

NASA EPSCoR Caucus Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: May 13, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM Eastern, 4:00 PM Puerto Rico, 3:00 PM Central, 2:00 PM Mountain, 1:00 PM Pacific, 12:00 PM Alaska, 10:00 AM Hawaii, 6:00 AM (+1) Guam

Part 1 ExCom business (ExCom and invited participants)—60 minutes

Welcome, roll, agenda C. Cole

Secretary's report (approval of minutes from last meeting) P. Oemig

Nominating Committee update—Caucus elections E. Duke

NASA announcements / updates K. Loftin

NASA EPSCoR drawdown expectations C. Cole & C. Fava

NASA EPSCoR Advocacy L. Gilbert / L. Katz

EPSCoR / IDeA Foundation J. Molesworth

Other business All ExCom

Part 2 Open session (All)—30 minutes

Comments and questions from the floor All

Adjourn

Ex Comm Members in Attendance: Chip Cole, Sara Nelson, Ralph Milliken, Shawna McBride, Tori McIntosh, Paulo Oemig, Denise Thorsen

Chip: We have bylaws, the nominating committee shall consist of 4 directors elected by the caucus members for three years. Each year we select a new chair...Nominating committee is just doing NASA EPSCoR Caucus. Ed, what is the workload for the nominating committee?

Ed: Not much.

Chip: A little bit of arm twisting. The ideal person is very active and comes to all the meetings and knows all the people. Colleen comes to mind.

Ed: We have Colleen and Todd Letcher now, and Caitlin and Andy Arena. We need to more members. By end of May, beginning of June send out the election sheet. Looking at having positions filled by July. Gerardo and I are leaving.

Chip: We have a quorum now.

Chip moved to approved minutes from April 8, 2025 and Sara seconded. All in favor none oppose.

NASA Updates:

Kathy: EPSCoR last Thursday and Friday we had the panel for the basic research. We received 24 good proposals. We are going through the paperwork, hoping to give these to NSSC in June.

For the R3s we are a good month behind, reviewers are backing out. We had a list of volunteers with list of subject matter experts. Federal employees don't get pay and all the workforce issues is making harder to get reviewers.

ISS solicitation was announced. We've seen a lot of ISS research cancellation. Executive Order for EPSCoR reviews is pretty minor. We are still waiting to see what research topics may be cut. So far no EOs on research topics but during Trump 1, climate research was removed.

Chip: Question for ISS what's the period of performance? Start date?

Kathy: Sooner the better with the ISS timeline

Chip: December 1

Kathy: We had an interagency meeting; NASA EPSCoR is the only one producing active awards.

Chip: Drawdown expectations for NASA EPSCoR. Concern from Louisiana.

Our next item: NASA EPSCoR advocacy

Laurie K: President's budget request, skinny budget, FY26 dramatic cuts. NASA budget cut by 24% and eliminated OSTEM office. We are working on Dear Colleague letters for both SG and NASA EPSCoR to be sent to appropriation committees. We'll have an updated list of signatures by tomorrow.

The House and Senate prepare appropriations bill. Tom Cole, Rep. from Oklahoma, wants to be aligned with overall spending of President Trump. Congress working on reconciliation – different committees in House and Senate find savings. Contentious process. They are marking up energy and commerce today, including some of Medicare, and we're anticipating a lot of contention and arguments over whether Democrats can offer amendments. Recission package another item; state and foreign operations – looking for more savings. This will give the White House the authority to rescind money.

Sara: Do you or Leslee have any feeling about budget for OSTEM being restored?

Laurie: Leslie G. is talking with Elaine Ho and we are confident they will be restored. Odds are that we're looking at another CR.

EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation

Jessica: Laurie gave a good recap of the President's FY26 "skinny" budget. NSF ESPCOR and NIH IDeA dealing with the IDC situation (IDC capped at 15% for ~~NSF~~NIH, DOE and NSF but lawsuits challenging the Executive Orders are pending for each agency) and cuts in the FY26 President's "skinny" budget of: 44% at NIH, 58% cut at NSF

Some of our board members were questioning the idea of whether to hold the annual meeting on Feb. 23, but the EIF/C will move ahead. The EIF/C Boards will meet on the 22. Hill visits on the 24. And based on my conversation with Cass that should align with your Space Grant meeting in DC.

Open Session

Colleen: All of our NASA EPSCoR awards ran through the Louisiana Board of Regents. We get a subaward. Everything comes down through the Board of Regents. The person at the Board of Regents couldn't access the actual drawdown.

Jessica D: We are the prime awardee and not having access to the drawdowns from the Board of Regents makes it difficult to put together the financial summary. We should know more by tomorrow.

Colleen: We have the right people in place to work on this issue and Tim have been very helpful in following up with this.

For the quarterly report, then Jessica would have to spend two weeks to collect all the pieces – But if it's about what the Board of Regents is expecting to drawdown. Multiple steps in the invoicing process, all goes back to Board of Regents.

Kathy: I just want to verify; these are the same of financial summaries we've been sending for a long time now. You guys don't have this for Space Grant.

Colleen: For Space Grant, the money comes to LSU. For EPSCoR the hard part is anticipating the latest expected drawdown.

Michaela L: We don't do this for SG. If there was a way not to do it for EPSCoR or finding a simple way to streamline.

Kathy: This is good to know. But we still need a way for each jurisdiction to be able to track the funding of the awards.

Colleen: Board of Regents provides a cash match so that it's a plus.

Kathy: Let me dig deeper to see what the requirements are, where the requirements came from and how to modify it to make it easier.

Denise: I don't have a Board of Regents; I can easily get what the drawdowns are and cost-share. As far as the plan go, I basically made it up; it's hard for me to get the Office of Grants and

Contracts team to get it done. When you get it back quickly, I did it; when it takes a while for you to get it back, it came from the OGC office.

Colleen: There were 24 basic research proposals for the R3.

Tim: For the R3s we are struggling in finding reviewers. We are behind on that. Hoping to get these out after the basic research.

For the basic research, we are hoping to be sending announcements in June.
Non-civil servants get a stipend.

Shawna: Are 24 proposals funded or received?

Tim: Probably 12-15 will be funded; it depends on the actual budget of the selected proposals funded.

Chip: We have gone through the agenda. Are there any comments from the committee members?
[None]

Any other comments/questions?

Motion to adjourn:

Shawna moved, Sara seconded; all in favor.