

# **WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL**

## **July 28, 2017**

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held via telephone on July 28, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Attendance was as follows:

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Paul Hill  
Dr. Jan Taylor  
Dr. Sheena Murphy for Dr. Fred King  
Dr. Charles Somerville  
Jack Carpenter  
Dr. John Maher  
Dr. Laura Gibson  
Anne Barth  
Robin Sizemore for Dr. Steven Paine

### **OTHERS**

Annette Carpenter

### **CALL TO ORDER**

After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Hill called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting on February 24, 2016 was requested; motion carried.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Presented by Jan Taylor

#### Federal Programs:

##### NSF RII Track 1

-The NSF reverse site visit took place on April 6 in Washington DC. The presentation went well but there were questions that followed with concerns in the computational and educational areas. Dr. Taylor is working on a reply to the questions including a stronger unifying theme for the AFI project, the need to create a sustainability plan and the need to create an industrial advisory group to assist with technology transfer and internship opportunities.

-The NSF RII annual project report was due to NSF on May 1. The NSF program officer approved it on July 21 after answers were provided related to the funds remaining in our account. Dr. Taylor assumes that the approved report will be sent to the NSF Division of Grants and Agreements for further processing and release of year 3 funds.

#### State Programs:

-New Research Challenge Grant applications are due to our offices on August 1 and will be sent out for external review. To date, approximately 12 have applied. The goal is to have the finalists chosen by September 1 with an award date of January 1, 2018.

-The new STEM fellows grants are also expected to be chosen by September 1.

-Request for proposals for Instrumentation and Innovation grants should be released soon.

-Annette Carpenter presented the Research Challenge Fund spending plan for FY '18. The fund remained intact and was funded at the same level as the previous fiscal year. Dr. Murphy expressed concerns about having any residual funds at the end of FY '18 because of the potential to have accounts swept by the legislature. Dr. Taylor and Dr. Hill noted that while this is a risk, it's best to be cautious because future years funding is at stake. Dr. Hill advised Dr. Taylor to keep monitoring the account and to consider alternatives. A motion to approve the spending plan was requested; motion passed. Dr. Hill indicated that the spending plan would be added the next Commission meeting agenda.

## **OTHER**

-An announcement was made about the next STEM speaker series featuring WVU faculty member Dr. Maura McLaughlin. Dr. Taylor also announced that the Division of Science and Research has 2 job openings with employment searches underway.

-Jack Carpenter provided a brief update on the EPSCoR program at the national level; a white paper is being developed to show NSF the seriousness of the jurisdictions' research infrastructure. While there was no mention of the new NSF EPSCoR Track 4 program, there was a discussion about state committees being involved in all decisions related to NSF EPSCoR programs. Mr. Carpenter will provide a copy of the white paper to Dr. Taylor as soon as it becomes available.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place this fall with the need to approve the Research Challenge Grant recommendations.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.