

**Minutes of the Research, Economic Development, & Innovation Committee**  
**University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents**  
**UW-Stevens Point**  
**October 9, 2014**

Chairman Higgins convened the meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) Committee at 10:45 a.m. Regents Behling, Bradley, Farrow, Hall, and Pruitt were present.

**a. Approval of the Minutes of the August 21, 2014 Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee**

Chairman Higgins asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2014, REDI Committee meeting. Motion was made by Regent Pruitt and seconded by Regent Bradley to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Review and Feedback on the October 2 REDI Committee Orientation and Planning Session**

The REDI Committee conducted a half-day meeting on October 2 to review progress relative to its multi-year Strategic Road Map planning effort. The REDI Committee conducted an orientation and planning session to review progress to date, including the infusion of \$22.5 million in economic development incentive grants, the attraction of an additional \$4.5 million of industry matching contributions, the launch of Ideadvance for innovative start-ups with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), the recapitalization of WiSys, and the introduction of the UW System Regent Scholar Grant program.

The Committee affirmed its intent to continue to foster and support initiatives that offer opportunities for additional policy and program support that generate strong faculty and student connections with business and industry.

Chairman Higgins asked if any of the participants had any comments about the results of the October 2 meeting. There were no questions or comments from the participants. Chairman Higgins concluded by noting that all participants have been asked to complete an electronic evaluation survey to give feedback on the orientation and planning session. He stated that he had already received several responses and that the responses are generally positive reactions to the session, and that respondents have been constructively critical.

**c. Update and Strategic Review of UW-Stout Discovery Center Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Activities – Led by Randy Hulke, Executive Director, Discovery Center**

UW-Stout Discovery Center Executive Director Randy Hulke reviewed the Center's successes over the past five years since start-up, including the administration of \$36 million in grants and

contracts and an additional \$139 million in client-reported impacts from collaborative industry projects. He also outlined the next phase strategic plan for the Center and discussed its alignment with REDI Committee initiatives.

The presentation discussed the next-phase strategic plan that focuses on fostering innovative discoveries to advance knowledge, applying research to solve real-world challenges and facilitating technology transfer to bolster Wisconsin industry. The presentation concluded with a summary of prior accomplishments, outlined the next phase strategic plan, and discussed the Center's alignment with UW-Stout's strategic direction and REDI Committee initiatives.

**d. Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) –Update on Programs and Partnerships – Led by WEDC Vice President of Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

WEDC's Vice President of Entrepreneurship & Innovation Lisa Johnson provided an update on WEDC efforts to collaborate with the UW System and state businesses to accelerate product commercialization efforts, support the continued growth and expansion of the WEDC/UW Ideavance initiative, and foster increased innovation at campus locations statewide.

**e. UW-Stevens Point Presentation on Building Prosperous Communities through Research, Collaboration, and Innovation**

UW-Stevens Point officials highlighted campus initiatives in the areas of economic development and business collaboration. Faculty and staff also provided an update on partnerships and progress resulting from UW System Economic Development Incentive Grant program initiatives under way in the areas of paper science, sustainable biotechnologies, and innovation in the aquaculture and aquaponics industries.

The following joined Chancellor Bernie Patterson to provide additional information on these initiatives:

- David Eckmann, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Economic Development
- Paul Fowler, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology
- Professor Karyn Biasca, Chair, Paper Science and Engineering
- Professor Eric Singaas, Director of Research for the Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology
- Professor Chris Hartleb, Professor of Fisheries Biology, Director Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility & Aquaponic Innovation Center

Chairman Higgins adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.