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**MINUTES OF THE 131<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE  
ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
LITTLE ROCK, AR  
JANUARY 18, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Gary Phillips, Chairman 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: Dr. Steve Floyd, Dr. Collis Geren, Mr. Robert Hall (via phone), Mr. Wayne Hartsfield, Mr. Johnny Hooks, Dr. Beverly Lyn-Cook, Mr. Heartsill Ragon, Dr. Stephen Seidman, Dr. John White and Mr. George Williams.

Staff members present: Ms. Melissa Adams, Dr. John Ahlen, Ms. Tovia Chan, Mr. Dan Curtis, Ms. Stephanie Johnson, Ms. Cathy Ma, Dr. Gail McClure, Mr. Chuck Myers, Mr. Chris Snider, Dr. Steve Stanley and Ms. Sharon Whitlock.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Phillips presented for approval of the minutes from the November 16, 2007 Board meeting. Dr. White made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Dr. Seidman seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Staff Introductions**

Dr. Ahlen introduced two new staff members. Dan Curtis is the new Vice President Industry/Director of Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions. Mr. Curtis replaces Ms. Lydia Carson. Tatum Branaman is an intern working with the EPSCoR program.

**Accelerate Arkansas**

Dr. Ahlen reported that the staff expects to hear funding news concerning Accelerate Arkansas and the Arkansas Research Alliance soon.

## **INDUSTRY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Robert Hall presented the Industry Committee report.

AMS' NIST Account Manager, Gary Thompson, visited Arkansas on January 3 and met with the AMS staff and Industry Committee.

The federal budget for AMS in 2008 is likely to be lower than expected. AMS is fully funded through June, 2008. The FY09 budget will be funded through September, 2008.

AMS had its Center Performance Review on November 28, 2007 and passed with flying colors.

AMS will begin its strategic planning process in the spring. There will be a wide array of participants.

## **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Johnny Hooks presented the Investment Committee Report.

### **SCIP Quarterly Report**

The Seed Capital Investment Program quarterly report was presented. Mr. Hooks, on behalf of the Investment Committee, made a motion to accept the report as presented. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

### **TTAG Activity Report**

The TTAG Activity Report was presented. Mr. Hooks, on behalf of the Investment Committee, made a motion to accept the report as presented. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

### **Draft Resolution 08-07**

Draft Resolution 08-07 would provide Technology Development funding for the following project:

Application No. 08-TDP-04, "Expression of Bioactive Single-Chain Murine IL-12 in Transgenic Plants" by Biostrategies, LC, in an amount not to exceed \$21,488.

If approved, Biostrategies will use the funds to support Dr. Giuliana Medrano, who is acting as the project coordinator and Mr. Nathan Stephens, the research technician working on the project. The funding will allow the project to continue uninterrupted during the gap between SBIR Phase I and Phase II funding.

Mr. Hooks, on behalf of the Investment Committee, made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 08-07. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

#### **Draft Resolution 08-08**

Mr. Hooks reported that upon further review, the Investment Committee decided not to present Draft Resolution 08-08 for consideration. The resolution was withdrawn for consideration.

#### **EarthCare Systems, Inc.**

Mr. Hooks updated the Board on the settlement with EarthCare Systems, which the Board discussed at the September meeting. The Attorney General's office completed a settlement agreement with the attorneys representing EarthCare Systems. The company agreed to pay the Authority a total of \$30,000, in two installments. The first installment of \$15,000 was due January 15, 2008 and the second installment of \$15,000 is scheduled to be paid no later than January 15, 2009.

#### **RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Collis Geren presented the Research Committee Report.

#### **Draft Resolution 08-09**

Draft Resolution 08-09 would provide funding for the following proposals:

08-WRF-ProDev01, "Math and Science Pre-Service Association," submitted by Ms. Betty Ramsey, The South Arkansas Mathematics and Science Center, Henderson State University, in the amount not to exceed \$2,500.

08-WRF-NASA/EAST04, "Environmental Study Center-Nature Mapping and Awareness of Native Species," submitted by Ms. Mary LaVerge, Malvern High School, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-WRF-NASA/EAST06, "Up Close and Personal," submitted by Ms. Nancy Stuart, Ashdown High School, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-WRF-STEM\_Partnership03, "Environmental Study Center-Nature Mapping and Awareness of Native Species," submitted by Ms. Jennifer Shnackel, Malvern High School, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-WRF-STEM-Partnership04, "Teaching for Conceptual Understanding," submitted by Ms. Bernice Philpot, Mena High School, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-WRF-STEM-Partnership05, "Teaching for Conceptual Understanding," submitted by Mr. Josh Ward, Mena High School, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-WRF-STEM-Partnership06, "Teaching for Conceptual Understanding," submitted by Ms. Pam Loyd, Mena High School, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-WRF-STEM-Partnership07, "Teaching for Conceptual Understanding," submitted by Mr. Gerald Bates, Mena High School, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-WRF-STEM-Partnership08, "Teaching for Conceptual Understanding," submitted by Mr. Earl W. Roberts, Mena High School, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

Dr. Geren, on behalf of the Research Committee, made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 08-09. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

#### **Draft Resolution 08-10**

Draft Resolution would provide funding for the following proposal:

Proposal No. 08-NSF EPSCoR Library, "Extending the e-Journal Resources for NSF EPSCoR Grant Program," submitted by Ms. Judy Ganson, of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, in the amount not to exceed \$70,000.

The funding will be for EPSCoR eligible libraries across the state. The award would provide funds to the electronic access fees charged for full-text journal collections.

Dr. Geren, on behalf of the Research Committee, made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 08-10. Dr. Geren and Dr. White stated that UAF was the institution of their affiliation. Dr. Geren abstained from voting. The motion passed.

#### **Draft Resolution 08-11**

Draft Resolution 08-11 would provide funding for the following proposal:

08-NSF Communication Intern, "NSF EPSCoR Communications Internship Award," submitted by the University of Central Arkansas, in the amount not to exceed \$18,300.

Dr. Geren, on behalf of the Research Committee, made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 08-11. Dr. Seidman abstained. The motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Ahlen updated the Board on the Arkansas Research Alliance and Connect Arkansas. Funding for both projects was in a package presented to the Governor for consideration. If the Governor releases funds for both projects, the Board would need to approve the release of funds. Connect Arkansas has been pre-spending and the Arkansas Research Alliance is anxious to get started.

Dr. Ahlen stated that the staff requests approval from the Board to have the Executive Committee approve the release of funds if it happens between the January and March Board meeting.

Dr. Geren moved to authorize the Executive Committee to review the request to release funds for the Arkansas Research Alliance and Connect when the Governor releases funds. Mr. Hartsfield seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Request for Proposals/Request for Quote**

Dr. Geren presented information on two items that would require action before the next Board meeting in March.

A Request for Proposals for an EPSCoR Education Outreach Evaluator contract (totaling \$50,000) has been completed and submitted to the Department of Finance & Administration for posting. The posting period is scheduled to end on February 15. The staff would like to have the selection process complete and a contract in place before the March Board meeting.

A Request for Quotes has been issued to secure a contract (totaling \$24,500) with a public relations/marketing firm to help publicize EPSCoR success stories. The RFQ has been sent out to several firms, with a deadline of January 31. The staff would like to have the selection process completed before the March Board meeting.

Dr. Geren, on behalf of the Research Committee, moved to authorize the Authority's Executive Committee to review and award two contracts, one for the EPSCoR Outreach Evaluation and the second for a Marketing/PR firm for the EPSCoR project. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

### **Draft Resolution 08-12**

Draft Resolution 08-12 will provide matching funds for thirteen undergraduates with SURF awards and NASA awards on multiple campuses throughout the state. The

resolution will also provide funds to the EAST Initiative to produce a video. The proposals are:

08-EPSCoR-McNair01, "Applications of Digital Signal Controller in Submicron Position Control of a Linear Motor," submitted by Ms. Coletha-Nicole Johnson, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, in the amount not to exceed \$3,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU01, "Glycoconjugates Inhibit Protective Antigen and its Interaction with Anthrax Toxin Receptor," submitted by Ms. Jill Castleberry, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU02, "Graphite-inherently Conducting Polymer Nano-Composites with Unusually High Conductivity," submitted by Ms. Celeste Cole, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU03, "Using Remote Data Acquisition on High-Altitude Balloon Flightsto Measure the Properties of the Atmosphere," submitted by Ms. Kim Mason, University of Central Arkansas, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU04, "Investigation of the Molecular Biology of GL1 and GIS in Rubus," submitted by Ms. Alicia Kellog, University of Central Arkansas, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU05, " Determining FtsZ's Function in Mitochondrial Fission," submitted by Ms. Brittany Carson, University of Central Arkansas, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU06, "The Examination of Tissue Culture and Transformation in Rubus," submitted by Ms. Nadine Gates, University of Central Arkansas, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-McNair02, "Essential Metalloelement Salicylate Chelate Antioxidants," submitted by Mr. Kirk Durand, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, in the amount not to exceed \$3,500.

08-EPSCoR-McNair03, "Detecting Natural VLF Radio Waves," submitted by Mr. Nicolas Jackson, Henderson State University, in the amount not to exceed \$3,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU07, "Design of an Impactor for Spinal Cord Injuries Study," submitted by Ms. Danielle Lovellette, Arkansas State University, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU08, "Are Brighter Bluebirds More Defensive?" submitted by Ms. Kellie Nelson, Arkansas State University, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU09, "Population Genetic Structure of Host Fish Species for Villosa iris: Genetic Diversity Comparison of a Mussel and its Host Fish," submitted by Ms. Courtney Roach, Arkansas State University, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPSCoR-REU10, "Buytric Acid Yield Enhancement by Separation of Fermentation Broths and Continuous Electrodialysis," submitted by Ms. Nicole Thomas, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, in the amount not to exceed \$1,500.

08-EPS-Video01, "Video Production for Research Day at the Capitol Day," submitted by Mr. Ron Hardy, Director of Program Enhancement and Community Relation, EAST Initiative, in the amount not to exceed \$10,000. The award will be issued in two equal installments with initial payment in January 2008 and final payment (FY09) upon successful completion of the project.

Dr. Geren, on behalf of the Research Committee, made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 08-12. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

#### **Expense Reimbursement Authorization**

Dr. Ahlen reviewed the Expense Reimbursement Authorization for Board members. The Board must at the beginning of each calendar year authorize expense reimbursement for each Board member.

Dr. Floyd made a motion to approve the expense reimbursement for Board members. Dr. Seidman seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

#### **Review of Attendance Policy**

Dr. Ahlen reviewed the attendance policy for Board members.

#### **Statement of Financial Interest**

Dr. Ahlen reminded members to complete and return their Statement of Financial Interest forms to the Secretary of State's office by January 31.

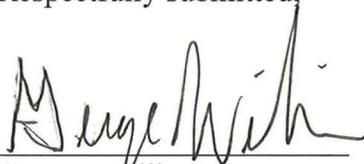
#### **Next Meeting Date**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2008.

**ADJOURNMENT**

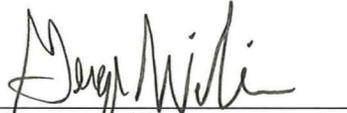
There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Williams", written over a horizontal line.

George Williams  
Secretary  
Board of Directors

**Approved** by the Board of Directors  
On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2008.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Williams", written over a horizontal line.

George Williams  
Secretary  
Board of Directors