



ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

200 Main Street, Suite 210
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 371-3554

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING March 9, 1984

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. Reading of the Minutes of the
January 30 Meeting
- III. Speaker: Dave Harrington, Director
Arkansas Industrial Development Commission
- IV. Director's Report
- V. New Business
- VI. Old Business
- VII. Adjournment



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Minutes of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Little Rock, Arkansas
March 9, 1984

The March 9, 1984 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority was opened with roll call of members.

The members not present were:

Representative Lipton, Mr. McGee, Dr. Thompson, and Dr. Willingham.

The minutes from the January 30 meeting were read and unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Lindsey.

Dave Harrington, Director of the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission (AIDC) gave an explanation of the primary responsibilities of the AIDC. He noted that this commission is involved in recruiting out of state industry to Arkansas. AIDC is basically trying to coordinate both private institutions and federal programs. It was noted that the Authority needs to persuade industry to make an investment in research. Many in the teaching profession do not have anything to do with industry, and many new products and ideas can be gained from academic sources of knowledge. Most Arkansas companies are headquartered outside the state, and the bulk of the research dollar is drained off and used elsewhere. It was mentioned that the University of Texas at Austin has become a magnet for certain types of industry.

The next item of business was the Director's report. It was suggested that education in the state needed to be improved, university-industry cooperative ventures should be maintained, and new technology and new ideas should be established. Education and research are two of the most important areas, and it was reiterated that faculties should be given time away from the classroom to consult with industry in order to transfer knowledge from the university to business.

Another topic of discussion was the federal budget. \$54 billion was allocated for research and development, and 75% of this was appropriated for defense and space. It was noted that there is a need for regional cooperation between states developing high technology.

Dr. Ahlen noted that the Authority had been contacted by several individuals about ideas that may have some potential, however, the Authority is presently not prepared to entertain any formal proposals concerning bond money. It was proposed that the Board should consider issuing a request for proposals and taking bids from financial and bond counsel relevant to developing procedures for the Authority in considering requests for bond support. After discussion, it was decided to request an opinion from the Attorney General's office before soliciting outside proposals. If the Attorney General's office cannot serve as financial and bond counsel the request for proposals should be prepared.

It was recommended that Dr. Ahlen prepare comments and give his ideas regarding the programs that he would like to see sponsored in the federal government for enhancing the international, state and federal programs. Secondly, Dr. Ahlen's desire to have a National Governor's Conference or an agenda in the state of Arkansas was considered good visibility for the Authority, and it was suggested that he might develop some ideas on this subject in order to perhaps entice them to have a conference in Arkansas. Dr. Ahlen mentioned a timetable for the latter of eight or nine months. An appropriate subject for this conference would be toxic waste disposal because it is a regional problem, and it is certainly very important to our state, and it would give our Authority credibility with the people. It was agreed that this would be a timely topic, and one that could be used.

Alice Smith handed out the financials for this past month, February, and the Authority was certainly in good financial standing. It was reported that the Authority had expended a little more than \$34,000.00 out of \$250,000.00 for this year. It was noted that \$50,000.00 had been allocated in the category of professional services, and this amount could be used for consultation.

In the Delta Airline magazine, Sky, (February 1984, pp. 12-23, "High Tech, Southern-Style," by Dana Blankenhorn), a reference to Arkansas on the next to the last page "Even Arkansas is now working to become a high-tech center," was brought to the attention of the Board. Arkansas

needs to overcome this distinction, and it was recommended that this matter be brought to their attention in a positive manner.

Texas had put together a Texas 2000 plan, and it was noted that Arkansas should have a definitive 2000 plan. This plan should be done with money carefully spent on it so that it would be a working product with plans for distribution. The Authority should undertake this task based on a proposal prepared by the staff and submitted to the Board. The second matter brought to the attention of the Board was the lack of cooperation among the several institutions that are interested in industrial high-tech. A specific plan for cooperation should be established. Lastly, a Washington liaison office that would serve the state of Arkansas in areas of Federal R & D, in cooperation with our congressional delegation should be investigated.

It was noted that the University of Arkansas is working on allocating money that it received from state 10/10 funds for proposals written by its faculty. Some proposals also will be forwarded to the State Department of Higher Education for 10/10 funding. There are several categories that are being considered in the 10/10 program, and one of these is economic development.

Mr. Richardson was asked to participate on the rules and procedures committee.

Regarding items of old business, Alice Smith had been researching all patents and inventions, and she has contacted universities. There were discussions on an attempt to identify through universities, industry, and trade associations all of the technical expertise available in the state. Many businesses are used for consultations and evaluations. It would be a great help to the Authority and to the state, if a brochure was created that listed areas of expertise in the state.

It was suggested that meeting dates be distributed to the board members in order to avoid conflicts of schedules.

The meeting was adjourned.