

MINUTES
Approved by the Committee
Joint Millennium Fund Committee
Monday, January 11, 2016
9:00 A.M.
EW20
Boise, Idaho

Members present were Co-Chair Representative Hartgen; Representatives Wood, Anderst, King; and Co-Chair Senator Lodge, Senators Johnson, Martin, Schmidt, and Ward-Engelking. Representative Erpelding was absent and excused. Jared Tatro and Margaret Major provided staff support.

Others in attendance were Dr. Ryan Lindsey, Dr. Valerie Steffen, and Dr. Hummel (via Phone).

Chairman Lodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and briefed the committee members on the purpose of the meeting: to discuss additional information on the new grant application that would provide analysis and evaluation on the history and success of the programs funded from the Millennium Fund. Chairperson Lodge then asked **Jared Tatro**, Principal Budget & Policy Analyst to provide additional details.

Mr. Tatro provided an overview to the committee on the additional information they received from the three Evaluation-Grant applicants. This information included: 1) If the applicant could have the report completed by next December; 2) If the costs would increase to meet that timeline; 3) If the applicants could provide references and previously completed work; and 4) If the applicant had a "tool" or could create a "tool" that could be used to better select applicants.

Chairperson Lodge opened the meeting for discussion.

Senator Schmidt asked about the purchasing procedures and wanted to be sure the committee wasn't violating any of the procurement laws. Mr. Tatro responded that Title 67, Chapter 18, Idaho Code, allows the committee to evaluate the requested use of funds and to make recommendations on the use of the funds and therefore would not violate any procurement laws.

Representative Hartgen asked Idaho State University about any relationship between ISU in the request for evaluation work and as an applicant for a traditional grant? Dr. Lindsey responded that there are no conflicts as ongoing funding for ISU staff and that their request will all be done in-house, without outside vendors. Dr. Hummel also responded with a similar answer.

Senator Schmidt asked about how the committee can do its job better, but possibly not in the current method and maybe a new approach is needed. Dr. Lindsey stated that they have already done some research and if they receive the award they could provide options for the committee.

Representative King asked if Dr. Hummel has ever created a similar tool to what he is proposing. Dr. Hummel said yes, he has worked with similar data and this evaluation tool would align with his previous work. Representative King then asked if Dr. Steffen has ever created a similar tool to what he is proposing. Ms. Steffen said yes, they have developed user-friendly tools using meta-analysis research.

Representative Erpelding asked about issuing a full RFP on this. Representative Wood then added that he is probably not qualified to "pick a winner" on this and felt that the committee should work with the Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE) and have OPE look them over to make a recommendation on which entity to select. Senator Lodge reiterated the comments made by Representative Wood. Senator Schmidt indicated that he is also struggling with this and felt that maybe the committee is asking for help to function better. He added that fundamentally the committee is performing an executive branch function. Representative Hartgen felt that the committee is overanalyzing the issue, and agreed with Representative Wood to have OPE look at

the applications. Representative King also indicated her struggles with deciding and added that the legislature should be increasing the costs of cigarettes and appropriating the money directly to Health and Welfare or another state entity. Representative Anderst also echoed earlier comments on the difficulty in deciding a best applicant, but added that the analysis and oversight of the fund is the purpose of the committee.

Representative Wood moved to postpone any decision today and to have OPE evaluate the applications and report back to the committee on which entity should be selected. Representative Wood added that the members needed to make themselves available for comment and questions. Senator Schmidt seconded the motion. Representative Anderst asked if additional guidelines should be added to ensure OPE knows what to do. Representative Wood was open to suggestions, but felt that the communication with OPE would suffice. The motion passed.

Mr. Tatro updated the committee that Mr. Rakesh Mohan, Director of OPE, is willing to do the requested work and that he would be in touch with committee members. Mr. Tatro reminded the committee of upcoming dates relevant to the committees outstanding work. Chairperson Lodge thanked the applicants and committee members for their work and indicated she would be in touch soon to schedule another meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 AM.