

COLORADO HIGHER EDUCATION COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AUTHORITY

*Minutes of the January 28, 2009 Annual Board Meeting*

David Skaggs called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

In attendance were Board members David Skaggs, Bill Farland, John Poate, and Michael Poliakoff. Board member Robbyn Wacker was in attendance by telephone. Also in attendance were Rae Ann Armijo, Michael Evans, Inta Morris, Cathy Wanstrath and Stein Sture by telephone.

**Approval of August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 minutes.** David Skaggs made a motion to approve the August 26, 2008 minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

**Discussion of Senate Bill 09-52.** Cathy Wanstrath, contract lobbyist for the Department of Higher Education, reminded Board members that the Senate Education Committee will consider SB52 on January 29, 2009 at 1:30pm. David Skaggs, Michael Poliakoff, John Poate and Kathi Delehoy (Senior Associate VP for Research Administration at CSU) will testify at the hearing. Robbyn Wacker will provide a letter in support of the bill from the University of Northern Colorado.

Board members examined the budget projections for CHECRA over the next five years and agreed that gaining the extra 15 cents per tire, as SB09-52 would provide, is essential to maintaining the CHECRA's commitment to funding the two existing Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers (MRSECs) and to honoring the state's commitment to the National Science Foundation to provide another year of retroactive funding for the current Extreme Ultraviolet Engineering Research Center (ERC). Board members further noted that they would have to seek additional revenue streams to support the current projects and to position Colorado for future federal grant opportunities that may require state matching funds.

Cathy Wanstrath summarized the opposition to SB09-52. The recycling community argues that the current Advanced Technology Grant program is the only source of funding in Colorado for recycling research. Also, they argue that revenue from the waste tire fee should go only to waste tire recycling and mitigation efforts. David Skaggs pointed out that the state legislature has the power to decide how state revenue is appropriated, and that state spending categories do not necessarily align with revenue sources.

For the upcoming hearing, board members noted the economic development benefits of the current research projects, and that Colorado currently lags behind its neighboring states in state investment in research.

**Financial Update.** Michael Evans, DHE Controller, provided a financial status report. He noted that CHECRA had no expenditures in FY 2007-2008, and that in the current

fiscal year (FY 2008-2009) CHECRA had made two payments to the MRSECs and one payment to the ERC. With the initial funds rolled over from the Advanced Technology Fund and the subsequent waste tire fee distributions through the second quarter of FY 2009, CHECRA has approximately \$165,000 available in the bank.

Bill Farland said that the Extreme Ultraviolet ERC is coming up for renewal in the Spring and asked for confirmation that the second \$200,000 payment would be available. The Board agreed that commitment would be honored.

Board members confirmed also that CHECRA is permitted by law to accept other funding, including from foundations and industry.

Inta Morris informed Board members that the state Auditor's office was still determining how the CHECRA would be classified for auditing purposes, but to expect a state audit.

**Research Update.** Bill Farland and Stein Stur reported on the Extreme Ultraviolet Center. They said it had led to one new company with twenty-one employees, with an average salary of \$60,000. A second company has been established in Fort Collins. Spin-off companies from the Center produce an average of \$200,000 in business volume (sales) per high tech employee. Stur said that the Center also has participated in K-12 outreach and has reached over 1,300 students, 14 high school teachers and over 100 undergraduate and graduate researchers. Stur summarized that every research dollar going into the projects like the Center results in \$10 back to the community. The ERC receives \$6-\$8 million per year, significantly more than the MRSEC grants.

David Skaggs said he would draft a letter of support for the NSF grant for the Extreme Ultraviolet renewal proposal.

**Annual report preparation.** The CHECRA annual report is due on March 1, 2009. David Skaggs will prepare a draft for review by Board members.

**Additional Notes.** Michael Poliakoff will be out of the country beginning February 5 for approximately three weeks. He will be available by e-mail.

David Skaggs made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bill Farland and unanimously passed.