IHMC Board of Directors Telecon Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2013

Roll Call
Chair Glenn Sturm

Chair’s Greetings
Chair Glenn Sturm

Action Items
1. Approval of March 5, 2013 Minutes Chair Glenn Sturm
2. Expansion Discussion Chair Glenn Sturm

Chief Executive Officer’s Report
1. IHMC Update Dr. Ken Ford
2. State Legislative Update Dr. Ken Ford

Other Items
Adjournment

IHMC Chair Glenn Sturm called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Directors in attendance included: Dick Baker, Bill Dalton, Ron Ewers, Eugene Franklin, Chris Hart, Hal Hudson, Eric Nickelsen, Alain Rappaport, Martha Saunders, Gordon Sprague, and Glenn Sturm. Also in attendance were Ken Ford, Sharon Heise, Row Rogacki, Pam Dana, Alan Ordway, Julie Sheppard, Jeff Hartley and Matt Doster.

Chair Sturm welcomed everyone that dialed in this morning commenting that it seems like we were all just together in Ocala but time goes by very quickly. He added that while this should be a brief meeting, he would like everyone to please remember to put the June meeting on your calendar and that more details will be forthcoming in mid May. For planning purposes, he stated that this would be an in person meeting in Pensacola on Sunday June 23rd with a dinner event about 5:30 p.m. followed by an in person meeting Monday June 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 central.

With those comments, Chair Sturm moved directly into the meeting asking for approval of Action Item 1, the March 5, 2013 Minutes. Director Sprague moved the minutes and this motion was seconded by Director Saunders. Hearing no objections, the motion to pass the March 5, 2013 minutes passed unanimously.

Chair Sturm introduced Agenda Item 2 stating that while IHMC is continuing to review needs for expansion, currently we are taking a slower and more conservative approach as we continue to watch things shake out in Tallahassee and Washington. Chair Sturm stated that Dr. Ford will provide more of an update in his comments and that the state lobbyists would be speaking as well about the climate in Tallahassee.

Chair Sturm then asked Dr. Ford to provide his report.

Dr. Ford thanked Chair Sturm and explained to the Board that as we are just returning from an in-depth Board meeting heavy on research and new technology, he intended to
confine his comments largely to state and federal legislative issues and outreach. However, he mentioned that there is one research project that he wanted to touch on briefly involving several IHMC Senior Research Scientists under the leadership of Dr. Sharon Heise working on developing a new collaboration with STRATCOM and George Mason University to participate in an initiative on Integrated Global Command and Control relative to national defense. Dr. Ford explained that IHMC would be exploring three areas of work including Dr. Bill Clancey working in the area of workflow design, Dr. Robert Hoffman working in the area of experiment design, and Dr. Jeff Bradshaw working on providing enabling technology. Dr. Ford stated that IHMC is very enthusiastic about this project and looking forward to working on it with Dr. Alex Levis, University Professor at George Mason who heads up the Systems Architecture Lab and is also a member of the IHMC Science Advisory Council and that more would be discussed about this project in future Board meetings.

Dr. Ford then turned to the State Legislative front, commenting that IHMC was pleased to be in the house and senate budget at $2.7M similar to this past year and that this same number is included in the Governor’s proposed budget. He added that while we are pleased with the status to date, we must not let down our guard until the budget is passed and signed and to that end, he was pleased to have Matt Doster and Jeff Hartley from Tallahassee on the phone today to provide a brief update and explain where the Board can be helpful.

Matt Doster and Jeff Hartley both thanked Dr. Ford and reiterated IHMC’s numbers in the budget and provided some brief comments on the session outlining several key legislative committees in the house and senate that would be working on the education budget. Both Matt and Jeff promised to reach out to the IHMC Directors should they need assistance with any of the staffers or legislative leaders. Dr. Ford thanked both Matt Doster and Jeff Hartley for their efforts asking them to keep up the good work. Dr. Ford then informed the Board how much he appreciates the efforts many Board members make in Tallahassee to stop by the offices of the respective Senators and Representatives to put in a strong word of support for IHMC.

Dr. Ford then turned to the federal front, explaining that things are somewhat less promising and there continues a great deal of uncertainty and that on his recent visit to Washington, he had the opportunity to meet with leaders of several agencies and they too are very uncertain about the future, making planning difficult. He commented that sequestration alone is anticipated by the university research community to reduce Federal research funding by approximately 10% and although he was unsure how they arrived at that estimate, it certainly looks like challenging times lie ahead.

Dr. Ford then mentioned that since the last Board meeting, he had a recent trip to Abu Dhabi for the EBTIC Advisory Board meeting and had the opportunity to discuss possible research collaborations with Khalifa University and that this continues to be worth exploring, especially in the robotics arena and in software and communications technology. He stated that he anticipated several UAE graduate student interns visiting IHMC this summer.
Dr. Ford also explained that IHMC also has a small but successful collaboration with the Defense Science Office in Singapore where a researcher from Singapore visited IHMC for a prolonged stay and we have had several IHMC staff, including myself, visit them. He commented that this relationship continues to be solid and Matt Johnson from IHMC will be visiting them sometime soon.

Dr. Ford then turned the discussion to the expansion explained that IHMC’s envisioned expansion would include a robotics facility, researcher offices, a public lobby and robotic viewing area, and a larger board room and executive offices. He stated that he hoped that at our June meeting that we have a firm direction and can work with the Board to pursue financing and building plans.

Dr. Ford also mentioned the prior discussion of the warehouse on Romana Street and that the IHMC Board had voted to proceed with due diligence to obtain an appraisal and cost estimates for removing the warehouse on Romano Street in order to accept the offer from West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. to obtain a long term lease for a sizeable donation to the WFHPI organization. He added that although we immediately informed the WFHPI Chair Jerry Maygarden of the Board’s intent to proceed in this manner, WFHPI withdrew its offer citing timing as the reason they could not allow time for due diligence. Dr. Ford stated that it is our current understanding that WFHPI needs to utilize the warehouse for storage and has begun a renovation of the facility to heat and cool it for artifacts currently housed in the TT Wentworth Museum and that quite frankly, this is a fine result as a major IHMC concern has been the state of disrepair of the facility and thus, the decision of the WFHPI Board to fix up the warehouse is promising.

Dr. Ford then turned the discussion to hiring noting that as summer approaches, IHMC hiring and outreach efforts seem to ramp up. He mentioned that we are receiving numerous applications daily for summer internship opportunities at both locations and are in the process of evaluating applicants and making offers.

Dr. Ford informed the Board that this past Friday, April 12th, Pensacola hosted its annual robotics open house adding that this event is associated with National Robotics month initiative and IHMC was one of 4 places in the state whose activity was advertised at the national level. He mentioned that again this year, the turnout was amazing and we are lucky to be able to share our technology with local residents.

Continuing along on the outreach discussion, Dr. Ford mentioned that Lockheed Martin has agreed to sponsor the Ocala Spring 2013 Science Saturdays for the amount of $5K and that this is their second sponsorship and their continued generosity is very much appreciated. He added that Chuck and Anne Koch also decided to sponsor the Ocala Spring 2013 Science Saturday Series for $5K and that both feel strongly about making a difference for local kids and that it is an honor to have their sponsorship.

In addition to our very successful Science Saturdays program, Dr. Ford mentioned that IHMC sponsored three teacher-training sessions in March, at the request of the Marion
County school district and the three sessions were for third, fourth, and fifth grade teachers, respectively. He stated that each session opened with a one-hour presentation about IHMC and Science Saturdays followed with a second hour that taught a hands-on activity about catapults and that these sessions were part of a larger teacher training effort that was offered by the school district with over 70 teachers participating.

Dr. Ford also mentioned that IHMC had a request from Marion Oaks Elementary School to provide a “science experience” at their school and that Row and Ursula are taking “The Gravity of it All” Science Saturday on the road on May 7th to a school too far from downtown Ocala for most of the kids to have reasonable access to Science Saturdays. He added that this school, Marion Oaks also has no funds for a field trip, thus motivating their request and that by visiting this school for a few hours, IHMC can dramatically increase our reach, as there will be 140 third grade students attending the session.

Dr. Ford then informed the Board that IHMC plans to once again host the Summer Ocala Robotics camp working with FLATE to make sure that the partnership, as we have redefined it, as win-win, and that our relationship going forward remains strong adding that the key change from last year is that there will be no fees due to FLATE, but we will continue to acknowledge them as a partner and to facilitate data collection that they and we can use to measure and assess impact.

In Pensacola, Dr. Ford remarked that we have applied for a significant grant to host a science camp for elementary school teachers to receive hands on training in simple, but fun experiments to enhance the curriculum activities in the 5th grade academic programs. We are once again gearing up for our teen summer camp initiative where we host a small group of high school students with an interest in science and programming and intern them through IHMC in summer months.

He then turned to the evening lecture series commenting that we have several lectures to finish before the Spring Lecture Series comes to an end. Dr. Ford informed the Board that in Pensacola, Lewis Von Thaer will speak on April 25th on “Cyber resiliency of DOD systems and the Need for Quick Autonomous Responses” and that the Pensacola spring season will conclude on May 31st with Peter Attia speaking on “An Advantaged Metabolic State: Human Performance, Resilience and Health”.

In Ocala, Dr. Ford informed the Board that Chuck Carlson will be returning to speak on Thursday night on “Stock Market and Investment Opportunities” sponsored by Board member Carol Carlan adding that Chuck is always a favorite and from the rsvp’s received to date, the crowd appears ready for the market forecast update. He concluded by mentioning that the Ocala Spring lectures will conclude on May 16th with a presentation by Tom Dayspring on “Understanding the Role of Cholesterol in Atherogenesis”. He mentioned that as always, please let him know if any of the speakers strike a personal interest and anyone wishes to meet them and that sponsorship of a lecture is always welcome. He concluded by mentioning that this past lecture season has been a huge success and starting in the fall, the lecture series will resume with terrific talks in Pensacola and Ocala.
Dr. Ford then thanked Chair Sturm for the opportunity to update the Board.

Chair Sturm thanked Dr. Ford and asked for any questions or new business. Hearing now, the meeting concluded at 2:50 p.m. central time.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie L. Sheppard
Corporate Secretary