

Meeting Minutes:
ICR Governing Board Meeting
August 20th, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Meeting By Zoom

In Attendance: Ms. Julie Powell, Dr. Jeff Smith, Ms. Justyna Dubey, Dr. Jon Reuter, Dr. Joanna Zeiger, Ms. Elyse Contreras, Dr. John Williamson, Dr. John Harloe, Mr. Michael Hennesy, Dr. Chad Kinney, Mr. Dieter Raemdonck, Dr. Melissa Reynolds, Mr. Sherard Rogers, Ms. Emma Hudson, Mr. Michael McMaster, Mr. Chuck Smith

Absent: Dr. Angela Bryan, Dr. Gail Mackin

- I. Welcome (1:00-1:02pm) Dr. Reuter
 - a. Introductions of board members
 - b. Welcome to Angela Bryan who has been appointed to the board as a member representing research. Dr. Bryan is a researcher at the University of Colorado.
 - c. Welcome to Chuck Smith who has been appointed to the board as a member representing the cannabis-related industry. Mr. Smith is currently the CEO and Board President of Colorado Leads.
- II. Consent Agenda (1:02-1:05pm) Dr. Jon Reuter
 - a. July 16, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
 - b. Board Retreat – Agenda
 - c. CRC 2025 and 2026 updates
 - d. Recent publication
 - e. Motion to approve Consent Agenda
 - Motion passes with a unanimous vote.
- III. Introduce Ms. Justyna Dubey – Grants Manager and Accountant (1:05-1:08pm) Dr. Kinney
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: Ms. Justyna Dubey joined the ICR team on August 1. Her role focuses on the financial side of the ICR and managing the ICR's funding opportunity and research awards. She has a background in accounting and experience with grant management.
 - Ms. Justyna Dubey: Has a master's degree in accounting and auditing and wishes to implement her degree in her work at the ICR.
- IV. Government Relations Updates (1:08-1:20pm) Emma Hudson and Dieter Raemdonck
 - a. Special Session
 - Ms. Emma Hudson: Referring to this as "second session" as it seems to occur each year. Current fiscal year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) is experiencing a \$1.2 billion hole in the budget. Bills related to AI are predicted to be brought to this second session.
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: Discussed AI bill prediction.
 - b. FY26 Updates
 - Ms. Emma Hudson: Governor's proposed budget for next fiscal year will come out November 1. Approximately \$750 million will need to be cut from next fiscal year's budget.
 - c. Coffee with Legislators
 - Dr. Jon Reuter: Proposed question related to engaging legislators to start conversations about how the ICR brings value to and serves the community.

- Ms. Emma Hudson: [Legislators need to hear from the ICR and its board members](#). Conversations should focus on ROI. Please wait until September to start these conversations.
 - d. Questions from the Board
 - Mr. Sherard Rogers: Asked whether President Trump's potential move to reschedule marijuana could impact the state's marijuana tax structure and reduce revenue to the marijuana fund, which could directly affect ICR's operations.
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: Acknowledged that while immediate concern may not be necessary, rescheduling marijuana could pose long-term risks to revenue to the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund due to increased availability and potential changes in legalization trends. Emphasized the importance of revisiting conversations with the Joint Budget Committee about reprioritizing or restructuring the fund, noting that all programs relying on it, including the ICR, may face future funding challenges.
 - Ms. Emma Hudson: Reassured the Board that she and Mr. Dieter Raemdonck will closely watch this session and notify the team if anything critical comes up. Will make sure that legislators at least understand the importance of the work ICR and its Board does.
- V. September Board Retreat 9/10/2025 (1:20-1:30pm) – Drs. Reuter and Kinney
 - a. Location – CDPHE Carson Room-Campus Building A
(4300 Cherry Creek Drive, Denver, CO 80246)
 - b. Logistics
 - Ms. Elyse Contreras: Sending resources to Julie to be distributed. Upon arrival at CDPHE, the guard stationed on the first floor can direct you to the room.
 - c. Lunch Order – Ms. Julie Powell
 - Ms. Julie Powell: Will send an email with order form to complete by August 29th.
 - d. Special needs or requests?
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: Contact Dr. Kinney or Ms. Powell with any special needs or requests prior to the retreat.
- VI. Updated Discussion - ICR Affiliate Title (1:30 – 1:40pm) – Dr. John Williamson
(Pre-read – Requirements and Conduct)
 - a. Discussion
 - Dr. John Williamson: Review of previous discussions.
 - Dr. Jon Reuter: Likes the Code of Conduct that is included.
[Suggested including IACUC along with IRBs to ensure coverage of animal research requirements.](#)
 - Dr. Joanna Zeiger: This title is much better than the one previously discussed. This one is less academic and more appropriate for its intended purpose. Code of Conduct is an important part of it.
 - Dr. Jon Reuter: Recommends adding request for investigators to put this affiliate title on their manuscript submission for journals to the research agreement.
 - b. Motion to approve *Research Fellow, Institute of Cannabis Research* title.
 - Motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- VII. Colorado Cannabis Research Roundtable (1:40-1:50pm) – Drs. Smith and Kinney
 - a. New Event focused on Cannabis Research in Colorado

- b. Target Audience – Researchers, Regulators, Policy Makers, Industry
- c. Assess research needs through a moderated discussion
- d. Targeting a date in the first half of Nov.
 - Dr. Jon Reuter: Asked how the current discussion relates to the existing RFP timeline and whether the outcoming would inform grant selection or be incorporated into next year's RFP as suggested focus areas. Also inquired about how this process is expected to unfold.
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: Updates to the RFA will be posted around the time the call for LOI is released, allowing applicants to respond to a forthcoming report that will outline key areas of interest. Discussed using this report to help guide proposal review and potentially reinstate a question about alignment with ICR and state priorities.
 - Mr. Mike Hennesy: Thinks this is a great idea and expresses excitement because this will help the ICR and Board set priorities. It will help expand who we're hearing from and is a way to integrate more with industry regulators. This can also inform our proposal selection and advancement initiatives.
 - Dr. Joanna Zeiger: Suggested adding the Research Roundtable event as a topic of discussion at the next meeting.

VIII. Updates on Cannabis Rescheduling (1:50-1:55pm) Dr. Harloe

- Dr. John Harloe: Provided an update on the federal rescheduling of marijuana, noting that while descheduling is unlikely, there are strong signs of progress toward rescheduling, with action expected by September or October. The White House appears supportive, and the administrative law judge process is no longer a barrier. Optimism is growing, with a lobbyist estimating a 95% change of it happening, though final decisions remain uncertain.

IX. Public Comment (1:55-2:00pm) Dr. Reuter

X. Adjourned at 2:05 pm.