

IHMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 9, 2026
8:30 a.m. CST/9:30 a.m. EST

Roll Call
Chair's Greetings

Chair William S. Dalton
Chair William S. Dalton

Action Items

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| 1. Approval of December 8, 2025, Minutes | Chair Bill Dalton |
| 2. Discussion and Approval of IHMC Financials | Chair Finance Dick Baker |
| 3. Discussion and Approval of Recusal Resolution | Chair Bill Dalton |
| 4. Board Member Nomination and Approval | Director Ron Ewers |
| 5. Nomination and Approval of New Board Chair | Chair Bill Dalton |

Chief Executive Officer's Report

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| 6. State and Federal Legislative Update | Dr. Morley Stone |
| 7. Staffing Update – New Team Members | Dr. Morley Stone |
| 8. Triumph Gulf Coast | Ryan Tilley |
| 9. Research Update | Dr. Morley Stone |
| 10. Philanthropic Update | Carol Carlan |
| 11. Community & Educational Outreach | Dr. Morley Stone |

Board Minutes:

IHMC Chair William S. Dalton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. CST. The Chair and Directors in attendance included: William S. Dalton, as Chair, and the following Directors: Dick Baker (Chair Finance), Eugene Franklin, David Bear, Eric Nickelsen, J. Mort O'Sullivan, III, Jay Patel, Gordon J. Sprague, Jim Reeves, Ray Russenberger, Wes Reeder, Ron Ewers, Manny Diaz and Glenn Sturm. Also, in attendance were representatives of IHMC: Morley Stone, Cassandra Guilliams, Ronnie Armstrong, Alan Ordway, Stephanie Tillery Rothfeder, Carol Carlan and Ryan Tilley. The Board Members not in attendance for the December meeting included: Eric Nickelsen, Jon L. Mills, and Alain Rappaport.

Chair Dalton introduced Action Item One (1) by asking whether everyone had reviewed the December 8, 2025, meeting minutes. Without discussion, Director Reeves moved to approve the minutes, with Directors Patel and O'Sullivan seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dalton then transitioned to Action Item Two (2), the discussion and approval of IHMC's financial statements, and transferred the floor to Director and Finance Chair Dick

Baker. Chair Baker presented a PowerPoint overview detailing the prior seven (7) months of IHMC's financial performance and provided context regarding IHMC's operations as a sponsored research organization, including the complexities, risks, and operational demands associated with managing a predominantly sponsored research portfolio. Chair Baker concluded his report by encouraging Board members to continue advocating for and supporting IHMC, both financially and otherwise.

Without discussion, Director Reeves moved to approve Action Item Two (2), with Directors Ewers and O'Sullivan seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dalton then transitioned to Action Item Three (3), a discussion regarding IHMC's expanding portfolio of classified and sensitive contracts and the associated oversight responsibilities mandated by the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA). Chair Dalton explained that, as IHMC continues to grow its classified and sensitive research activities, added governance and compliance obligations accompany such work. Chair Dalton then transferred the floor to Dr. Stone, who provided an overview of the applicable DCSA oversight requirements, compliance expectations, and governance responsibilities associated with managing classified and sensitive research programs.

Chair Dalton thanked Dr. Stone and transitioned to Action Item Four (4) by transferring the floor to Director Ron Ewers to formally nominate Rich Bianculli as a new member of the Board.

Director Ewers provided an introduction of Mr. Bianculli, highlighting his professional background, leadership experience, business development ability, and longstanding support of local Florida communities. Director Ewers further noted Mr. Bianculli's experience working with growth-oriented organizations and his appreciation for IHMC's mission and impact within both the research and regional economic development communities.

Without discussion, Director Reader moved to approve Mr. Bianculli's nomination to the Board, with Directors Ewers, Sprague, and O'Sullivan seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dalton then transitioned to Action Item Five (5), a personal announcement about Board leadership. Chair Dalton informed the Board that he would be stepping aside from his role as Chair of the Board effective at the close of the meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve and thanked the Board members and Dr. Stone for their continued support, collaboration, and dedication throughout his tenure as Chair.

Chair Dalton then formally nominated Wes Reeder to serve as the next Chair of the Board, effective upon the close of the meeting. Chair Dalton noted that Mr. Reeder's insight, leadership, thoughtful perspective, and commitment to IHMC's mission make him exceptionally well suited to guide the Board moving forward. Chair Dalton further expressed his confidence that Mr. Reeder would serve with integrity and vision and said that he looked forward to supporting both Mr. Reeder and the Board throughout the leadership transition in his capacity as a Board member.

Without discussion, Director Baker moved to approve Wes Reeder's appointment as Chair of the Board, with Directors Reeves, Sprague, and O'Sullivan seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon completion of all the Action Items, Chair Dalton thanked the Board and invited Dr. Stone to present his Officer's Report.

Dr. Stone thanked Chair Dalton and the Board members, for the opportunity to provide this report and for their continued support and engagement.

Before proceeding with his report, Dr. Stone recognized Chair Dalton's service as Chair of the Board. Dr. Stone noted that, during his tenure, Chair Dalton provided steady leadership and thoughtful guidance through a period of significant growth and transition for IHMC, including the expansion of both the Institute's research portfolio and campus footprint. Dr. Stone expressed appreciation for Chair Dalton's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to IHMC.

Dr. Stone further stated that, on a personal note, he especially appreciated the support and partnership Chair Dalton provided during Dr. Stone's transition into the CEO role, noting that his guidance helped ensure continuity and positioned IHMC well for continued success. Dr. Stone also noted that IHMC is pleased Chair Dalton will continue serving as a member of the Board, where his experience and insight will remain invaluable to the Institute. On behalf of the Board and IHMC leadership, Dr. Stone thanked Chair Dalton's for his service and leadership.

Chair Dalton thanked Dr. Stone and the attendees for their show of appreciation and stated that he was honored to have served as Chair and to have worked alongside so many dedicated individuals.

Dr. Stone then began his report, starting with the Legislative Update.

Dr. Stone reported that Florida's economy remains strong, supported by continued business growth, workforce attraction, and migration into the state. He noted that Governor DeSantis's proposed FY 2026–2027 budget prioritizes education, workforce development, infrastructure, and research investment, including expanded support for innovation initiatives and the RISE Tax Credit Program. While IHMC would not directly benefit as a nonprofit, these investments strengthen Florida's broader innovation ecosystem and commercialization pipeline.

Dr. Stone further noted that Northwest Florida continues to expand in defense, aerospace, manufacturing, and emerging technology sectors. He said that initiatives such as Project Maeve align closely with IHMC's expertise in robotics, exoskeletons, and collaborative autonomy.

Dr. Stone informed the Board that he recently briefed the Florida House Higher Education Budget Subcommittee on IHMC's research activities and statewide impact. He reported that the presentation was well received.

Shifting to the federal landscape, Dr. Stone reported that Congress passed the FY 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act, restoring full-year federal funding certainty for most agencies through September 30, 2026. He explained that stable appropriations for NIH, NSF, DOE, and defense agencies provide greater predictability for proposal activity, funding decisions, and recruitment planning at IHMC.

Dr. Stone also discussed the Department of Defense's updated National Defense Strategy, noting its emphasis on homeland defense, autonomy, AI-enabled systems, and revitalization of the defense industrial base. He said that these priorities align closely with IHMC's strengths in collaborative autonomy, human-machine teaming, human-centered AI, and advanced networking.

Dr. Stone next provided staffing updates and welcomed several new additions to the IHMC research team, reflecting continued growth within both the NCCA and HRP programs.

Beginning with the NCCA team, Dr. Stone introduced Cristian Nino, who joined IHMC in January and brings expertise in adaptive autonomy and multi-agent systems research. Dr. Stone noted that Cristian is already supporting multiple NSF proposal efforts.

Turning to the HRP team, Dr. Stone introduced Dr. Max Michel and Dr. Melissa Do, who joined IHMC as postdoctoral researchers supporting skeletal muscle regulation, neuroengineering, neuromodulation, and human performance research initiatives.

Dr. Stone also welcomed Alyssa Sillman to IHMC's Media Team as a part-time intern supporting expanded digital media and proposal development efforts.

Dr. Stone then invited Ryan Tilley to provide the Triumph Gulf Coast update.

Ryan Tilley reported that Triumph Gulf Coast funding continues to support growth within both the NCCA and HRP initiatives while strengthening IHMC's long-term institutional capacity. He noted that IHMC has submitted reimbursement requests, implemented enhanced tracking and reporting processes, and continues advancing commercialization, recruitment, and infrastructure efforts through Triumph-supported initiatives.

Following Ryan's report, Dr. Stone resumed the presentation with an HRP facilities update.

Dr. Stone reported that the project has been completed and fully paid. He noted that Brasfield & Gorrie successfully completed the work per the approved plan and budget, and that IHMC continues coordinating with DEP regarding reimbursement and added funding opportunities for future campus improvements.

Dr. Stone then transitioned to the Research Update section of the report.

Building on the federal funding and policy developments discussed earlier in the meeting, he noted that the research funding environment has improved following passage of the

FY26 Consolidated Appropriations Act, restoring full-year funding certainty for key agencies, including DOD, NIH, and NSF.

Since the last Board meeting, IHMC has submitted or is actively preparing 23 proposals, white papers, and pre-proposals across agencies including NIH, NSF, DARPA, NASA, ONR, IBAS, ARL, and ARPA-H. Dr. Stone further reported that IHMC advanced nearly 80 full proposal submissions during 2025 and maintained an overall award success rate of approximately 20% despite the challenging federal funding environment earlier in the year. He noted that these results reflect the strength of IHMC's proposal development process and the alignment of its research portfolio with federal priorities.

Dr. Stone then provided updates on several significant awards and proposals previously discussed with the Board.

Beginning with DARPA programs, Dr. Stone reported that the DARPA Kallisti project, led by Senior Research Scientist Ian Perera and colleagues Drs. Matt Johnson, Pete Pirolli, and Mark Orr, is now fully underway and has successfully completed its first milestone.

Dr. Stone also reported that the DARPA RESTORE project, led by Senior Research Scientist JP Errico with Drs. Kevin Gluck and Toshi Miyatsu, was awarded in January and is currently being expanded and refined as a DARPA "hard" program emphasizing measurable milestones and operational testing environments.

Turning to NIH-funded efforts, Dr. Stone reported that the four-year NIH project known as ID-MET led by Research Scientist Dr. Zach Graham and Georgia Tech Professor Greg Sawicki has now been fully funded and formally executed between IHMC and Georgia Tech, with work actively underway.

Dr. Stone further reported that the ONR-sponsored "Diver Health Hub for Operational Monitoring and Situational Awareness (H2O)" project, led by Research Scientist Connor Tate, has been formally awarded and executed, with added ONR opportunities currently under discussion.

Providing another defense research update, Dr. Stone said that the AFRL Engineering Change Proposal titled "LoRa-Based Emergency Communications for ACE", led by Senior Research Scientist and Associate Director Dr. Niranjani Suri, has been executed and is actively underway, with discussions ongoing about a potential FY27 extension.

Dr. Stone also reported that IHMC, in collaboration with the University of West Florida, has been selected to take part in an ONR-sponsored Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) project titled ATOM.

Continuing with partnership updates, Dr. Stone reported that Research Scientist Jared Li has been selected for the "Exoskeleton Assistance for Shipyard Workforce Enhancement" (EASE) project in partnership with Austal USA and NSWCCD, supporting IHMC's continued leadership in human-centered robotics and workforce technologies.

Dr. Stone also provided a brief update on Project Maeve, IHMC's collaborative effort with Birdon related to advanced shipbuilding facilities at the Port of Pensacola. He noted that the project continues to create opportunities to integrate IHMC's exoskeleton technologies into advanced manufacturing and shipbuilding environments while supporting broader defense industrial base initiatives.

Looking ahead, Dr. Stone noted that IHMC remains optimistic about two highly rated NIH proposals currently under review, including a project focused on powered ankle exoskeleton technology for aging populations and the BOOST healthspan proposal.

Concluding the research update, Dr. Stone provided a brief overview of the evolving federal research compliance landscape, particularly about Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) requirements. He said that IHMC continues working proactively with researchers and administrative personnel to strengthen cybersecurity governance and operational readiness for future federal contracting requirements.

Dr. Stone also discussed IHMC's engagement with Project Maeve, a Triumph Gulf Coast initiative focused on developing advanced shipbuilding facilities at the Port of Pensacola and expanding opportunities related to workforce technologies and the defense industrial base.

Dr. Stone concluded his research update by noting that philanthropic support remains an important component of advancing IHMC's strategic priorities and expanding institutional capacity. He then invited Carol Carlan to provide an update on philanthropic activities and development efforts.

Carol thanked Dr. Stone and provided her Philanthropic Update.

Carol reported that the year-end appeal launched at the December Board meeting generated donations through early January and noted that IHMC is strategically planning other 2026 campaigns to expand participation, strengthen community engagement, and grow philanthropic support.

Carol further reported that all sponsorships for the 2026 Science Saturdays, Robotics Camp, and Evening Lecture Series have been secured. She also noted that Emmanuel, Sheppard & Condon will continue serving as the premier sponsor for the 2026 Better Together sessions. Carol encouraged Board members to continue finding business and community leaders who may be interested in learning more about IHMC and taking part in future outreach events.

In addition, Carol reported that IHMC recently hosted a focus group led by Ken Gluck and Carol Carlan to gather feedback related to a potential outreach initiative focused on older adults within the Pensacola community. She also said that IHMC continues engaging with several high-potential donors and community partners in both Pensacola and Ocala to further expand philanthropic and partnership opportunities.

Dr. Stone thanked Carol for her report and then shifted the discussion to Community and Education Outreach initiatives.

Dr. Stone reported that IHMC's Science Saturdays continue providing free, hands-on STEM learning opportunities for students in both Pensacola and Ocala. He highlighted several recent and upcoming sessions focused on topics including coding, neuroscience, environmental science, 3-D printing, engineering, and genetics, noting the continued strong community participation and engagement in the program.

Dr. Stone also reminded the Board that IHMC's Annual Open House is scheduled for Friday, April 10. He noted that the event will again feature collaboration with regional organizations including the University of West Florida, Pensacola State College, MESS Hall, and, for the first time, the Pensacola Public Library. He said that the Open House reflects IHMC's continued commitment to STEM outreach, public engagement, and regional partnership development.

Providing an update on the Evening Lecture Series, Dr. Stone highlighted several recent and upcoming presentations featuring nationally recognized researchers and physicians discussing topics related to neuroscience, aging, cancer research, chemistry, infectious disease, and neurodegenerative disorders. He noted that the series continues to serve as an important platform for connecting the public with leading scientific voices and advancing community engagement in science and innovation.

Continuing with outreach initiatives, Dr. Stone provided an update on STEM-Talk, IHMC's flagship science and technology podcast. He reported that, since launching in 2016, the podcast has surpassed 4.5 million downloads and now includes 191 published episodes featuring leading researchers and innovators across multiple disciplines.

Dr. Stone further noted that two (2) more episodes were released since the last Board meeting, including discussions on climate science, neurocognitive enhancement, and brain resilience research. He added that STEM-Talk continues to maintain strong audience engagement and remains an important platform for scientific communication and public outreach.

Before concluding his report, Dr. Stone reminded the Board of the upcoming June Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2026 which will be preceded by the Annual Sunday Board Dinner on June 7, 2026. He noted that additional details will be shared as plans are finalized.

He again expressed appreciation to Chair Dalton for his leadership, service, and continued support of the Institute.

Dr. Stone then thanked the Board for its continued support of IHMC and concluded his report.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cassie Guilliams
IHMC Corporate Secretary