

WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

April 29, 2021

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held on April 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via video conference call. Attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Sarah Tucker
Dr. J. Ulises Toledo
Dr. Fred King
Dr. Juliana Serafin
Anne Barth
Dr. Maura McLaughlin
Dr. John Maher
Kelsey Staggers for Ed Gaunch
Dr. Jack Dever
Dr. Laura Gibson
Dr. Mike Norton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. W. Clayton Burch
Dr. Colleen Nolan
Rachel Roberts
Dr. Uma Sundaram

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Annette Carpenter (HEPC)
Angela Sundstrom (HEPC)
Dr. Suzanne Strait (HEPC)
Dr. Sheena Murphy (WVU)
Anthony Gillespie (RTI)
Jennifer Ozawa (RTI)
Jade Irving (HEPC)
Ryan Quinn (press)

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Tucker called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Dr. Tucker introduced the RTI International vendor representatives, Jennifer Ozawa and Anthony Gillespie, to the group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting held on December 10, 2020 requested; the motion carried (Anne Barth/ Fred King).

NSF EPSCoR RII TRACK1 UPDATES (Juliana Serafin/Suzanne Strait)

New RII-

The proposal writing team is preparing to submit a new proposal in late July 2021. A letter of intent is due in early July. The proposal is a neuroscience / big data project and will include high school teacher development, diversity initiatives, internships and undergraduate programs. Dr. Serafin will present a summary of the proposal at the next meeting.

Current RII

A 2nd no cost extension has been approved by NSF for the existing Track 1 award. Some projects were delayed due to COVID. Extending the award also allows the jurisdictional office to keep operating until a new RII is approved via supplemental funding. An annual report on the project is due May 1, 2021.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PLAN (Jennifer Ozawa)

Jennifer Ozawa of RTI presented the final draft of the new statewide Science and Technology Plan Vision 2025. Four Science & Technology research platforms were identified: Life Science, Data and Computer Science, Advanced Energy and Advanced Manufacturing. The plan includes four sets of goal and actions as well as actions for stakeholder alignment. Ms. Ozawa reviewed the plan with the Council.

A motion to approve the plan was requested; the motion carried (John Maher/ Ulises Toledo). Dr. Serafin abstained from the vote per the NSF EPSCoR RII Track 1 RFP. The plan will be effective April 29, 2021 and will be presented at the HEPC Commission meeting in July for further approval.

OTHER (staff)

Angela Sundstrom presented new branding concepts for the Division of Science and Research to be more in line with the new color schemes and logo for HEPC. The winter Neuron featuring Aida Jimenez-Esquilin from the University of Charleston is complete and will be mailed to members soon.

Jade Irving reported First2 network updates including their intention to host an EPSCoR workshop in the fall of 2022.

Dr. Strait announced the next STEM speaker series scheduled for May 13. She also reported on the past two virtual speaker series presented by Virgin Hyperloop for high school and middle school students. In addition, she reported on upcoming science camps in conjunction with the National Youth Science Foundation. Dr. McLaughlin asked how both the past and future events were being advertised. Dr. Strait indicated that the K-12 events were advertised using a Department of Education list via Erika Klose. Other speaker events will be advertised using the wvresearch.org website, newspaper ads and social media posts. The science camps will be advertised on the WV Science Adventure's website. Angela Sundstrom assured Dr. McLaughlin that she would send the Council email announcements of all events.

Dr. Serafin announced that the STEM Fellows program was up for renewal this summer and asked if any of the members would like to serve on a committee to review the current RFP. Dr. Tucker suggested that she ask the current recipients (WVU and MU) if the existing program is working. Dr. Serafin agreed and will follow up with the PIs and VPRs.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Council is slated for late June. Dr. Serafin will circulate possible dates soon.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.