

NASA EPSCoR Caucus Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: August 12, 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

NASA announcements / updates K. Loftin

Discussion of NASA EPSCoR funding/grant programs All

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

Chip: Welcome new members of the ExCom, Gerardo Morrell (Puerto Rico), from the Nominating Committee, Lesle Aquino (Guam), and Colleen Fava (LA). Besides Kathy today, we have two additions from NASA: Dave Berger and Patricia Gillis

Kathy: Dave will be transitioning into EPSCoR Program Manager role.

Patricia Gillis will transition into Integration Manager role.

Torry gave me the okay to share their names, but please information to yourselves until it's finalized through HR.

Chip: I need to check that we have a quorum; we have five present. We have a quorum.

Paulo: Are there any changes/corrections to the revised June 10 minutes? None.

The motion is on the floor to approve the minutes from the June 10 meeting.

Melanie moved to approve, and Chip seconded, all in favor. Minutes from June 10 approved.

Updates from NASA:

Kathy: R3s are on pause, not enough staff to process them. We are trying to get as much funding out to you as possible. A new basic research is a possibility, although funds will not be obligated until next fiscal year. The ISS proposal submission deadline has passed. ISS award will not be obligated until next fiscal year.

Our POC for the ISS, Jorge Sotomayor retired, there is a new POC (Lakita Lowe) we will work with the new person for the next cycle.

I haven't written any new solicitations. The President's budget zeroes out funding. Don't know if a CR will keep the office going, but it looks like they are trying to redistribute funding to keep it open. We may have funding for one or two basic research solicitations for next fiscal year. Research focus areas, there was a change in focus areas. A lot of your Technical Monitors have retired; travel has become difficult.

Chip: Thank you, Kathy. Let's open it up to questions. I'll like to start by saying I understand the basic research will be delayed. What is your sense for next year?

Kathy: Will work with Dave and see what is more appropriate for next year, a basic research or RID supplement.

Melanie: The R3s are on pause, let's say we get the \$26 million, is there a timeline when they will be un-paused?

Kathy: That R3 competition is closed. A new panel will rank them.

Sara: We have an R3 award in which the Sc-I is moving to another state, a non-EPSCoR state.

Kathy: You can always put in a request for change of Sc-I.

Leslie: For the NOFO, will it be possible to have comments back?

Kathy: I'm surprised you don't have them. I'll look into it.

Sara: Based on all the uncertainty, will the EPSCoR Caucus have a meeting in the spring?

Kathy: It will make sense to have one, and now more than ever. From the administrative side, it is a heavy lift, but it has great benefits. Next year is going to be different, can't tell you what it's going to look like.

Chip: I think it will be great to have another Caucus meeting.

Paulo: Kathy, a basic research was awarded to NM; I received an email with it award number and it states that we can request a change of period of performance, I replied to that email with a new desired POP. I haven't received a reply to confirm nor the supplement document. Is there another process to request a new POP.

Kathy: Email Dave and copy Patrica and me.

Kathy: The latest EO directs each agency to select a senior appointee at each agency to review grants.

Melanie: Are you saying that has happened?

Kathy: No, that has not happened. We haven't been informed about that POC yet.

Shawna: If you set up a RID solicitation instead of a basic research, will you divide that equally among the jurisdictions?

Kathy: TBD but will need input from all of you. I'm thinking of a menu of options like I did with the Space Grant supplement.

Colleen: We submitted requests for a change in PI in multiple awards, due to Greg's health condition. Tim has been my champion in nudging people. As I get closer to deadlines, should I reach out to all three of you?

Kathy: NSSC is way behind.

Patrica: You can reach out to me.

Chip: Thank you, Kathy, Dave and Patricia.

Hill Updates:

Laurie: Congress is in recess this month. Only the MilCon-VA and defense bills have been passed. A continuing resolution is expected. The House and Senate have both proposed \$26 million for the NASA EPSCoR program, but the Senate bill includes support for the Office of STEM Engagement, while the House bill does not. Melanie raised concerns about the implications of the House's language regarding NASA's organizational structure. Expect a level funding.

Melanie: Last month, Colleen raised a question on the OSTEM reorganization. My understanding was that Congress couldn't tell NASA what to do with the OSTEM engagement.

Laurie: There is pressure from Trump administration to eliminate the office. We advocate for the programs SG and EPSCoR, not the office. We have not taken a stance where those programs are placed within NASA.

A quick update from Jessica: EPSCoR IDeA board meeting on Oct. 14 and 15. They are trying to get NASA representation.

Chip: Any other business from the ExComm.

Jessica has kindly helped us; it's hosting our Caucus webpage through the foundation. We are getting close. Government documents, minutes, and agendas will be posted on the site. Any comments or feedback from you all is appreciated.

Anyone else want to bring something up? From the floor, any questions?

Chip: Hearing no questions, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Melanie moved and Sara seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm ET.