



**CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS**

**Minutes**

**November 1, 2013**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting of the Oversight Committee of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) was called to order by Interim Chair Pete Geren on Friday, November 1, 2013 at 9:25 AM, at the Texas State Capitol Extension, Room E1.012 in Austin, Texas.

**2. Roll Call /Excused Absences**

Roll call conducted by Kristen Doyle, CPRIT General Counsel,

Committee Members Present:

Angelos Angelou

The Honorable Pete Geren

Gerry Geistweidt

Ned Holmes

Amy Mitchell

Cynthia Mulrow

William Rice

Craig Rosenfeld

**3. Oath of Office**

Interim Chair Geren recognized Interim Executive Director Wayne Roberts to administer the oath of office.

Oath administered to all members.

**4. Election of Officers**

Interim Chair Geren stated that the election of officers would be postponed until the full committee has been appointed.

**5. Adoption of Minutes from February 25, 2013 meeting**

Interim Chair Geren called for a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes.

Motion to suspend the reading of the minutes made by Mr. Angelou, and seconded by Mr. Holmes.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Interim Chair Geren called for discussion or corrections to the minutes as written. Hearing none, the chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2013 Oversight Committee Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2013 Oversight Committee as written made by Dr. Rice, and seconded by Mr. Geistweidt.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **6. Executive Director Report**

Interim Chair Geren recognized Mr. Roberts to provide the Executive Director's Report.

### ***Legislative Wrap-Up***

- Mr. Roberts stated that SB 149, enacted during the last legislative session, was a major restructure of CPRIT. He expressed gratitude to all members of the Texas Legislature and their staffs for the help and counsel they provided during the legislative session. He gave particular recognition to Senator Jane Nelson and Representative Jim Keffer for the work they did during the legislative session. Mr. Roberts stated that he would like to invite both to a future meeting so they can provide their insight and perhaps some guidance to the Oversight Committee.
- Mr. Roberts reported that legislation was passed creating a sinking fund that was to be applied toward paying the debt on bonds issued for grant awards. He stated it was passed but will not be enacted due to another law related to Funds Consolidation. This generally relates to certification of the appropriations bill. Mr. Roberts recommended that the agency request reconsideration of this action when preparing the budget request next spring.

Mr. Roberts stated that monies received from royalties and Product Development grants go into the general revenue fund instead of the new sinking fund. However, a detailed record is kept on these receipts and CPRIT will keep detailed records for future reference. To date, CPRIT has received \$433,000 in royalties from several companies that have received awards.

### ***Biennial Legislative Spending Restrictions***

Mr. Roberts reported that CPRIT received full funding of \$300 million per year from biennial appropriations for years 2014-2015; however the agency will operate under several new spending restrictions. He explained that spending restrictions frequently appear after a state agency experiences real or perceived operational or fiscal difficulties. The new restrictions are:

1. Authority to carry forward issued but unused bond proceed balances from one biennia to the next was eliminated.
2. Authority to carry forward balances from the first year of the biennium (2014) to the second year (2015) was eliminated.
3. Transfers between line items of appropriations without approval by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) are prohibited.
4. CPRIT is prohibited from entering into contracts in excess of \$100,000 without approval by the LBB.

5. CPRIT must work with the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) to find state-owned space in lieu of lease facilities by December 31, 2013.

#### ***Audit Implementation Plan***

Mr. Roberts stated that the State Auditor report issued in January cited 41 deficiencies in agency operations. The report stated that although good processes were in place, CPRIT had failed to document those processes in certain instances. Mr. Roberts explained that CPRIT immediately and unequivocally agreed to implement all recommendations and has developed an implementation plan that is posted on the CPRIT website. A majority of the audit recommendations are addressed through changes to CPRIT's administrative rules, including the adoption of proposed new rules.

Mr. Roberts advised that with the final approval of proposed administrative rules and rule changes, most likely in January 2014, CPRIT will be well on the way to implementing all of the State Auditor's recommendations.

Mr. Roberts concluded that the audit had helped CPRIT and, in his opinion, the way that CPRIT staff and the previous Oversight Committee approached implementing the findings. CPRIT viewed the reports and insights as a valuable tool for improving operations.

#### ***Summary of CPRIT Activities during the Moratorium - 2012 Annual Report***

Mr. Roberts explained that he is not satisfied with the current format of CPRIT's statutorily-required annual report as it has been written in the past. Two report elements have not been included in the 2012 report: an assessment of the relationship between grants and the overall strategy of the research program and a statement of its research and financial plans. Mr. Roberts reported that these two elements have not been addressed in previous reports because there are no benchmark measurement points from which to provide this kind of analysis. Legislative changes now require the Oversight Committee to discuss prioritization between CPRIT's Research, Prevention and Product Development Programs. He pointed out that this provision should provide those benchmarks for each of the three programs. Mr. Roberts indicated that he envisions the Annual Report as a one-source document to answer general questions frequently received. Staff should be able to predict information wanted by the public and include the information in the Annual Report as well as on the website that may be updated quarterly, as appropriate.

#### ***Summary of CPRIT Activities during the Moratorium - Withdrawing and Returning Grant Proposals***

The freeze on grants that were ready to be finalized also affected applications that were in various stages of review when the moratorium was initiated. Mr. Roberts reported that applications for the most recent product development and scientific research cycles were administratively withdrawn by CPRIT and returned to the applicants because the submission date was close to the imposition of the moratorium and CPRIT had not yet begun the review process. On the other end of the spectrum, product development proposals from FY2012 Cycle 3 were administratively withdrawn due to concerns about the "freshness" of the applicants' business and research plan. Mr. Roberts stated that the FY2012 Cycle 3 applications had been submitted in March of 2012 and were pending a final decision for well over a year at the time CPRIT withdrew the applications. Mr. Roberts reported that one of the applications was recommended for funding by the Commercialization Review Council. He stated that he had

exercised his statutory discretion to not recommend the application for funding consideration because of the unusual circumstances and long delay between the application and final decision. Mr. Roberts indicated that the decision not to recommend the award and to withdraw the other applications was not a reflection of the merits of the applications or the expert reviewers' recommendations.

***Summary of CPRIT Activities during the Moratorium - Instituting a Reconciliation Process***

Mr. Roberts stated that CPRIT initiated a reconciliation process to allow grant recipients that were delinquent in reporting obligations the opportunity to catch up and achieve full reporting compliance. Mr. Roberts reported that the reconciliation project was successful in bringing most grant recipients into full compliance with financial and progress reporting requirements.

***Summary of CPRIT Activities during the Moratorium - Review Council Honoraria Contracts***

Mr. Roberts reported that he had executed honoraria contracts on behalf of CPRIT with CPRIT's review council members effective September 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid an interruption in the services provided by the Review Council members who have been actively engaged in the work necessary to restart the grant review process. For new Review Council members, their honoraria contracts were contingent on Oversight Committee approval of their appointments to Scientific Research and Prevention Programs committees.

***2014 Conference***

Mr. Roberts related that at the last Oversight Committee meeting held February 25, 2013, he recommended that CPRIT not hold its annual conference in 2013. He indicated that at the time he made that recommendation it was unwise to enter into a hotel contract when CPRIT had no assurance they would still be around. Mr. Roberts also felt that if the legislature chose to continue the agency, staff time and resources would be better spent ramping up CPRIT operations than hosting a conference. The Oversight Committee agreed and approved holding the next conference in October/November 2014. CPRIT staff has been working on the issue, and would like direction from the Oversight Committee regarding a conference in 2014. Mr. Roberts recommended that this item be sent to the Board Governance Committee for suggestions to the full Oversight Committee.

***Strategic Communications Contract***

Mr. Roberts advised that the current communications contract expires February 28, 2014. He reported that the contract has been valuable to the agency in its efforts to inform the public, legislature, media, health professionals, and partner organizations about CPRIT's activities. In addition, if CPRIT moves forward with a conference in 2014, this contract could help with conference planning as well as the ongoing need to provide high level internet presence to actively promote what has taken place with our awardees and to promote our Product Development Program to entice companies to relocate to Texas. Mr. Roberts recommended that this item be sent to the Board Governance Committee for consideration.

***HUB Report***

Following up on a request made at the February 25<sup>th</sup> Oversight Committee meeting by Oversight Committee member Barbara Canales, Mr. Roberts provided an overview of CPRIT's HUB report that had been provided to legislators. Mr. Roberts reported that CPRIT does not compare well to the state goals for its services component. This is largely due to one

large contract with SRA International for CPRIT's massive online grant review and management processes. That contract constitutes 55% of CPRIT's total 2012 contracts. Mr. Roberts committed to ensuring that CPRIT complies with state policy with the goal of becoming a model for state agency HUB programs. He suggested that one way CPRIT's impact could be made more evident is by tracking and working with awardees on their own HUB requirements. Each host institution will have requirements for their institutions. Mr. Roberts recommended that this issue be referred to the Diversity subcommittee.

***Other***

Mr. Roberts concluded his report to the Committee with a discussion about CPRIT's efforts to increase transparency at the agency. Mr. Roberts stated that having the Oversight Committee meetings at the Capitol extension with live streaming and an audio recording on the website within a day or two are great steps toward greater transparency. In closing, he reported that CPRIT's complex peer review process is well executed and designed. He reported that because of that a CPRIT award is prestigious. To be awarded a CPRIT grant is viewed as a significant achievement by the research community.

Interim Chair Geren acknowledged legislative staff in the audience, including Shannon Ghangurde and Jordan Dixon with Senator Jane Nelson's office and Ky Ash with Representative Jim Keffer's office. He thanked them for their support and dedication in ensuring that CPRIT fulfill its legislative purpose.

Interim Chair Geren thanked the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House on behalf of the Committee members for providing this opportunity to be a part of CPRIT's critical mission for Texas. He also thanked Mr. Roberts for his leadership, experience and the way he worked with the legislature and the new Oversight Committee members in preparing for this meeting.

Upon the Interim Executive Director's recommendation that the 2014 Conference and Strategic Communications initiative be delegated to the Board Governance subcommittee, Interim Chair Geren entertained a motion to delegate the 2014 Conference and Strategic Communications initiative to the Board Governance subcommittee. A motion was made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Mr. Holmes.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Upon the Executive Director's recommendation that HUB issues be assigned to the Diversity subcommittee, Interim Chair Geren requested a motion to delegate HUB issues to the Diversity subcommittee. The motion was made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Holmes.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. Consideration of Changes to Oversight Committee Bylaws**

Interim Chair Geren recognized Ms. Doyle to address the proposed changes to the Oversight Committee Bylaws.

Ms. Doyle stated that changes enacted by the 2013 Texas Legislature impact some provisions of the Oversight Committee Bylaws including the number of Oversight Committee members, membership and qualifications requirements, and the title for the head of the agency.

Ms. Doyle recommended that the Oversight Committee adopt the proposed changes in order to conform to state law. Ms. Doyle advised that changes to the Bylaws would be recommended by the Board Governance subcommittee in the future; however, there are currently no sitting members on that committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Angelou to adopt the amendments to the Oversight Committee Bylaws as proposed.

There being no further discussion from the Committee, the motion to adopt the amendments to the Oversight Committee Bylaws as proposed carried unanimously.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. Consideration of Changes to Code of Conduct and Ethics**

Interim Chair Geren recognized Ms. Doyle to address the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Ms. Doyle advised that the statutory changes enacted by the 2013 Texas Legislature require that the Code of Conduct and Ethics previously adopted by the Oversight Committee be revised to include, at minimum, newly enacted provisions that specifically prohibit certain activities. She reported that the newly enacted statutory provision, Health and Safety Code Section 102.109 "Code of Conduct", adds to the obligations set forth in CPRIT's current Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Ms. Doyle recommended that due to the extensive revisions required by the statute, the Oversight Committee adopt the proposed Code of Conduct and Ethics, replacing the previous version in its entirety. The proposed Code of Conduct is based upon the Office of the Attorney General's model ethics policy, revised to incorporate the additional prohibitions or requirements applicable to Oversight Committee members, CPRIT employees, and Program Integration Committee members.

A motion was made by Dr. Mulrow and seconded by Dr. Rice to adopt the proposed Code of Conduct and Ethics, replacing the previous version in its entirety.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. Subcommittee assignments**

Interim Chair Geren stated that proposed subcommittee assignments have been made with each member receiving their first choice. The proposed assignments were read for the record:

Audit Subcommittee – Angelou, Geren, Rice  
Board Governance – Geisweidt, Geren, Holmes, Mitchell  
Diversity – Mulrow and Mitchell  
Nominations – Geistweidt, Holmes, Rice, Rosenfeld  
Prevention – Geren, Mulrow, Mitchell

Scientific Research – Geistweidt and Rice  
Product Development – Angelou, Holmes, Rosenfeld

A motion was made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Mr. Holmes to approve the proposed subcommittee assignments.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Interim Chair Geren informed the Committee that there is an eighth subcommittee referenced in the Oversight Committee Bylaws. This eighth subcommittee is the Executive Committee. He referred to Ms. Doyle's memo in the agenda packet advising that the number of members on the Executive Committee be reduced due to a change in the size of the Oversight Committee. Ms. Doyle recommended that the Oversight Committee assign the issue of the appropriate number of Executive Committee members and the qualifications for membership to the Board Governance subcommittee for a recommendation.

Interim Chair Geren entertained a motion to assign the Executive Committee issues to the Board Governance subcommittee for a recommendation to be presented to the Oversight Committee for consideration.

Motion was made by Mr. Angelou and seconded by Dr. Mulrow to assign the Executive Committee issues to the Board Governance subcommittee for a recommendation to be presented to the Oversight Committee for consideration.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. Proposed Changes to Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Chapters 701, 702, 703 and 704**

Interim Chair Geren recognized Ms. Doyle to address agenda item 10, the proposed changes to CPRIT's administrative rules.

Ms. Doyle advised the Oversight Committee that significant revisions to CPRIT's administrative rules are necessary to address recently enacted legislative changes and to implement the State Auditor's recommendations.

Ms. Doyle outlined the steps necessary to approve final rule changes, explaining that once the proposed rule changes are approved by the Oversight Committee, the proposed changes will be forwarded to the *Texas Register* for publication in the November 15<sup>th</sup> edition. There will be a 30 day period following the *Texas Register* publication for interested members of the public to comment on the proposed rules and provide suggested changes. At the end of the public comment period, the proposed rules, a summary of the public input, and any recommended changes will be brought to the Oversight Committee for final approval and adoption.

Ms. Doyle reported that she expected to present a final set of the administrative rules to the Oversight Committee no earlier than January, 2014. If the final rules are approved by the Oversight Committee at an open meeting, the rules will be published as adopted in the *Texas Register* and will be considered final.

A motion was made by Mr. Angelou and seconded by Mr. Holmes to instruct staff to publish the proposed new rules and rule amendments to *Texas Administrative Code* Title 25, Chapters 701, 702, 703 and 704 in the “Rules Proposed” section of the *Texas Register* in accordance with the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. Restarting Grant Review Process**

Interim Chair Geren called on Mr. Roberts, Interim Executive Director, to discuss restarting the grant review process.

Mr. Roberts advised that CPRIT is undertaking several initiatives to restart the grant review process including reconstituting peer review committees, executing grant award contracts and preparing to release new requests for grant applications. He stated that while Oversight Committee action is not required, a vote supporting CPRIT’s plan to restart grant review is appropriate.

A motion was made by Mr. Angelou and seconded by Dr. Rice to approve CPRIT’s plan to restart the grant review process as described by Mr. Roberts.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**12. Appointments to Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committees**

Interim Chair Geren recognized Mr. Roberts and Dr. Margaret Kripke, CPRIT’s Chief Scientific Officer, to discuss the Executive Director’s appointments to the Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committees as required by the Texas Health and Safety Code Section 102.15(a).

Mr. Roberts stated that CPRIT’s statute requires the Executive Director’s appointments to be approved by the Oversight Committee. Subject to the Oversight Committee’s approval, the individuals to be considered by the Oversight Committee will serve as the chairs for CPRIT’s Scientific Research peer review panels.

Mr. Roberts reported that one of the appointees recommended for approval, Dr. Patricia Buffler, had unexpectedly passed away on September 27, 2013. He explained that Dr. Buffler was recruited by CPRIT because of her significant expertise in the field of cancer prevention research. Her appointment was effective August 20, 2013, pursuant to a signed honorarium contract. Dr. Buffler had participated in some preparatory activities including travelling to Texas to meet with Dr. Kripke and Garcia, to discuss establishing the cancer prevention research committee. Pursuant to the terms of her honorarium contract, Dr. Buffler’s appointment is not final until approved by the Oversight Committee. In order for CPRIT to reimburse her estate for the travel costs and pay a pro-rated honorarium for the work performed consistent with her CPRIT contract, it is necessary for the Oversight Committee to approve her appointment.

A motion to approve the Executive Director's appointments to the Scientific Research and Prevention Programs Committee was made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Ms. Mitchell.

Dr. Rosenfeld commented that one of the appointees, Dr. Margaret A. Tempero, was his Chief Resident when he was an intern. He stated that she was an excellent selection.

No further discussion.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**13. Honoraria Policy**

The Chair called on Mr. Roberts to discuss CPRIT's Honoraria policy.

Mr. Roberts stated that a newly adopted provision of CPRIT's enabling legislation requires that the head of the agency, in consultation with the Oversight Committee, adopt a policy regarding honoraria paid by CPRIT for peer review services. Mr. Roberts advised that the ability to pay honoraria is essential to retaining individuals with the expertise and experience to carry out the complex review process required by statute and CPRIT's administrative rules. CPRIT reviewers all live and work outside the state and are not eligible to compete for CPRIT grants. CPRIT reviewers are highly distinguished in their respective fields and bring stature to the peer review process. Mr. Roberts recommended that the Committee approve the proposed Honoraria Policy, which will be made available on CPRIT's website.

A motion to approve CPRIT's Honoraria Policy was made by Mr. Angelou and seconded by Mr. Geistweidt.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**14. Chief Operating Officer Report**

The chair recognized Heidi McConnell, CPRIT's Chief Operating Officer, to present the Chief Operating Officer's Report.

Ms. McConnell reported that in fiscal year 2013, the Legislature appropriated \$300 million in general obligation bond proceeds with a required transfer of almost \$3 million to the Department of State Health Services for the Texas Cancer Registry operations. In addition, there was an appropriation for an estimated \$16,000 in general revenue from the sale of the Texans Conquer Cancer license plates to CPRIT for fiscal year 2014.

Ms. McConnell reported that in fiscal year 2013, CPRIT's total expenditures for general agency administration, pre- and post- award administration and prevention and research grant award encumbrances, including announced grants subject to the December 2012 moratorium totaled almost \$119 million. This leaves \$181.2 million in the treasury for future appropriations by the Legislature.

CPRIT's 2014 operating budget shows appropriations of \$300 million in general obligation bond proceeds with a required transfer of almost \$3 million to the Department of State Health Services for the Texas Cancer Registry operations. An appropriation for an estimated \$16,000

in general revenue from the sale of the Texas Conquer Cancer license plates to CPRIT is also included. Subject to a request from Mr. Roberts to the Legislative Budget Board, CPRIT's budget was amended from what was published in the Appropriations Act for 2014. Ms. McConnell reported that CPRIT was able to transfer \$5 million from the prevention and research grant award line items to institution operations and grant and review operations. CPRIT's administrative overhead is 4.9%.

Ms. McConnell advised that CPRIT must submit a request for financing to the Texas Public Finance Authority to have them issue \$300 million in bond proceeds for agency operations and prevention and research grant awards. The resolution references previous-year authority to reaffirm multi-year authority to issue debt for grant awards. This reference provides confidence to the market that the Oversight Committee stands behind all of the debt that has been authorized.

Ms. McConnell requested that the Oversight Committee appoint a Secretary to sign the resolution.

Mr. Angelou asked about an item on the 2013 budget for application fees totaling \$20,000 and asked why there were none on the 2014 budget. Ms. McConnell stated that this is subject to rules yet to be implemented. CPRIT has collected application fees in the past and retains the authority to receive them as appropriated receipts pursuant to the General Appropriations Act.

Interim Chair Geren entertained a motion to authorize a request for financing for \$300 million in bond proceeds appropriated to CPRIT for its operations and prevention and research grant awards in fiscal year 2014.

A motion authorizing a request for financing for \$300 million in bond proceeds appropriated to CPRIT for fiscal year 2014 was made by Dr. Rosenfeld and seconded by Dr. Mulrow.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Interim Chair Geren entertained a motion to appoint Gerry Geistweidt to serve as the interim secretary to countersign the request for financing.

Motion made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Angelou to appoint Mr. Geistweidt to serve as the interim secretary to countersign the request for financing.

**MOTIONED CARRIED**  
**7 ayes**  
**1 abstention (Geistweidt)**

Interim Chair Geren entertained a motion to assign the Internal Audit Report for fiscal year 2013 including related audit reports and the Internal Audit Plan for fiscal year 2014 to the Audit subcommittee for a recommendation to be presented to the Oversight Committee for consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Angelou to assign the Internal Audit Report for fiscal year 2013 and the Internal Audit Plan for fiscal year 2014 to the Audit subcommittee for a recommendation to be presented to the OC for consideration

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**15. Compliance Report**

The chair recognized Ms. Doyle to present the Chief Compliance Officer's Report.

Ms. Doyle advised that due to the resignation of CPRIT's Compliance Officer, she will be serving as the interim Compliance Officer until the position is filled. She advised the Committee that they will receive a report from the Compliance Office at each Oversight Committee meeting.

Ms. Doyle reported on significant actions undertaken by CPRIT's Compliance Program since the Oversight Committee meeting held on February 25, 2013 including the Compliance Program Reports to the Oversight Committee, the crosscheck review of the CPRIT Foundation donor funds, and a compliance review of all awarded grants.

**16. Personnel Matters**

**17. Foundation**

**18. Consultation with General Counsel**

Interim Chair Geren announced that the Oversight Committee would go into closed session at 10:48 AM pursuant to Texas Open Meetings Act section 551.071 to consult with Counsel and pursuant to section 551.074 to discuss personnel issues as listed on the posted agenda, Items 16, 17 and 18. Chair Geren requested that Mr. Roberts and Ms. Doyle join the Oversight Committee in the closed session.

Interim Chair Geren reconvened the Oversight Committee in open session at 1:04 PM.

**Action Related to Agenda Items Discussed in Closed Session**

**Foundation Settlement - Item 17**

Interim Chair Geren entertained a motion to authorize the Interim Chair and the Interim Executive Director to negotiate a final agreement to resolve all issues with the CPRIT Foundation and authorize the Interim Chair to execute an agreement consistent with the terms discussed in closed session.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld authorizing the Interim Chair and the Interim Executive Director to negotiate a final agreement to resolve all issues with the CPRIT Foundation and authorize the Interim Chair to execute an agreement consistent with the terms discussed in closed session.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **Personnel Matters - Item 16**

Interim Chair Geren reported that a discussion was held in closed session regarding the hiring of a Chief Executive Officer. He stated that CPRIT's statute requires this position to be filled by December 1, 2013. In addition to the statutory qualifications, he indicated certain factors that would be important to the Oversight Committee when hiring a CEO, specifically continuity and direct experience with CPRIT, including working through the issues affecting CPRIT the past year, both internally and with the Legislature. Interim Chair Geren reported that the Oversight Committee desired to post the CEO position internally rather than a general job announcement open to the public.

Interim Chair Geren entertained a motion to post the CEO position internal to CPRIT for 10 days and for the Board Governance subcommittee to review applications, interview qualified applicants and make a recommendation to the Oversight Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Dr. Rosenfeld to post the Chief Executive Officer position internal to CPRIT for 10 days and for the Board Governance subcommittee to review applications, interview qualified applicants and make a recommendation to the Oversight Committee.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **19. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items**

Interim Chair Geren advised that the next Oversight Committee meeting will be November 22, 2013. At this time, the Committee will address issues related to CPRIT's grant programs – Prevention, Scientific Research, and Product Development, as well as the peer review process.

## **20. Public Comment**

The Chair reported that three members of the public requested the opportunity to address the Oversight Committee.

Interim Chair Geren recognized Kevin Gardner Ph.D., Professor, Departments of Biophysics and Biochemistry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and CPRIT grant recipient. Dr. Gardner testified that he was representing CPRIT basic researchers. He reported that he was first funded by CPRIT in 2010 and has made good progress with patents; but that two of his projects that received CPRIT grants in 2012 were caught up in the moratorium. Dr. Gardner advised the Committee that his comments were meant to draw attention to the moratorium's impact. He understood that the moratorium may have been necessary in the legislative process; however, cancer did not take a similar break. The disruption of stable funding created major problems. Dr. Gardner thanked Mr. Roberts and his staff for keeping them informed and for the quick response once the moratorium had been lifted. He implored the Oversight Committee to work with CPRIT staff to make sure this

never happens again. Dr. Gardner stated that what is happening here in Texas in cancer research is a national treasure.

Interim Chair Geren recognized Scott Sanders, a founding member of the CPRIT Oversight Committee. Mr. Sanders thanked the new Oversight Committee for their willingness to serve. He also thanked Mr. Roberts and the CPRIT staff for continuing the fight against cancer.

Mr. Rosenfeld requested that Dr. Gardner be asked to return to address questions Dr. Rosenfeld asked how a CPRIT grant is viewed compared to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. Dr. Gardner stated that CPRIT grants are viewed as extremely competitive and that ten applications might result in one funded grant. Speaking as a researcher, Dr. Gardner said CPRIT grants were on equal footing, if not better than, NIH. He also stated that he hears from researchers in other states who think CPRIT is innovative and they wish their own states were doing the same thing. Dr. Gardner related that he knows many people in research who are moving to Texas to be part of a CPRIT grant. Mr. Holmes thanked Dr. Gardner for his comments and expressed particular interest in his work with renal sarcoma.

The third person requesting to address the Oversight Committee was not present when called to testify.

**21. Adjourn**

As there was no further business and there was no objection, the Chair moved to adjourn this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date