

EPSCoR State Committee Meeting

20 September 2010 (11 am – 2 pm)
New Mexico State University, Anderson Hall

In attendance: Jack Jekowski, Vimal Desai Chaitanya, Bill Michener, Mary Jo Daniel.
By phone: Nan Sauer, Kurt Steinhaus, Tom Bowles, Ron Tafoya, Stephan Helgeson,
Linda LaGrange, Val Montoya, Julia Fulgham, John Montgomery

The agenda for this meeting was approved. The minutes from the May, 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>).

Actions: Mary Jo will send out invitations to all State Committee members to the upcoming All Hands Meeting (10/18) , External Advisory Board pre-meeting dinner (10/24) and AAAS Review pre-meeting dinner (11/15).

Mary Jo reviewed the process the State Office has followed to determine how to define and carry out the CI for Industry activity that is part of NM's responsibility for the Track 2 project. NM EPSCoR is working to collaborate with Fast Forward NM, an initiative of the Global Center for Cultural Entrepreneurship. Fast Forward NM provides training in rural communities for the use of computing for personal use and business development. EPSCoR will help them expand their efforts in the communities that are the focus of the new C2 proposal: Silver City, Crownpoint, and Espanola. This use of limited funds to support the concept should provide a more impactful and sustainable tool for rural areas of New Mexico to take advantage of the emerging cyber infrastructure than a one-off event that was originally discussed. Tom Bowles mentioned that the State has teamed with Fast Forward NM on a Grant proposal through the ARRA – news on a possible award is expected by the end of September.

Drs. Al Rango and Sam Fernald, NM EPSCoR researchers based at NMSU, gave a lunchtime presentation on *The Effects of Climate Change on New Mexico's Mountain Snowmelt Runoff and How Acequias Might Become a Mitigating Factor*; the PowerPoint is available on the NM EPSCoR website (<http://nmepscor.org/content/nm-epscor-state-committee>). Initial results of the RII research indicate that there may be some important strategies associated with the continuation of the traditional Acequia system with respect to water conservation. This information is being shared with the State Engineer and others so that as critical decisions are made in the future their full impact can be understood. Committee members recommended that their findings be included in the climate exhibit at the NM Museum of Natural History and Science. In response to a question, Al stated that at the end of this RII project, New Mexico will have instrumentation comparable to other Western states for studying climate impacts on water

resources, making New Mexico competitive on a national basis for follow on research grants.

Bill led a discussion on the draft of the Diversity Plan that was introduced to the State Committee at the May meeting. No feedback had been received by the State Office. Committee members provided comments and suggestions during the review that will be incorporated in a final version to be presented to the Council of University Presidents. The Committee then voted unanimously to endorse the document pending the updates based on Committee comments.

Actions: Mary Jo will incorporate the edits provided by Jack Jekowski, including the addition of the NM EPSCoR and NSF logos, and a statement that NM EPSCoR will provide updated diversity data on an annual basis, or when new data are available. The State Office will also locate and include previous faculty diversity data from the research institutions to show trends to this point. These changes will be completed by November 1, 2010.

Bill then reviewed the timeline for RII 4 development that had been previously distributed to the Committee members. The work will be initiated with the upcoming AAAS Review, which should provide suggestions for the science focus of the next proposal. At its spring 2011 meeting, the State Committee will be asked to review and approve an "internal" RFP for white papers to determine the science focus. The timeline should also provide a useful snapshot of the next eighteen months for Committee members by showing the timing of various activities and projects. The timeline will be kept updated by the State Office.

The Committee briefly reviewed options for engaging more legislative involvement and interest in NM EPSCoR, which will be critical in generating support for the next RII grant proposal.

Action: Mary Jo will investigate the possibility of including a legislative reception at the Tri-State Consortium meeting in April, 2011. Jack will seek private sector support to help defray the cost of the reception.

Jack met two weeks ago with Secretary Florez and learned that the draft strategic plan for Higher Education will be put on the HED website in the next couple of weeks for comment. It will have a strong P-20 component and link to math and science, the state technology plan (Technology21) and the PED's strategic plan for math and science, *Project 2012*. The plan will include information obtained through a series of Town Halls conducted around New Mexico in August and early September. See

<http://hed.state.nm.us/content.asp?CustComKey=193238&CategoryKey=205561&WebFileKey=465282&pn=webfilesview&DomName=hed.state.nm.us> for more information on the process. It's not clear at this time how all of this will come together under a new Administration in January – although Secretary Florez is hoping that the broad participation in the current strategic planning effort will carry across the Administration boundary and be implemented.

Also, Julia mentioned there was a recent audit of the research universities by the LFC and that report is soon to be released. One finding is that the state should be doing more to fund basic research. This may help in the future if matching funds are needed for the RII grants.

The next State Committee meeting will be held either at the Santa Fe Institute, or at the Sevilleta Research Station, north of Socorro in April. Mary Jo will send out a Doodle scheduler poll to determine a date.