

Minutes of the COMPRES Executive Committee Meeting, May 8, 2020

Present: Carl Agee (President), Andy Campbell (Chair), Przemek Dera (Vice Chair), Anat Shahaar, Tom Sharp, Heather Watson, Mark Rivers (Facilities Committee), Suki Dorfman (EOID Committee).

Absent: none

Agenda Friday, May 8, 12:45 PM CDT

2:45 CDT Approval minutes from April 10, 2020 (in Dropbox) (Andy)

12:50 Year-4 budget update (Carl)

1:10 Annual Meeting update (Carl)

1:25 Nominations Committee update (Carl)

1:30 CORES Decadal Survey for NSF EAR (Carl)

1:40 Other business

1:45 PM Adjourn

Minutes

12:45 CDT Approval minutes from April 10, 2020 (in Dropbox) (Andy)

Anat moved to approve the minutes from April 10 ExComm meeting. Heather seconded. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

12:50 Year-4 budget update (Carl)

Carl gave an update of the year-4 budget submission process. NSF is scrutinizing unobligated funds visible in the NSF cash management ledger for the COMPRES Cooperative Agreement. COMPRES verified that a large part of the apparent surplus is obligated and transactions are not yet processed and thus not visible in the NSF cash management ledger. However, owing to beamline scientist vacancies at ALS and APS, real budget surpluses have accumulated during year-3. NSF requested a plan to liquidate the year-3 surplus before year-4 funds would be released. Accordingly, Carl asked the subaward PIs to prepare spending plans to reduce the surplus. These mainly involved capital equipment purchases and the new diversity plan. After further discussions with NSF, equipment purchases were approved, however the diversity plan for year-4 was not approved because of COVID-19 restrictions. NSF also asked COMPRES to remove all travel items and Participant Support from the budget request due to the COVID-19 restrictions. All subaward and the Central office budgets were revised and travel costs removed. In the event that travel and large gathering restrictions are lifted in year-4, Carl will request a budget supplement for travel and Participant Support. A year-4 start date of July 1, 2020 is anticipated.

1:05 Annual Meeting update (Carl)

The travel restriction status remains in force and it is not likely that the annual meeting will happen in the fall. The situation is particularly serious in NY state. The conference center where the meeting was planned to take place has been non-responsive. Mark suggested that an announcement needs to be made soon to COMPRES membership. Tom suggested holding a one day meeting including business session and science session. Carl has been thinking about

holding such meeting on July 9 (the date when the original business meeting was supposed to take place). The science session and keynote talk (probably just one) need to be decided. Facility reports are also important to include. The time zone differences need to be taken into account for scheduling to enable full participation of members from different geographic locations.

1:25 Nominations Committee update (Carl)

Jay Bass is chairing, The EOID committee will have a large rotation, there are concerns about institutional memory. The election voting may need to take place over email. This option is not described in bylaws but may need to be resorted to because of the emergency situation.

1:30 CORES Decadal Survey for NSF EAR (Carl)

Steve Jacobsen represents mineral physics on this effort for NSF EAR. The report will be released on May 20, and there will be an accompanying webinar. A specific mention of the 5000 ton press is going to be included as one of the top priorities.

1:40 Other business

APS, as is whole Illinois, is on lockdown until the end of the month. On June 1 APS goes into a 10-day shutdown. APS will start run 2020-2 on June 10. At first, one beam line scientists will be allowed on site. Only mail-in remote experiments will be possible with one beam line scientist on the floor for each beamline.

1:45 PM Adjourn