



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

IGEM Council Meeting

May 25, 2023

Idaho Department of Commerce

Teleconference Meeting Link: MS Team Link

700 W. State Street – Idaho Commerce Clearwater Conference Room

Meeting held virtually and meeting location provided for public attendance

IGEM Council Members Present:	Project Presenters and University Personnel
Rick Stott – Lead	Dr. Dakota Roberson, UI
Tom Kealey	Elysa Jones, Data Cast Technology
Dr. Christopher Nomura	Tommi Robison, Data Cast Technology
Dr. Nancy Glenn	Claudia Bitner, Data Cast Technology
Damond Watkins	Dr. Owen McDougal, BSU
Juan Carlos Duque	Brian Meyer, Food Physics LLC
Rep. Jeff Ehlers	Kalen McKenzie, Southern Fabrication Works
Senator Kelly Anthon	Dr. Damon Woods, UI
	Matthew Mead, Hempitecture
	Lili Cai, UI
	Dr. Armando McDonald, UI
	Dr. Baskar Chittoori, BSU
	Brett Adkins, BSU
	Carmen Achabal, IGEM Program Manager
	Cathy Perry, Grants Analyst

Call to Order – Rick Stott

Rick Stott called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Carmen greeted Council members as they joined the meeting; membership meets quorum. The meeting was hosted by Idaho Commerce and held in Commerce’s Clearwater Conference room. Idaho Commerce Director Tom Kealey was physically present in this public meeting area. The meeting link was published in the public domain.

Representative Jeff Ehlers was introduced to the Council.

Action Item: Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from the IGEM Council meeting on 02-28-2023.

Moved: Juan Carlos Duque

Seconded: Damond Watkins

All in favor, no discussion

Motion approved.

The agenda was modified to move BSU APP #5308/5791 – Novel Pavement Using Geocells with MICP - Funding Request to be considered directly after UI APP #5795 – Testing New Manufacturing Methods of Natural Fiber Insulation.

Investment Subcommittee Meeting Recap – Carmen Achabal

There were 10 applications submitted in Round 3, totaling more than \$1.8 million. Six applications were new projects, one new project advanced forward to the Council. Four supplemental applications were submitted, two supplemental projects advanced to the Council.

Project Presentation

UI APP #5768 – Mountain West Grid Resilience Initiative: A Power Grid Cybersecurity Sandbox

Carmen introduced the project team: Dr. Dakota Roberson from UI, Ms. Elysa Jones, Tommi Robison, and Claudia Bitner from Data Cast Technology.

The agenda was modified as the IGEM Council wanted to discuss and consider this project.

UI APP #5768 – Mountain West Grid Resilience Initiative: A Power Grid Cybersecurity Sandbox

Motion: Fund application #5768

Moved: Senator Kelly Anthon

Seconded: Damond Watkins

Discussion and further questions to the project team.

Roll call vote requested by Rick Stott

Damond Watkins – Yes

Tom Kealey – No

Juan Carlos Duque – No

Rep. Jeff Ehlers – No

Senator Kelly Anthon – Yes

Rick Stott - Yes.

Dr. Nomura abstained.

3 to 3 tie.

Dr. Nancy Glenn had hopped off the call prior to the voting.

There was a pause in resolution as Dr. Glenn was contacted.

Meeting proceeded with project presentations.

Project Presentations for Supplemental Funding

BSU APP #5790 – PEF Potato Processing Advantage

Carmen introduced the project team: Dr. Owen McDougal from BSU; Mr. Brian Meyer from Food Physics, and Mr. Kalen McKenzie from Southern Fabrication Works.

Motion: Fund application #5790 in the amount of \$95,400.

Moved: Juan Carlos Duque

Seconded: Damond Watkins

All in favor, no discussion.

Motion approved.

UI APP #5795 – Testing New Manufacturing Methods of Natural Fiber Insulation Batts

Carmen introduced the project team: Dr. Damon Woods from UI and Mr. Matthew Mead from Hempitecture.

Motion: Fund application #5795 in the amount of \$100,141.

Moved: Tom Kealey

Seconded: Senator Kelly Anthon

All in favor, no discussion.

Dr. Nomura abstained.

Motion approved.

BSU APP 5308/5791 – Novel Pavement Using Geocells with MICP

Carmen introduced the project principal investigator, Dr. Baskar Chittoori and provided a summary of this project's opportunity to partner with the Idaho Transportation Department.

Motion: Fund application #5791 in the amount up to \$30,000.

Moved: Tom Kealey

Seconded: Damond Watkins

All in favor, no discussion.

Motion approved.

Council Considerations and Approvals

Carmen provided an overview of these requests.

BSU APP #3637 – RNA Based Testing: Rapid STD Detection - No Cost Extension Request

Motion: Approve request for no cost extension to 12/31/2023 to finish project.

Moved: Dr. Christopher Nomura

Seconded: Juan Carlos Duque

All in favor, no discussion.

Motion approved.

BSU APP #4672 – Novel Metallic and Nanomaterial Coatings and Application Process for Optical Fibers - No Cost Extension Request

Motion: Approve request for no cost extension to 11/30/2023.

Moved: Rep. Jeff Ehlers

Seconded: Tom Kealey

All in favor, no discussion.

Motion approved.

Program Updates – Carmen Achabal

Dr. Hill has stepped down from the IGEM Council. Carmen publicly thanked Dr. Hill for over 11 years of service, from framing the IGEM - Commerce program to chairing its Council, to serving on the State Board of Education, the STEM Action and many more boards. Dr. Hill's service to Idaho is felt across many agencies and boards.

The Council unanimously voiced their appreciation for Dr. Hill's support of the IGEM program and the State of Idaho. Rick Stott, Director Tom Kealey, among others expressed their gratitude and appreciation of Dr. Hill's assistance.

The Governor's office has been notified to select a new State Board of Education representative to serve on the Council. Likewise, the Governor will also need to select a new Council Chair. The "business at large" candidate has been identified and is awaiting final approval from the Governor's office.

Carmen thanked Rick Stott for leading today's unprecedented meeting.

Carmen shared updates on IGEM industry partners.

Pitch Aero, an IGEM industry partner, has secured an SBIR award with the Dept. of Agriculture. Pitch Aero is working with Idaho Power on installing reflective bird diverters on power lines via their cyclorotor drone.

Sean Luangrath, CEO of Inergy, an IGEM industry partner, showcased their new solar inverter at the Idaho Technology Council's Capital Connect Conference. IGEM helped to develop this new inverter with assistance from UI.

Carmen shared that she and her colleague, Jerry Miller, were both recognized by the Idaho Business Review in April in their "Power List: Money Makers-Idaho's Financial Leaders". Although Carmen does not come from a banking or financial advising background, Alx Stevens from IBR stated that input from leaders across the Treasure Valley complimented her knowledge of financial resources and programs, especially her ability in guiding clients to the right funding sources for their business needs and building strong partnerships. Due to this, she was recognized by the IBR.

Carmen thanked the Council for their ongoing support of the program.

Carmen has contacted the Universities to identify application deadlines for the upcoming 2024 fiscal year. Once these dates have been solidified, Carmen will send out a Doodle poll for IGEM Council and Investment Subcommittee meetings.

Public Comments – Rick Stott, Lead

None

Action Items – Rick Stott, Lead

None

Discussion returned to UI APP #5768. Although Dr. Glenn was in contact with Carmen via text, she never returned to the public meeting. Rick noted that since the vote ended in a tie, there wasn't a majority of the votes approving the motion so the motion did not move forward.

Action Item: Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Tom Kealey

Seconded: Juan Carlos Duque

All in favor, no discussion.

Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned by Rick Stott at 11:26 a.m.