

COLORADO HIGHER EDUCATION COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AUTHORITY

Minutes of the January 12, 2010 Annual Board Meeting

Vice Chair Bill Farland called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

In attendance were Board members Rico Munn, Bill Farland, and Stein Sture. In attendance by telephone were board members John Poate and Robbyn Wacker. Also in attendance were Russell Moore from the University of Colorado (CU), John Karakoulakis, Michael Evans and Inta Morris.

Approval of September 23, 2009 minutes. John Poate made a motion to approve the September 23, 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Election of Officers. Bill Farland nominated Rico Munn to serve as Chair. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Financial Update. Michael Evans (Department of Higher Education, Controller) updated Board members on the Authority's financial position. He provided a two year summary of income and expenses, and noted that the CHECRA had approximately \$440K in the bank as of the end of 2009. He said that the Department anticipates no significant changes in income over the next year either from the waste tire fee or from the transfer from the Office of Economic Development and International Trade from limited gaming revenues. Assuming no change, and with current commitments—including the Engineering Research Center (ERC) that Colorado State University (CSU) anticipates being awarded within the next few months—the balance would grow by approximately \$120K per year.

Legislative Update. John Karakoulakis (Department of Higher Education, Legislative Affairs Director) reminded Board members about the anticipated legislation in the 2010 state General Assembly that would redirect the 10 cents per tire that the CHECRA receives to efforts to mitigate the waste tire problem in Colorado. He said that the bill as currently drafted would allow the CHECRA to continue receiving funds from the waste tire fee until current grant obligations are fulfilled in 2013.

Research Update. Russell Moore (CU) said that the University of Colorado has been invited by NSF to submit an ERC proposal on “Integrated Sensing in Extreme Environments” and is waiting to hear whether it will be invited to submit two other proposals. Letters of commitment for a state match would be required for all. CU also has a Fuels from Sunlight Hub proposal to the Department of Energy for which a commitment is helpful but not required.

Bill Farland said that CSU has one potential proposal that would require a state match if it moves forward, and John Poate said that Mines has one for which it does require a commitment.

Board members discussed what sort of commitment the Authority could make given the anticipated level of funding for CHECRA in the next five years. Members agreed they could commit the Board to making every effort to fund ERCs at the same level as those currently awarded (\$400K per year) and to seek additional sources of funding for CHECRA as the state recovers from the current economic crisis.

Bill Farland moved to provide three letters of commitment to the NSF. Stein Sture seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Other. Board members appointed Rico Munn as a second signatory on the checking account, with Inta Morris appointed previously as a signatory.

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:40 and unanimously passed.