

January 8, 2025

ITEM 216-1003-R0125

Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation Under MUS407; University of MontanaMissoula

THAT

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves University of Montana-Missoula employees Drs. Zachary Hoylman and Kelsey Jencso for having an equity interest in and to serve as officers, employees, or members of a governing board of Predictive Hydrology, LLC, a Montana company based in Missoula, MT. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes the University of Montana to enter into a technology licensing agreement and other contractual arrangements with Predictive Hydrology, LLC, consistent with MUS and UM policies that support faculty inventors and support Montana economic development.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Zachary Hoylman is a Research Assistant Professor in the College of Forestry at the University of Montana and Assistant State Climatologist. Dr. Kelsey Jencso is a Professor in the College of Forestry at the University of Montana and State Climatologist. Drs. Hoylman and Jencso seek approval to hold equity interests in and to serve as officers, employees, or members of a governing board of Predictive Hydrology, LLC, a Montana company based in Missoula, MT, primarily established to move technologies developed at the University into the commercial space.

Drs. Hoylman and Jencso will work in accordance with conflict management plans developed by the University. Under Policy 407 and MCA 20-25-109, University employees must have board approval to serve as officers, employees, or members of a governing board of a business entity, or to hold an equity interest in a business entity which has an agreement with, or shares ownership of intellectual property with, the University, relating to the development, licensing or commercial exploitation of that intellectual property. With the Board's approval, the University will negotiate a license agreement with Predictive Hydrology, LLC, for the development and commercialization of AI-driven hydrological modeling software.

The University of Montana benefits from this approval. By allowing this University-private sector relationship, intellectual property developed at the University can be used to grow a Montana-based company, will set an example for other entrepreneurs from the University looking for opportunities for commercialization of their innovations and creations, and will generate goodwill for University employees and the private sector.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Submission Form