

Wed. September 29, 2021  
**Notes from the NASA EPSCoR Caucus Business Meeting-Jackson, WY**

**7:04 pm** Mountain Time.

**Greg:** Thank you all of you for attending the meeting tonight. Our first part of the meeting will be a report from Jeppie, Mitch and Ali. Our second part, will be a panel discussion to identify three or four items for how the OSTEM can interact with the EPSCoR Caucus. I'll turn them to Jeppie.

**Jeppie:** Thank you for having us. RIG award funding increased to \$200K. 16 awards/12M. 28 RID awards 4.9 million; 6 ISS awards \$600K looking at kick-off meeting at JSC Oct/Nov.

4 suborbital flight awards \$1.26M; 43 R3s \$4.3M. I am trying to get the research appendices this week but I am still waiting for some research areas.

Collaboration with NSF→2 FAST program, selection of VT and Hi→\$120K

Overall, \$22.9M in funding to the jurisdictions.

We teamed up with NSF for fellowship program.

Currently MOU with USDA for climate research. OMB→results oriented programs, NASA EPSCoR is listed.

MOU with CASIS; just in case ISS for after ISS goes commercial

Into 2022: Appropriation at \$26M flat for the next 5yrs.

Six types of awards: RID, complete package to go to NSSC during 1<sup>ST</sup> Q FY22

ISS/Suborbital, expected release 1<sup>ST</sup> Q FY22 (~October 6, 2021).

Mitch did an outstanding job in putting together the ISS/Sub solicitation.

R3 to be released the 1<sup>st</sup> Q of FY22

Research NOFO late 1<sup>st</sup> Q FY22

FAST solicitation late 1<sup>st</sup> Q FY 22 through NSF

Mike K. informed me that there will be no more in-person TIMs.

Staffing levels: I reduced it. Dale and Brady were let go, we were over staffed. 3.5FTE, .5WYE

Project manager at HQ, but working out of KSC. Andrew Weber, deputy project manager at HQ.

Tech Monitors/reporting management at KSC.

I negotiated that the Chief of Technologies Officer at the field centers will be the contact from the different centers. No operational support required from the center OSTEM offices.

FY22 moving into the Enterprise concept, NASA wide capability, no center centric, but project centric.

Mitch with HQ, but resident at Stennis.

We are no longer location dependent, increased virtual presence/mtgs. cocktail menu. Increased emphasis on inclusion and diversity.

Today we rec'd NASA's policy on inclusion and diversity, I will share it with Greg and Colleen. The outcome of this policy is a collaboration between EPSCoR and MUREP.

Elaine Ho will be doing a detail with the White House OSTP. Kevin McGraw, out of Marshall, will step in from Oct to March, and then Tori Johnson, March to August and maybe permanently.

**Toni:** Thank you for the funding explanation. In-state NOFO, cost-share, in the solicitation coming out will it be 50%?

**Jeppie:** RID 20% match.

**Lynn:** Program manager at HQ?

**Jeppie:** Only remotely, residence in this case at KSC.

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**Jay:** Comment. Keep in mind that for states without MSIs, MUREP and EPSCoR are completely different.

**Laura H (Zoom):** How backlogged is NSSC?

**Jeppie:** For EPSCoR is not, funding should start flowing tomorrow or Friday.

**Denise:** Travel funds for Centers, now you are telling me no more in-person mtgs?

**Jeppie:** No, it is just for TIMs.

**Ali:** Thank you for the opportunity. New SharePoint site file management/content management/content processing. Microsoft SharePoint; granting access possible by selected IP addresses; we can share with anyone in our jurisdiction. One stop shopping. 2021→69 active proposals. Several tabs: proposals, contract list, stimuli process, how are we doings?, testimonials. We are cutting down the clerical work. We anticipate 250 active awards next year. Reports available to EPSCoR TMs, EPSCoR Project Office, NASA NSSC, NASA OSTEM, NASA MDs, and Stimuli-tax payers/public.

**Mitch:** I am missing not being with all of you there. Here is an important slide to highlight uncosted funds and the importance of invoicing and spending the funds.

2015-2018→unobligated \$4.5M

2019→\$8.5M

2020→\$15M uncosted funds

2021→\$20.5M

*Drawdown needs to be done: Monthly preferably (although unrealistic), but at a minimum quarterly drawdown. Please share with your financial people.*

7:53 pm Mountain Time-First Part of meeting concluded.

#### **8:07 pm Mountain Time-NASA EPSCoR Issues Panel**

Leslee, Jessica M, Luke, Lynn, Greg (panel moderator)

**Jessica:** Coalition/Foundation funded in 1988 501(c)(4) nonprofit, which goal is Congress for setting funding level. EPSCoR/IDeA funded in 1995, 501(c)(3), targets federal agencies and works with communities to increase research and student success. The foundation answers questions from community and Congress. We have a newsletter and a website. The Coalition/Foundation recently updated its bylaws; now we have two NASA representatives in the foundation.

**Leslee:** I advocate for the NASA EPSCoR Program with Congress. EPSCoR enjoys broad support from Congress. Particularly advantage in the Senate→low population states. NASA has included money for NASA EPSCoR. At least we are starting with a number in the appropriation bill (House). Bills not out of committee yet. We should know in the next 3-4 weeks. NASA authorization bill slowed down. Things have stalled due to the bigger package. You all have been critical in NASA EPSCoR enjoying the support it has.

**Luke:** Want to acknowledge Jeppie, best project manager. Jeppie pushes out as much money to the jurisdictions as possible. R3s, suborbital...We appreciate your support and responsiveness. One issue: Being able to meet in person at centers is very important.

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**Lynn:** I echo what Luke said. Awesome team with Jeppie. We need to address the “no more in-person meetings.” As a group I would like to strategize how to impress the importance of in-person meetings to OSTEM. I felt the joint TIM this summer was a failure for NASA EPSCoR. In Nevada, our sponsored projects accounting has NASA EPSCoR in the same category as DoD→building capacity and infrastructure. It seems that OSTEM wants to make NASA EPSCoR more education oriented.

**Jessica:** We invited Mike Kinkaid to our board meeting on Nov. 3. We will inform him how the foundation board represent all agencies with EPSCoR programs. Basic questions on the table coming from other agencies.

**Greg:** New bylaws, more people included. Denise and I are on the Foundation. Terry S. and Gerardo M. are on the Coalition. Mike K, Denise and I met a few weeks ago, it was very positive. It is surprising to learn about no more face to face meetings.

**Denise:** We are working with Langley on a TIM; how do we get them off our backs without being trip every month?

**Leslee:** The challenge is that NASA does not bring people to the meetings. We need to agree on some things/common goal. We are making Congress very aware how the program is going. Force a requirement to Congress? How did the TIM go? However, legislatively, there are few things we can do. Working closely with the EPSCoR from the other agencies is one of them.

**Luke:** With the Space Grant national meetings, we have the advantage of collecting funds. How do we get funds from EPSCoR meeting registrations?

**Toni:** I feel the Mega PI mtgs by OSTEM are talking to me, instead of being a back and forth conversation. Relationships are formed one on one, face to face. Researchers talk to researchers, vested interest at HQ. NASA EPSCoR is a little bit weird; other EPSCoRs have education/outreach components. In my state, it causes confusion.

**Lynn:** In my state, I tell people NSF has a large budget and NASA EPSCoR has a very small budget. So, we have to prioritize.

**Greg:** For the Mega PI in June, the list of topics came out of the air.

**Melanie:** Since I am new as a SG director (West Virginia), my question very fundamental: Why is NASA EPSCoR under OSTEM? Or, perhaps, do you want to be under OSTEM?

**Greg:** As Jeppie has indicated in the past, nobody wants us. We do it all across all mission directorates. However, considering where EPSCoR belongs is not off the table.

**Denise:** When Mike Kinkaid declined one of our meetings, we wrote Mike a letter with all the reasons for having TIMs face to face.

**Jeppie:** Cold calls do not work, face to face meetings do. The Centers love the TIM meetings and we love it; do not know why Mike does not.

**Greg:** Okay, highest priorities then:

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- Face to face meetings at Centers
- Having OSTEM assist the directors instead of being a hindrance
- Highlight the great job Jeppie and Mitch are doing in helping us. Mitch responsible for the suborbital solicitation and sharing a draft, with a draft label across it, made possible by Mitch.
- NSF outreach K-12, we do K12 and outreach with Space Grant

**Lynn:** One more to add:

- Skepticism over the merging between EPSCoR and MUREP

**Leslee:** The slide Mitch showed us with the unexpensed funds, we need to get on top of that. If that slide gets to Congress, we are in trouble.

**Luke:** It is hard to dissect those overall numbers. It would take more than 3 NCEs to reconcile some of those numbers.

**Greg:** Another one to add:

- Inability to understand subawards within OSTEM

**Lynn:** invoiced vs. unobligated

**Greg:** I will talk with Mitch and Jeppie to see if we can get more clarification.

Are there any other comments/questions? Thank you all for attending.

Meeting adjourned ~8.45 pm Mountain Time.

**DISCLAIMER:** I did not take attendance of the people in the room. Colleen provided the attendance of the people attending virtually. Thank you, Colleen.

Cass and Shawna provided in-person attendee names:  
Luke, Angela, Greg, Andy, Ed, Caitlin, Denise, Lynn, Shawna, Cass, Paulo.

| Name (Original Name) Zoom Attendees | NASA EPSCoR In-Person Attendees |              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
|                                     | First Name                      | Last Name    |
| Colleen Fava (she/her)              |                                 |              |
| Michael Khonsari                    | Luke                            | Flynn        |
| Aaron Ryan                          | Matthew                         | Bernards     |
| Terry Shehata                       | Shawna                          | McBride      |
| GrandTeton Room                     | Jay                             | Staker       |
| jdaneK                              | Amelia                          | Tangeman     |
| Alexandre Martin                    | Edward                          | Duke         |
| Grand Teton                         | Lynn                            | Fenstermaker |
| Jacob Owen                          | Debra                           | Fraser       |
| Jacob Owen                          | Marcia Rei                      | Nii          |
| mkrell1                             | Denise                          | Thorsen      |

|  |            |             |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Nathan Murray                              | Mel        | Ustad       |
| Laura Holland                              | Kayde      | Whiteside   |
| Ali Shaykhian                              | Michaela   | Lucas       |
| Jeppie Compton                             | Kelsey     | Mueller     |
| Gerardo Morell                             | Scott      | Tarry       |
| David Heitzler                             | Andrew     | Arena       |
| Melissa Wragge                             | Antoinette | Galvin      |
| Tomas - Iowa Space Grant (tgt)             | T. Gregory | Guzik       |
| Earnest Stephens                           | Margaret   | Nelson      |
| Leslie Aquino - GU                         | Madeline   | Baugher     |
| Keith Hudson                               | Leslee     | Gilbert     |
| jdaneK                                     | Bernard    | Cole        |
| Laura Holland                              | Brooke     | Graham      |
| Christian - ODU Support (Christian Pucher) | Debora     | Nielson     |
| Cathy Cathell                              | Dale       | Thomas      |
| GrandTeton Room                            | Melanie    | Page        |
| Aaron Ryan                                 | Cassandra  | Runyon      |
| Grand Teton                                | Christina  | Gregory     |
| Christian - ODU Support                    | Candy      | Cordwell    |
|  | Angela     | Des Jardins |
|  | Dwight     | Higgin      |
|  | Paulo      | Oemig       |
|  | Jessica    | Molesworth  |
|  | Caitlin    | Milera      |
|  | Aaron      | Ryan        |
|  | Tori       | McIntosh    |
|  | Nancy      | Ciminelli   |
|  | Susie      | Johnson     |
|  | Randal     | Larimer     |
|  | Jessica    | Patton      |
|  | Peter      | Schultz     |
|  | Marissa    | Saad        |