

EPSCoR State Committee Meeting

18 April 2011 (11 am – 2:15 pm)
Santa Fe Institute

In attendance: Jack Jekowski (phone), Kurt Steinhaus, Ron Tafoya, Stephan Helgeson, Val Montoya, Julia Fulgham, Tony Sena, Camilla Bustamante, Marie Garcia, Jose Garcia, Van Romero (phone), Bill Michener, Mary Jo Daniel, Anna Morrato

The agenda for this meeting was approved. The minutes from the September, 2010 meeting were approved.

Mary Jo and Bill reviewed project activity since the last meeting and previewed upcoming activities; the PowerPoint presentation is available on the NM EPSCoR website (<http://nmepscor.org/content/nm-epscor-state-committee>).

Recent and upcoming activities include:

- All Hands Meeting; over 70 participants and 30 student posters
- Well-attended NSF Day (200 participants) held in March and successful Junior Faculty Leadership Workshop in January
- Two \$50,000 Infrastructure Seed Grants awarded; new solicitation will be available in May for 3 more
- Annual Tri-State Meeting (185+ attendees) held in April
- Track 1 External Advisory Committee commended the program for progress made and provided 4 recommendations that are being addressed.
- AAAS Review also commended the program and provided recommendations for the development of the science focus of the next Track 1 proposal.
- National NSF EPSCoR Conference will be in Idaho, October 24-27.
- NSF Reverse Site Visit will be August 11.

Bill reported on a special session held at the Tri-State Meeting of Project Directors, VPR's and State Committee members to discuss ways to sustain the collaborations between Idaho, NM and Nevada. As an outcome of that meeting, the three states will hold a half-day workshop for the Tri-State Leadership at the conclusion of the National EPSCoR Meeting in Idaho (probably on the morning of October 28th) and invite 4-5 State Committee members from each state to attend, including a representative from the National Labs.

The Committee discussed the increased emphasis several members had noted on "Broader Impacts" by the National Science Foundation, the National Science Board and the Obama administration. It is anticipated that the new solicitation for RII proposals will reflect this emphasis as well as additional expectations for attention to workforce development activities. The committee also discussed how the VPR's can facilitate smaller schools being more strongly engaged in EPSCoR activities.

After lunch, Bill presented information on the Track 1 proposal development process, including the recommendations from the External Advisory Committee and AAAS Reviews. He also reviewed the timeline for proposal development and the draft white paper that had been distributed to State Committee members.

After discussion, the Committee concurred with soliciting a single collaborative, multi-institutional white paper for determining the research focus within the general water-energy-environment nexus. EPSCoR state office leadership will offer summer workshops to bring together potential research collaborators. Committee members were asked to provide names of faculty to participate in the collaborative workshops. Based on the AAAS recommendations, a suggestion was made that funding for a tribal liaison might be included in the next proposal.

Action Items:

- Invitations to the National EPSCoR Meeting will be sent to Committee members when they are available.
- Bill will ask NSF for clarification on what can be used as matching funds, including computing (Encanto) and connectivity, for RII proposals.
- Bill will seek to meet with appropriate state cabinet secretaries to discuss EPSCoR and how it contributes to state economic development.
- EPSCoR office will follow up with committee members for names of individuals to include in summer collaboration workshops.
- Nominations for new EPSCoR State Committee positions will be put forth to the State Committee for consideration as soon as positions in the current administration are finalized (e.g., State Science Advisor to the Governor).

The committee thanked Barbara Kimbell and the Santa Fe Institute for their hospitality.

Adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Addendum

A phone conference call was scheduled for committee members who were unable to attend the April 18 meeting was held on Monday, April 25. The same materials were reviewed. Vimal Chaitanya participated in the call with Bill and Mary Jo.