

Board Phone Meeting  
November 6, 2014

**November 6, 2014  
Phone Board Meeting  
10:00 a.m.**

**Board Members**

**Attending:** Marty Connell, Chairman  
Robert Bargatze  
Jim Davison  
Larry Farrar  
John Youngberg

**Others**

**Attending:** Dave Desch, Executive Director  
Rebecca Ziegler, Program Specialist, SBDC Bureau  
Cindy Orser, Research Program Director, Office of Commissioner of  
Higher Education  
Sean Becker, Administrator, Business Resources Division, Department of  
Commerce

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Marty Connell called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Sean Becker introduced himself as the new Administrator for Business Resources at the Department of Commerce. Sean stated that the Department supports increased funding for the program.

Rebecca Ziegler is filling in for Jane Todd to take minutes.

Cindy Orser has been the Research Program Director for the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education since May 2014. She oversees large research programs in the state.

**II. Approve Board Minutes of September 25, 2014, Meeting**

It was moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2014, Board meeting. The motion was seconded. All in favor and no one opposed, the minutes were adopted as presented.

**III. Election of Chairman**

Larry Farrar moved to reappoint Marty Connell as Chairman for the coming year. Jim Davison seconded the motion. All in favor and there were none opposed. Marty Connell was elected chairman for another year.

**IV. Executive Director's Report**

1) Budget

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a) FY2014 Budget – Mr. Desch discussed a number of items in the FY2014 Budget, including the program’s starting balance, revenues, expenditures and cash position. The Food and Agricultural Development program at the Montana Department of Agriculture had access to \$300,000 out of the program’s budget. The administrative cost of running the MBRCT program was \$212,700.

b) Current Year Budget – July through October, 2014- administrative expenditures to date are about \$61,000.

2) Clean Coal/Renewable Energy Projects – The spreadsheet tracks the 30% statutory requirement. In the last funding round, the board made the determination that there were no qualified projects for funding.

3) Commercialization Successes – Staff has developed a worksheet as a tool to track commercialization successes. There are currently 53 commercialization successes. This is an important metric used in brochures, on the website, and in discussions regarding the value of the program.

4) Follow-on Funding by Project – 73 projects have attracted \$500,000 or more in follow-on funding.

5) Follow-on Funding – This spreadsheet tracks money that has come in to a project after it has received funding by MBRCT. This is an important metric that has been kept since the beginning of the program. The cumulative follow-on funding number for FY2014 is \$345 million. These numbers formed the basis for the Economic Impact Report generated by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research in March of 2014.

4) Report Summaries – Progress report summaries and final report summaries were presented to the Board. Complete Final Reports were included in the Board packet.

## **V. Discussion of Upcoming Legislative Session**

Dave Desch informed the Board that prior to the meeting, Doug Mitchell, Department Deputy Director, stated that a request for an increase in the Board’s funding will be included in the Governor’s budget. The Board discussed the need for a strategy to assist with the effort to obtain an increase in funding for the program.

A Rotunda poster session for MBRCT projects is scheduled for February 10, 2015. The Montana BioScience Alliance will also be represented at the poster session.

## **VII. Set Time and Date for Next Meeting**

Staff will poll the Board regarding a meeting in March, 2015.

## **VIII. Public comment**

Cindy Orser stated that she has attended the Innovation and Technology, and Manufacturing Key Industry Network meetings that are a part of the Main Street Montana Project. Attendees at these meetings have expressed support for MBRCT.

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**IX. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Marty Connell thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Martin Connell Chairman