

**HSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Minutes of March 16, 2022**

**WSU Spokane Academic Building, #501 – 3 PM**

**Members Present:** Jason Thackston, Board Chair; Allison Glasunow, Finance Chair; Kevin Oldenburg, Grants Chair; Daryll DeWald, Darryl Potyk, Dave Vachon and Frank Velázquez

**Members Absent:** Carla Cicero and Mike Wilson

**Staff Present:** Susan Ashe, Executive Director; Laura McAloon, Consulting Attorney; Gaylene Lewin, Consulting Accountant

**Guests**: Katrina Rodgers, Katrina Rodgers Consulting and Evergreen Bioscience Innovation Cluster; Stacia Rasmussen, Life Sciences Spokane Business Development, Manager, Greater Spokane Incorporated; Gary Ballew, VP, Economic Development, GSI; Michaele Armstrong, sp3NW

1. **Call to Order**

Jason Thackston, Board Chair, established a quorum, invited guests to introduce themselves, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at about 3:05 PM.

1. **Board Actions**
2. Frank Velázquez made a motion to approve the December 15, 2021 Board meeting minutes, and Allison Glasunow seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the December minutes.
3. Kevin Oldenburg moved to match an SBIR Phase I grant for $255,750 from the National Science Foundation to Quadralynx, Inc. for its research on a biofeedback system for adults with Parkinson’s disease. Darryl Potyk seconded the motion and it passed with one abstention by Daryll DeWald.
4. David Vachon moved and Darryl Potyk seconded a motion to accept a Grants Committee’s recommendation to extend an HSSA grant to 2nd Sight Bioscience from 1.3.22 to 4.3.22 at no cost. The motion passed with one abstention by Kevin Oldenburg.
5. David Vachon moved and Darryl Potyk seconded a motion to approve a six-month no-cost extension on an HSSA grant to the WSU Spokane Steve Gleason Institute for Neuroscience. Daryll DeWald abstained.
6. **Board Chair’s Report**

The Chair asked and received approval of the December 15, 2021 minutes. Jason reported that during the interim he signed warrants and where necessary, Dave Vachon provided a second signature, for which Jason thanked him.

Jason then introduced Katrina Rodgers, Katrina Rodgers Consulting and Evergreen Bioscience Innovation Cluster, and Stacia Rasmussen, Greater Spokane Incorporated. They presented on the newly formed Evergreen Bioscience Innovation Cluster, created to help make the Washington State and the Intermountain Northwest a magnet for companies providing and consuming expert life and health science contract research, development, and manufacturing services of medicines and medical devices, by enhancing workforce development and services to pharmaceutical and medical devices companies. The group recently received a $500,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

The Executive Director referred Board members to their packets for the written report and highlighted key upcoming events.

1. **Finance Committee Report**

Allison Glasunow presented a summary of 2021 finances that stated that operating expenses were below the 10% maximum at 5.8%, largely due to the pandemic, a 14% increase in revenue between 2020 and 2021, and that operating expenditures were $31,000 below budget. In 2022 year-to-date financials, operating expenses remained low at about 5%, a small remittance from Spokane County was provided to HSSA on interest earnings in 2021 sales tax remittance for the first two months of the year was 15% greater than the same period last year.

1. **Grants Committee Report**

HSSA Grants Chair Kevin Oldenburg held a 1 PM Grants Committee meeting on February 24, 2020. The Zoom meeting was attended by Oldenburg, Mike Wilson, and Dave Vachon. Frank Velázquez was unable to attend due to a conflict. The meeting was held to discuss a matching grant proposal by Quadralynx, Inc. for $255,750. The company’s President, Dr. Mark VanDam, proposed the match after his company won an SBIR Phase I grant from the National Science Foundation for its “biofeedback system for adults with Parkinson’s disease.”

There are >1.5 million Americans with diagnosed with Parkinson’s, and of that 3,168 residents of Spokane County and 4,542 residents in Spokane-Coeur d’Alene Combined Statistical Area have been diagnosed with the disease. Over 71% will experience speech and language pathologies, of which the most significant is low-amplitude or “quiet speech.”

Quadralynx’s innovation is a wearable biofeedback device that takes advantage of 1) advances in miniaturization, durability, and overall cost of micro-electronics and biometric sensors; 2) availability, extensibility, and portability of general-purpose software; 3) algorithms and computational modelling of speech science adapted from artificial intelligence/machine learning, natural language processing and automatic speech recognition technologies. This is packaged to meet the needs of individual patients.

HSSA Grants Committee unanimously proposes to the full Board that it matches the Quadralynx $255,850 NSF grant from its SBIR/STTR matching grant fund, and Oldenburg made the motion, Darryl Potyk seconded the motion and Daryll DeWald abstained. The motion was approved.

In addition two grant extensions were moved and approved. They were for the WSU Gleason Institute for Neuroscience for six-month grant and moved by Dave Vachon and seconded by Darryl Potyk, with Daryll DeWald seconding the motion. An extension from 1.3.22 to 4.3.11 was moved by Dave Vachon and seconded by Darryl Potyk and approved with the abstention of Kevin Oldenburg.

1. **Legal Report**

Counsel Laura McAloon said that HSSA needs to follow up with Spokane County on its letter requesting the County extend the .02 sales tax through the state-approved 15-year legislature-approved time frame.

1. **Executive Session**

Jason Thackston called an Executive Session for Board members , the Executive Director and legal counsel at 4:08 PM for 20 minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30 110(1)(g).

1. **Adjournment**

Jason Thackston adjourned the Executive Session at 4:30 PM, called the Board Meeting back into session and promptly adjourned with no additional business conducted.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS for REMAINING 2022 Meeting Dates:**

**June 15, 2022**

**September 21, 2022**

**December 21, 2022**

(The HSSA Board reserves the right to change a meeting date with proper notice).