

CHECRA MEETING MINUTES

Name:	CHECRA Board Meeting		
Minutes Prepared by:	Inta Morris, interim CHECRA secretary		
Date of Meeting:	10/9/2023, 2pm	Location:	Virtual / online

Attendees

- **Board members:** Massimo Ruzzene (University of Colorado), Jeri Lyons (University of Northern Colorado), Angie Paccione (Colorado Department of Higher Education)
- **Others:** Meghan Suter (for Board CSU Board member Christa Johnson); Tricia Johnson (Deputy Executive Director, CDHE); Ian Boyce (Controller, CDHE); Colisse Franklin (University of Colorado Boulder); Inta Morris (CDHE Consultant and interim CHECRA secretary)

Agenda Items and Discussion

- Angie Paccione called the meeting to order at 2:05.

Approval of minutes from February 10, 2023

- Jeri Lyons moved and Massimo Ruzzene seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Election of Chair

- Board members voted to have Angie Paccione serve as Chair for one year.

Project and Funding Updated

- Inta Morris shared a spread sheet showing CHECRA projects and commitments, CHECRA'S financial status, and the outlook for 2024. That spreadsheet, which includes a

placeholder of \$300,000 for MRI payments in 2023, shows a projected balance at the end of calendar year 2023 of \$1.4 million.

- Massimo Ruzzene reminded the board that the National Science Foundation no longer requires cost shares on MRIs, and that board members should discuss whether the \$300,000 placeholder would be better used on other projects for which institutions require financial contributions.

- Massimo Ruzzene also reminded board members that CHECRA had approved a commitment for a cost share of \$500,000 per year for 10 years for the CO-WY NSF Regional Innovations Engine. He noted that Colorado is one of 16 finalists and therefore has a good chance at this very significant award. He suggested that if Colorado were successful, CHECRA should use it to seek additional funding from the legislature so that the \$500k does not come out of the current \$2.1million annual allocation to CHECRA.
- Ian Boyce will provide a summary of limited gaming revenue (from which CHECRA receives its funding) as background for this potential funding increase request.
- Inta Morris will update the spreadsheet with the information about MRIs and the Engines commitmen.
- Angie Paccione suggested that CHECRA consider providing the legislature with information about CHECRA's contributions to Colorado (in addition to the annual report the Department submits on CHECRA's behalf to the joint education committee).

Other possible CHECRA projects

- Massimo Ruzzene noted that CU is seeking a grant for a cleanroom facility, however this project is still in early stages.
- Inta Morris will contact all institutions to inquire about any pending MRI or other requests.
- CHECRA processes: Inta Morris said that CDHE is working on updating forms and processes and will send information to all CHECRA representatives in the coming weeks.

Adjourn

- Angie Paccione adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm

Action Items/Tasks:

- Inta Morris to share revised funding spreadsheet
- Ian Boyce to provide information about limited gaming revenue
- Inta Morris to request from all board members a list of potential CHECRA funding requests
- CDHE to provide updated forms and processes for all members (and others) to use in seeking CHECRA funding
- Next meeting (date TBD) to include
 - Discussion of whether to reallocate \$300K MRI allocation to other projects
 - Board to continue discussion of potential request to state for additional funds (\$500K for Engines, if awarded)
 - Board to discuss possible "Research Day at the Capitol" in 2024 legislative session.