

# USRRL Meeting Minutes 1-29-2025

**Attendees:** Andrew Fry, Steve Ellis, John Moorehead, Lauren Huntsman, Erin Rothwell, and Elizabeth Canwell.

Emy Lesofski (excused), Lynn Sitterud (excused), and Jefferson Moss (excused)

The meeting covered several key topics. The board approved the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting. They discussed the Seerstone DOE proposals, focusing on a \$16 million grant for a reactor converting CO<sub>2</sub> to carbon products, requiring 1000 sq. ft. and 285 kW. Concerns were raised about the lack of detailed contract information and the need for a clear rate structure for facility usage. The Utah Innovation Fund NSF engine grant proposal was presented, emphasizing statewide energy and electrification efforts. The board agreed to write a letter of collaboration but requested more detailed proposals before committing resources. The New Cube SBIR phase one proposal was approved, with phase two details to be finalized later.

## Action Items

- [ ] Schedule an additional board meeting in February to discuss the Curio proposal.
- [ ] Develop a process for reviewing and approving proposals and letters of support/collaboration.
- [ ] Watch the annual training YouTube video.
- [ ] Provide the updated contract details for the Sears Alone DOE proposal at the next meeting.

## Outline

### Approving agenda for meeting with 6 attendees.

- Minutes approved from 1-29-2025 meeting. Andrew, Steve, John, Lauren, Erin, and Elizabeth all voted YES.

### Sears DOE proposals

- A \$16 Million grant for a carbon dioxide reactor project.
- Lauren expresses concerns about the project's approval and the need for a clear contract.
- Approving project, concerns about power installation and lab oversight.

- Randall wants to discuss the \$16 million grant for converting carbon dioxide to carbon products, which includes a reactor setup with 1000 square feet and 285 kilowatts continuous power.
- There are questions about the engineering design and reactor setup, and the potential for a nuclear reactor in the same location.
- Board members would like more detail on the proposals before they take a vote on the matter.
- Board members voted to defer the matter until the next meeting.
- Andrew, Steve, John, Lauren, Erin, and Elizabeth all voted YES.

### **Involving research center in reactor project despite award already given to SeerStone.**

- Jeremy: Seeking clarity on Utah San Rafael Energy Lab involvement in Randy's reactor project.
- Randy: Comments on timing of board meeting to discuss center's involvement in project.

### **Contract renegotiation for nuclear reactor project.**

- Unknown Speaker discusses renegotiating DOE grant for nuclear reactor project in San Rafael, Utah.
- Speaker seeks clarity on contract terms, including hourly rates and task responsibilities.

### **Proposal for facility development with safety concerns and funding.**

- Unknown Speaker: Discusses need for concrete finality on vote, potential conflicts with board.
- Andrew: Raises questions, supports proposal but needs more details for accurate support.

### **Deferring decision on lab proposal due to lack of information.**

- Lauren and Aaron discuss deferring a decision on a project due to lack of information.

### **Statewide initiative to develop AI-driven energy and electrification solutions.**

- James Campbell, Director of Innovation Sustainability at Rocky Mountain Power, discusses Utah AI-driven energy and electrification engines.
- Engine aims to create coordinated, optimized systems for energy generation, storage, transmission, and end use.
- Focus on commercialization and workforce development to increase wealth in Utah communities, particularly in carbon and Emery counties.

## **Electrification project proposal for NSF funding, including budget and AI considerations.**

- Unknown Speaker seeks letter of collaboration from Yale Center for NSF grant proposal.
- James Campbell: First 2 years have a small budget for staff, R&D, and stakeholder groups.
- James Campbell: After year 2, big dollars start coming in for commercialization.
- Unknown Speaker cautions against inadequate AI investigator quality and research security in proposed projects.

## **Letter of collaboration for energy research project.**

- Unknown Speaker seeks clarity on letter of collaboration for energy center project.
- San Rafael Center Pls (including James and Betsy) dedicate efforts to develop the ecosystem.
- Letter of collaboration requests 10% of time for project participation.

## **Letter of support for research center, potential commitment of resources.**

- Jeremy: Seeks clarity on letter of support for energy center project.
- Andrew: Agrees with the approach of expressing intent to participate, with details to come.

## **Letter of intent and grant proposals for research projects.**

- Jeremy seeks approval for grant proposal, faces challenges due to previous grant's rejection.
- Unknown Speaker: Proposal development teams should have board member involvement for support letters (10)
- Unknown Speaker: Board members should assess proposals, bringing issues to the group for decision (15)

## **Deferring proposals due to lack of time, including deferring review of MOU and including the team in a phase one SBIR**

- Board members discuss deferring proposal review due to lack of quorum, with some in favor and others opposed.
- appreciates provided MOU, wants legal review.
- Unknown Speaker moves to include team in phase one SBIR proposal.