

ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
MAY 18, 1984

The May 18, 1984 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority was called to order.

The members present were:

Mr. William Bowen, Dr. Jocelyn Elders, Dr. Phyllis Garnett, Dr. Ronald Hart, Mr. Bart Lindsey, Mr. Jerome McGee, Dr. Joe Nix, Mr. Sam Richardson, Dr. Win Thompson.

The minutes of the March 9 meeting were approved as presented, with the amendment that Win Thompson be shown as being present at the meeting and the comment by Dr. Nix that he had suggested at that meeting that the Rules and Procedures Committee meet to draft rules for the Authority.

The meeting with representatives of the Scientific Apparatus Manufacturers Association, a national group of firms that manufacture scientific equipment, was discussed. It is an organization of well known companies, and their representatives will be here to take a look at the state and make a special tour of NCTR. It was suggested that these representatives tour GIT, however, since this special event was being coordinated by people other than ASTA, the idea was dropped.

The next item of business was the approval of the Executive Committee and an appointment to the Policy and Procedures Committee. Dr. Ahlen suggested that during the interim between regular meetings of the Board an Executive Committee would be appropriate to give advice to the staff. The Executive Committee would be composed of the three elected officers of the Board--the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary--and the chairmen of the four existing committees. Charles Mimbs was appointed to the vacancy on the Rules and Procedures Committee.

Alice Smith outlined the budget for FY 1985.

Minutes

May 18, 1984

Arkansas Science and Technology Authority

Board of Directors

Page 2

Dr. Ahlen presented an outline of the Executive Director's report. The staff has continued building a knowledge base about the state's scientific and technological resources. Different states have arrangements, and it was noted that there was a difference in funding of Arkansas vs. other states i.e. Centers are being developed in universities in other states with funding of 2-8 million dollars a year depending on what the center is. Some states have science foundations, and others have monies channeled into the universities for research. The Louisiana Science and Technology Foundation was mentioned because it is similar to the Authority, however it has \$7 million available to it. Dr. Hart noted that it was important to know what our competitors are doing to give the Authority an idea where we are. Dr. Ahlen said that we have the authority to do a great deal, however some of the areas that we are lacking: capital to invest in research, technology transfer, assistance to new ventures. STET was discussed and the kind of projects that ASTA ought to take interest in. By the end of June a rough outline stating where the Authority would like to go with its future should be prepared.

It was reported that the staff made a multipurpose trip to New York, Boston, and Washington, D. C. In New York the staff met with investment bankers and attended the Law Journal Seminar of Fundamentals of Municipal Finance Law. In Boston they visited with the Arthur D. Little research staff studying Mississippi. This study was conducted over a six week period and cost \$250,000. It was mentioned that the two volumes of reports from this study were available in the office. In Washington, D. C. four of the six members of Congress were visited. The purpose of this trip was to promote the Authority, and the changing image of Arkansas. The members of Congress offered their support to the Authority. The staff also attended the National Commission on Industrial Innovation's conference in Washington, D. C. on encouraging future industries. It was cited that other states were reaping benefits from long-range plans. There is no quick return on advanced technology. ASTA should develop the image that the state of Arkansas has in technical resources which encourage development. Dr Ahlen mentioned that the Department of Higher Education had planning money and there was a possibility that the Authority would help with a portion of planning that included topics in science and research.

Minutes
May 19, 1984
Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
Board of Directors
Page 3

Arthur D. Little is a worldwide consulting firm in areas of science, engineering, and management. On June 6, 7, and 8, they will be here for a preliminary investigation. The Arthur D. Little contract's scope of services was discussed. The ADL staff will visit Arkansas to meet with people to assess and to identify resources. They want to talk to people with vision and discuss the state's existing resources. This information would be gathered and later analyzed and compared with information from other states. Two to three weeks later the ADL staff will conduct a strategic planning session with the Board of Directors. At that time the Board can then identify what they want to concentrate on initially. There should be three specific goals that drop out of the planning process, and private and public resources would be needed to reach those goals.

Comments were made that it was important to approve this before the Board moves ahead. It was mentioned that the staff was under a time schedule to submit something to the Legislative Council. It was not brought to the attention of all the members of the Board. The full board should approve these things in principal and at that point fine tuning should be done by the Executive Committee. These general questions (contract approval and role of executive committee) were passed on to the Rules and Procedures Committee to get guidance from them. It was therefore suggested that if this should occur in the future under a time frame that a note should be sent in the mail to board members stating that the director was going to move forward on a certain decision and it would be brought to the next meeting. The Board approved the Arthur D. Little contract.

The advertising contract was discussed. The Ben Combs agency will prepare an ASTA slide show. The Board approved the Combs contract.

Minutes

May 19, 1984

Arkansas Science and Technology Authority

Board of Directors

Page 4

Under old business, the proposed meeting dates were submitted. The question of how often the Board should meet was discussed and referred to the Rules and Procedures Committee.

Under new business, it was mentioned that Dr. Gene Smith would like the board meeting on the campus of ASU sometime in the future to tour the facilities. A discussion was included on the corridor, and it was mentioned that a speaker could at a later date focus on the facts about it. It was important to invite key people around the state to listen to what they have to say.

The meeting was adjourned.

ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY
COMMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONCERNING THE
MINUTES OF THE SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
MAY 18, 1984

The minutes of the may 18 meeting were approved at the July 2, 1984 Board meeting. According to my notes the members present should also include: Representative John Lipton, Mr. Charles Mimbs, and Dr. William Willingham.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Ahlen
Executive Director
July 6, 1984

JWA/sy