

WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

June 29, 2016

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held on June 29, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. via phone. Attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Paul Hill
Dr. Jan Taylor
Dr. Colleen Nolan
Dr. Charles Somerville
Jack Carpenter
Dr. Fred King
Dr. Uma Sundaram
Anne Barth

OTHERS

Annette Echols
Amanda Ramey
Dr. Ulises Toledo

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Hill called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. New members Anne Barth and Colleen Nolan were introduced.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Presented by Jan Taylor

Federal Programs:

NSF RII Track 1

-July 31 will conclude the first year of the newest RII Track 1. The annual report was submitted in May and then re-submitted after some clarification provided to our program officer but has not yet been approved. Dr. Taylor is concerned about the spending rate (currently 31%). However, since the new RII solicitation isn't requiring even annual budgets and is taking a more realistic approach, it's possible that NSF is taking the slow year 1 spending into consideration. However, she reminded the group that this is not an excuse to delay spending and asked that sub awardees invoice us in a timely manner.

DOE EPSCoR

-Under the direction of Dr. Earl Scime, the Council approved WVU's pre-proposal in April via email in anticipation of a May RFP from DOE but to date, the RFP has not been released.

NSF RII Track 2

-Since the NSF EPSCoR RII Track 2 grant no longer requires the Council's approval, Dr. Taylor is not notified of any proposal submissions or awards to West Virginia. Dr. Somerville indicated that MU applied this year along with Kentucky. Dr. King was fairly sure that WVU had applied too.

State Programs:

Research Challenge Fund Spending Plan

-No significant reductions were made to the Research Challenge Fund this year. As a result, it is expected that we will have approximately \$2.7M of unencumbered funds available for FY' 17, most of which will be spent on continued grants and new awards. Dr. King and Dr. Hill discussed the amount being earmarked for new STEM and RCG awards and considered either reducing the amounts or attempting to encumber the funds in the event of an account sweep. Dr. Taylor said more consideration to these programs will be given as the FY '18 legislative session nears.

A motion to approve the spending plan was made; the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Amanda Ramey announced that the next Chancellor's STEM speaker series will be held on September 8 featuring Jennifer Gardy. More information about the speaker will be made available to the group as the event nears.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:29PM.