell, Mr. Gary Campbell, Dr. Cesar Compadre, Dr. Carl Frederickson, Dr. Collis Geren, Mr. Joel Harrison, Dr. Beverly Lyn-Cook, Mr. Paul Mastro, Dr. Jim Purcell, Mr. Heartsill Ragon and Mr. Dennis Teague.

Staff members present: Ms. Melissa Adams, Dr. John Ahlen, Ms. Cathy Bailey, Mr. Dan Curtis, Ms. Becky Hart, Ms. Stephanie Johnson, Ms. Cathy Ma, Dr. Gail McClure, Mr. Chuck Myers, Dr. Blake Perry, Mr. Chris Snider and Dr. Steve Stanley.

Visitors: Mr. Matt Price from CapSearch, LLC.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Williams introduced three new Board members: Mr. Bradford Caldwell, Dr. Carl Frederickson and Mr. Dennis Teague.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Williams presented for approval the minutes from the September 18, 2009 Board meeting. Mr. Harrison made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Dr. Geren seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ahlen presented the Operating Report. Mr. Campbell moved acceptance of the Operating Report as presented. Dr. Lyn-Cook seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

Dr. Ahlen reported that many state agencies received news that they would suffer a reduction in their budgets. Fortunately, the Authority was one out of several entities in a single line of the state budget that did not see a reduction in their budget.

Program/Project Diversity

Dr. Ahlen reported that at the September Board meeting, the issue of inclusiveness and diversity in the Authority's programs was discussed. The staff was encouraged to place strong emphasis on inclusiveness in its programs and projects. Dr. Ahlen stated that the Authority is already required to report staff demographics and there are procurement policies in place that encourage conducting business with women and minorities. The Authority also places strong emphasis on inclusiveness in the STEM pipeline, from K-12 to post doctoral activities.

Dr. Ahlen stated that the staff added a statement to the Core Values section of the Board Operating Guide which reads: We will value diversity among ourselves and our customers.

In addition, the staff proposed that the Board consider adding a section to the Board's Operating Guide:

Section 8: Diversity

The Authority staff is authorized and encouraged to continuously seek external support for pilot projects to advance underrepresented students through the STEM education pipeline.

Dr. Geren moved that Section 8 be added to the Board Policy Manual. Dr. Lyn-Cook seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

Board Policy Manual

Dr. Ahlen presented the revised Board Policy Manual for review. Dr. Ahlen pointed out that Section 5 of the manual concerning the Cash Fund Investment Policy had been marked for deletion because it is no longer an issue because all the Authority's cash funds have been moved to the state treasury.

Dr. Frederickson moved acceptance of the updated Board Policy Manual. Dr. Purcell seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

Board Operating Guide

Dr. Ahlen presented the Board Operating Guide for review. Dr. Ahlen reviewed the changes to the guide as a result of the recent strategic planning, including the Goals for the 2010-2011 Biennium. Dr. Ahlen stated that a Section 8 about diversity would be added to the document.

Mr. Mastro moved acceptance of the updated Board Operating Guide. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

INDUSTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Paul Mastro presented the Industry Committee Report.

The Industry Committee welcomed a new advisory committee member: Mr. Leroy Yancey is Business Unit Manager at Kraft Foods in Fort Smith.

AMS is receiving its federal funding through NIST MEP under a continuing resolution. The FY2010 federal budget has \$124.7 million in the House version of the bill and has gone through the Senate Appropriations committee with the same number. State budget cuts will not affect AMS.

AMS has seen a reduction in for fee projects because of the economic downturn. However, a large for-fee project Dassault Falcon brings AMS in line with revenue projections for the first half of FY2010.

The committee also reviewed results from the NIST MEP Panel Review of AMS. The review focused on Center strategy as well as performance. The areas of the NIST MEP Next Generation Strategy that AMS will focus its efforts for the next three to five years will be Technology Acceleration and Sustainability.

The first AMS “Industry Matters” regional conference was held in Jonesboro on October 29th. There were 50 plus registrants and featured several speakers from both AMS and other organizations.

AMS participated in a Little Rock conference sponsored by Arkansas Business and the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.

AMS has launched a pilot program in Fayetteville that focuses on pollution, energy and reducing carbon footprints. Representatives from eight manufacturers attended the event.

AMS is working with AEDC to sponsor a booth for the Arkansas Aerospace Alliance at an upcoming tradeshow in 2011.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Heartsill Ragon presented the Investment Committee Report.

TTAG Activity Report

Mr. Ragon presented the TTAG Quarterly Activity Report. The report was moved and seconded by the committee. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

Seed Capital Investment Quarterly Report

Mr. Ragon presented the Seed Capital Investment Quarterly Report. The report was moved and seconded by the committee. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

Draft Resolution 10-18

Draft Resolution 10-18 would provide funds for a Seed Capital Investment into Capsearch, LLC.

Capsearch, LLC is an online software company that began operations in September 2008. It provides web applications that provide bill tracking and updates to news related to Arkansas state government affairs. It provides to paying subscribers tracking information and news related to the Arkansas State Legislature and state government.

Mr. Ragon stated that this software would be a useful tool for lobbyist, political action groups, reporters etc. The concept is already in beta testing and is generating revenue. The committee also liked the management. The company is close to securing \$350,000 in private funding; the committee decided to recommend that the Authority invest \$100,000 contingent upon them securing the \$350,000.

Dr. Purcell stated that the Department of Higher Education is a client and finds the program very user friendly.

Draft Resolution 10-18 was presented to the Board moved and seconded by the committee. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

Draft Resolution 10-19

Draft Resolution 10-19 provides certification for the Genesis Technology Incubator and Innovation Center as a qualified technology incubator. Genesis is part of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Draft Resolution 10-19 was moved and seconded by the committee. Dr. Geren abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Draft Resolution 10-20

Draft Resolution 10-20 provides certification for UAMS Bioventures as a qualified technology incubator. UAMS Bioventures is part of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Draft Resolution 10-20 was moved and seconded by the committee. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Collis Geren presented the Research Committee Report.

Dr. Geren reported that the Arkansas EPSCoR 2009 Annual Conference was held in October. The meeting was well attended.

The ASSET Initiative II proposal was submitted to NSF. A total of fourteen proposals were submitted. Award announcements will be made sometime between July and October, 2010.

Arkansas EPSCoR has submitted a white paper to NSF outlining a proposed NSF EPSCoR workshop on Education Outreach-Best Practice Models. The estimated budget for the workshop would be \$100,000. If approved, the workshop will be held in March 2010.

Draft Resolution 10-21

Draft Resolution 10-21 would provide funding for the following STEM Empowerment Proposals:

10-WRF-STEM02, "Laboratory Applications in Genetics and Microbiology," submitted by Patrycja Krakowiak and Jon Ruehle, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, in an amount not to exceed \$11,978;

10-WRF-STEM03, "Class Casting for Students, Parents, & Teachers (CC)," submitted by Cynthia Miller, Arkansas State University Delta Institute for Math & Science Education, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000;

10-WRF-STEM04, "Into The Outdoors," submitted by Steve Zimmer, Arkansas Tech University Math & Science Institute, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000;

10-WRF-STEM05, "STEM Leadership Academy," submitted by Mary Smith, Audubon Arkansas, in an amount not to exceed \$11,500;

10-WRF-STEM06, "Connecting the Real World to High-Tech Mathematics and Science," submitted by Deborah Roberts, Henderson State University South Arkansas Mathematics and Science Center, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000;

10-WRF-STEM07, "Technology Through the Eye of the Student," submitted by Pam Beard, University of Arkansas at Monticello Center for Mathematics and Science Education, in an amount not to exceed \$11,840;

10-WRF-STEM08, "Science Outside the Classroom," submitted by Curtis Varnell, Western Arkansas Education Service Cooperative, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.

Draft Resolution 10-21 was moved and seconded by the committee. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

Draft Resolution 10-22

Draft Resolution 10-22 provides funding for the following proposal:

10-EPSCoR-0020 Communication Intern, “NSF EPSCoR Communication Internship Award”, submitted by University of Central Arkansas, in the amount not to exceed \$18,450. This award is effective December 16, 2009 through December 15, 2010.

Draft Resolution 10-22 was moved and seconded by the committee. Dr. Frederickson abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Grants

The Authority staff requested that the Board consider a motion concerning the expenditure of funds for operations or awarding funds as budgeted in the Winthrop Rockefeller foundation grants targeting STEM Education. The staff has requested that the Board approve budgets and preauthorization of smaller awards that will be administered as per budget categories. Dr. Geren noted that all large awards greater than or equal to \$10,000 will continue to be brought to the Board on an individual basis.

Approval would be for the following proposals:

- **STEM Teacher Empowerment awarded by: Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
\$379,267.00**

Project awards are divided into four STEM award categories: Classroom Enhancement Awards (\$88,000); Professional Development Workshop Awards (\$132,000); Summer Academy Awards (\$20,000); and BEST Robotics Awards (\$18,000).

The funds will be divided as follows: \$45,000 in Operating Expenses; \$334,267 in Grants and Aid.

- **Models of Growth: Using Science Minigrants to Connect Arkansas Community Foundation Affiliates to their Public Schools
\$182,900.00**

Project awards are divided into two categories: Middle School Science Minigrants (\$75,500); STUART Awards (\$75,500)

The funds will be divided as follows: \$17,600 in Operating Expenses; \$151,000 in Grants and Aid.

- **Science and Mathematics Accessible Resource Tool (SMART)**
\$105,100.00

A major scope change was requested and approved by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation to revamp the way lessons materials are developed for the SMART Portal. To facilitate this process, which will be more of a service agreement with master teachers, budget funds will be moved into operating expense categories.

The funds will be divided as follows: \$87,100 in Operating Expenses; \$18,000 in Grants and Aid.

The request was moved and seconded by the committee. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Assignments

The committee assignments for 2010 were made:

Sponsored Projects Committee: Dr. Collis Geren, Chair; Dr. Cesar Compadre; Dr. Carl Frederickson, Dr. Glen Jones.

Research and Commercialization Committee: Mr. Heartsill Ragon, Chair; Mr. Bradford Caldwell; Mr. Gary Campbell; Mr. Joel Harrison; Dr. Beverly Lyn-Cook; Dr. Jim Purcell.

Industry Committee: Mr. Paul Mastro, Chair; Mr. Robert Hall; Mr. Dennis Teague; Mr. George Williams.

Meeting Dates for 2010

The meeting dates for 2010 were announced: January 15, March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17 and November 19.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Dawkins Lyn-Cook, Ph.D.
Secretary
Board of Directors

Approved by the Board of Directors
on this 15th day of January, 2010.

Beverly Dawkins Lyn-Cook, Ph.D.
Secretary
Board of Directors