



**NASA Ames Contractor Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 4, 2021**  
**Meeting held virtually via Microsoft TEAMS**

| <b><u>Position</u></b> | <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Organization</u></b> | <b><u>M/S</u></b> | <b><u>Phone</u></b> |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| NASA Representative    | Carol Carroll      | ARC                        | 200-9             | 4-0256              |
| President              | Kari Gonter        | Metis Technology Solutions |                   | (760) 500-0136      |
| Vice President         | Mark Rowland       | Flight Research            | NRP-19            | (510) 366-5909      |
| Treasurer              | Sara Jain          | Tellus Solutions           |                   | (408) 368-0726      |
| Secretary              | Valerie Escobar    | AMA                        | N229-3            | (408) 761-6063      |

**Call to Order [11:00] by Kari Gonter**

**Introductions**

Christine Munroe, NASA Small Business

- The Small Business Industry Award information was sent out for FY22, deadline to have applications into Christine is September 3<sup>rd</sup> for the 3 categories listed below:
  - Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year
  - Small Business Subcontractor of the Year
  - Large Business Prime Contractor of the Year

Upcoming Outreach Events: (<https://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/business/index.html>)

| Date                | Event                                  | Speakers/Matchmaking Link  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| September 1-2, 2021 | Department of the Navy Gold Coast 2021 | Matchmaking<br><a href="https://www.navygoldcoast.org/register/">https://www.navygoldcoast.org/register/</a> |

### **Sarah Pollock, Ames Procurement Officer**

- Elizabeth Haase has been chosen as the permanent Ames Deputy Procurement Officer, joining Ames from Goddard.
- Center is likely going into Stage 2 next week, and there is no intent currently to roll the Agency back to Stage 3/4 over the Delta variant.
  - HQ did approve the Stage 2 plan from Ames, and they are currently undergoing a readiness review to get ready for the transition.
  - For Contractors/Civil Servants who are going on Center, there has been an updated mask mandate, masks must always be worn on Center, with limited exceptions (alone in your office with door closed)
  - New guidance from White House about vaccinations, since this is still new, and the Agency and the government is working on what the new policy will look like.
- Despite going to Stage 2 the other centers are still operating under 25% capacity and even in Stage 2 the capacity will not be increasing, another hurdle needs to be crossed to increase to the 50% associated with the new Stage.

### **Shelleen Lomas, Safety Office**

- NASA Safety Culture Survey ARC-Results: there were 5 components
  - Reporting Culture—We report our concerns
  - Just Culture—We have a sense of fairness
  - Flexible Culture—We change to meet new demands
  - Learning Culture—We learn from our successes and mistakes
  - Engaged Culture—Everyone does their part.
- Ames Action Items:
  - Mangement Actions:
    - Share results with all employees and contract team
    - Directors to review results and find areas to be improved
    - Exemplify good safety by walking the talk
  - Employee Actions
    - Keep reporting and communicating safety and health concerns
    - Support the safety actions of your coleagues
    - Exemplify good safety by walking the talk.
- To report safety concerns you can go to the Code Q web page, you can do it anonymously or include your name and your Code.

## **[ACC Business Items](#)**

### **ACC President's Report – Kari Gonter**

- Kari approved the amended July Minutes at 11:31 am.

- No Report

### **ACC Vice President's Report – Mark Rowland**

- No Report

### **ACC Treasurer's Report – Sara Jain**

- Beginning balance: \$15,008.59
  - o \$24.95 for Website hosting (internet services for our website)
- Total Net income: \$14,983.64

### **ACC Secretary's Report – Valerie Escobar**

- No Report

## **Committee Reports**

### **Small Business – Saba Hussain**

- Small Business Committee met, and they are working towards a Small Business Showcase on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 11am-1pm. This has been posted on the ACC website
- Saba is working on the email and PowerPoint template to request nominations for the Small Business Showcase.

### **Ames Calendar– Faten Mansour**

- Calendar is a work in progress.
- Cafeteria is not an option for selling, please send Faten ideas for other places to sell the calendars.

### **Marketing and Communications - Renee Mitchell**

- No Report

### **Imagination Foundation – David Cornelius and Linda McCahon**

- No new requests for grants at this time.

### **Public Policy- Sara Jain**

- Billionaire businessman Richard Branson got his wish today, flying to space and winning astronaut wings from his company, Virgin Galactic. The airplane-launched Virgin Space Ship (VSS) Unity took Branson, two pilots, and three other company employees above the 50-mile threshold that the FAA uses as the line of demarcation between air and space. Clearly thrilled with the experience, the 70-year-old Branson nonetheless indicated this may be his last adventure.
- On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Blue Origin founder, Jeff Bezos, his brother, Mark Bezos, pilot Wally Funk and 18-year-old Oliver Daemen were on the flight of New Shepard. At 82 years' old, Funk is the oldest person to go to space and at 18 years' old Daemen is the youngest person to go to space. Funk was the star of the show, not because of her stories of waiting 60 years to go to space, but her unbridled joy, energy and enthusiasm. At 82, she surprised John Glenn as the oldest astronaut.
- The Government Accountability Office denied protests by Blue Origin and Dynetics against NASA's award of a Human Landing System contract to SpaceX in April. GAO determined NASA did not violate procurement laws or regulations and its evaluation of the bids was reasonable. Blue Origin vows to continue its efforts to secure a second contract, nonetheless. ASA is procuring Human Landing Systems

(HLS) to take astronauts from lunar orbit down to and back from the lunar surface as part of its Artemis program through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). NASA used the PPP model to procure commercial cargo and commercial crew services to support the International Space Station and, in both cases, picked two companies to reduce risk and ensure competition. That was the plan for HLS, too, but Congress provided only 25 percent of the funding requested for FY2021, \$850 million instead of \$3.4 billion. The answer came on April 16 when it picked just one — SpaceX, the lowest bidder at \$2.9 billion. Blue Origin and Dynetics protested the award to GAO, which had 100 days to issue a ruling. That would have been August 4, but it finished early and issued its decision today.

NASA argues the contract with SpaceX is only for the first Artemis landing, hopefully in 2024. It anticipates additional HLS systems built by other companies through its Lunar Exploration and Transportation Services (LETS) program for “sustainable” lunar operations over the long term. A solicitation for LETS concept studies was issued at the beginning of this month. Blue Origin does not want to wait. It insists two competitors are needed now. A company spokesperson told SpacePolicyOnline.com via email that the no-cost extension to the base period contract expires on August 9 and it is now asking NASA to further extend it to November 1 to allow more time to work something out. Blue Origin said in a statement, “The Human Landing System program needs to have competition now instead of later – that’s the best solution for NASA and the best solution for our country.”

### **Safety Outreach– Mike Weiss and Linda McCahon**

- If you see any tiles at Ames cracking, please put in a ticket because there is likely asbestos involved.
  - o Keep floors waxed
  - o Use carpets under wheeled chairs to keep the tiles from being worn away.

### **ACC Golf Tournament– Mark Rowland**

- No Report—event is on hold.

### **New Business**

- Does anybody have any thoughts or concerns about returning to work at Ames?
  - o With the right safety measures in place, there isn’t a big concern

### **Adjourning the Meeting**

- Kari Gonter adjourned the meeting at 11:54 am.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

- The next official meeting will be held virtually on September 1, 2021 at 11 am (PST), Steve Hunt from ARC-Records Management will be our guest speaker.