Legislative Council
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505

GOVERNMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday and Friday, July 14-15, 2022
Humboldt Room, Energy and Environmental Research Center, 15 North 23rd Street
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Representative Michael Howe, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members present: Representatives Michael Howe, Jeff Delzer, Jared C. Hagert, Lisa Meier, Corey Mock, Dave Nehring, Gary Paur, Mike Schatz, Jim Schmidt, Steve Vetter, Don Vigesaa; Senators Brad Bekkedahl, Richard Marcellais, Ronald Sorvaag

Members absent: Representatives Pamela Anderson, Gary Kreidt

Others present: Senator Jonathan Sickler, Grand Forks
See appendix for additional persons present.

It was moved by Representative Mock, seconded by Representative Vigesaa, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the April 27, 2022, meeting be approved as distributed.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER TOUR

Mr. Charles Goerecki, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Tom Erickson, Director of Exploratory Research, Energy and Environmental Research Center, led the committee on a tour of the Energy and Environmental Research Center.

Mr. Goerecki noted funding for the center is derived approximately one-third from state sources, one-third from federal grants, and one-third from industry matching funds.

Mr. Edward Steadman, Vice President for Research, and Ms. Bethany Kurz, Director for Analytical Solutions, Energy and Environmental Research Center, explained the center's research related to rare earth elements, enhanced oil recovery, and salt cavern storage.

Mr. Jason Laumb, Director of Advanced Energy Systems Initiatives, Energy and Environmental Research Center, explained the process used to capture carbon dioxide on equipment used in a small-scale test project.

Mr. Joshua Stanislowski, Director of Energy Systems Development, Energy and Environmental Research Center, explained the equipment used for hydrogen production and testing and the equipment used to test coal as an alternative aggregate in building materials.

Dr. Alexander Azenkeng, Assistant Director for Critical Materials, Energy and Environmental Research Center, explained the center's research related to graphene, a carbon-based material with potential uses in advanced manufacturing of electronics and other specialty products needing strength and minimal weight.

CORE LIBRARY TOUR

Mr. Timothy Nesheim, Subsurface Geologist, North Dakota Geological Survey, Wilson M. Laird Core and Sample Library, led the committee on a tour of the Wilson M. Laird Core and Sample Library, including the climate-controlled warehouse space used to store rock cores and drill cuttings extracted when drilling oil wells and the laboratory spaces used for studying the rocks.

MILL AND ELEVATOR TOUR

Mr. Vance Taylor, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Cathy Dub, Chief Financial Officer, North Dakota Mill and Elevator Association, led the committee on a tour of the North Dakota Mill and Elevator facilities, including the quality assurance testing laboratory, the main building for the milling equipment to process the wheat into flour, and the packaging building.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS SITE TOUR

Mr. Tom Swoyer, President, Grand Sky, led the committee on a tour of Grand Sky, a commercial unmanned aircraft systems research and development park. He noted:

- The research park includes facilities for Northrop Grumman, General Atomics, and a shared space for other unmanned aircraft systems companies;
- Northrop Grumman has a contract with the federal Department of Defense to retrofit the Global Hawk unmanned aircraft system to assist with hypersonic missile testing;
- General Atomics has a contract with the United States Air Force to provide training to allied foreign militaries related to the Predator unmanned aircraft system; and
- A portion of the shared-space building is leased to Vantis for developing a beyond visual line of site unmanned aircraft system network.

Mr. Trevor Woods, Executive Director, and Mr. James Cieplak, Program Manager, Vantis, led the committee on a tour of the network operations center for Vantis at Grand Sky.

No further business appearing, Chairman Howe adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

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Adam Mathiak
Senior Fiscal Analyst

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