Attendees:
Committee Members: Warren Falberg - Chair, Jeff Kerstine, Caroline McKinney and Catherine Miller (YP).
Center Staff: Michael Jones, Julie Heath, Brad Evans and Lorrie Penner

Welcome and Introductions
Warren Falberg called the meeting to order. For the benefit of the new committee members Warren reviewed the purpose of the Research & Consulting Committee.
1. Identify those in the community who can bring connections to the Center for the purposes of engaging the Center in research activities.
2. Identify opportunities within the community for the research team’s products and services. Focusing on industries similar to other projects that the Center has completed.
3. Provide oversight on Center research projects.

Michael Jones welcomed new committee members; Jeff Kerstine and Caroline McKinney. Jeff serves on the Center’s Board of Trustees and is on the Center’s Finance and Investment Committee. Caroline McKinney is the Economic Development Director at Liberty Township.

First Quarter Fiscal Results
The goal of $575,000 per the FY2015 Budget is on track to be reached and surpassed. At the current time the Research Team has $390,000 under contract and is expecting an additional $112,000. The other exciting news is a project from a Consortium of Colleges which could garner $1.5M.

Michael stated that throughout the first quarter of FY2015 the Research team has been focused on projects with a quick turn-around time, repeat projects, and renewable contracts. Focus has been on Economic Impact, Policy/Tax Forecasting and Water Economics.

In addition the Center has spent some time engaged in activities to obtain grants. The Straight A Fund from FY 2014 is a good example of this. The fund was created by John Kasich and provided funds to educational entities in Ohio with the drive and courage to try new approaches that:
Meet the learning needs of its students, reduce the cost of running a school or school district, or drive more dollars to the classroom.
The Center partnered in 7 different applications with Andy Benson and 2 with Hamilton County for funds from this Straight A Fund. They were successful in securing a $382k grant in
conjunction with one of the Hamilton County proposals, which will provide approximately $60k in income annually for the next 6 years. The Center will act as a subcontractor for program evaluation in this project.

**Recent Highlights**
The following are recent projects that are in process or have been recently completed;

Film Commission – Economic Impact. The research team looked at direct spending of the film industry in the Cincinnati Region during the recent filming of “Carol”.

Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (CCM) – Economic Impact. There are some privacy issues with this project, but basically the team is not only looking at economic impact of the students that graduate from CCM, but also on the college’s return on investment (ROI).

Sharonville Convention Center – Economics Impact. The team is looking at the convention center’s recent expansion of their facility.

Eagle Realty – Economic Impact. This project is an update to a previous study the research team did regarding the former Anna Louise hotel property.

Cincinnati Tax Forecast – this contract is renewable every two years.

Focus on Ohio’s Future (FOOF) Holiday sales Tax Forecast – this forecast is renewable annually.

Testimony on Sales Tax Holiday – Jeff Rexhausen when to Columbus to testify in regard to a Tax Holiday for Back to School items for a State of Ohio Bill that is being considered.

HPIO Health Benchmarking – The research team is working with a health policy advocate group to benchmark leading indicators in comparison to other states.

West Virginia Historical Preservation – the Center’s research team partnered with other universities on this project.

**Proposals and Prospects**
EDA Grant $100k
Government Innovation Fund Grant
College Consortium State of Ohio - $1.5m program evaluation over 3 years.
Bio Ohio – sending out email blasts to trade groups that are similar to this project.
Speaking engagements – Real Estate agents – presentation
Other Presentations - Strive

The committee suggested the following marketing/sales ideas;

- Time Slot on NPR
- Brian Thomas – Local Radio Station spot
- Enquirer – Forum Section
- Business Courier – print and/or online content

Please Save the Date for the 2015 meetings;
- Thursday, January 8, 2015 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m. Location: Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
- Thursday, March 12, 2015 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m.
- Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m.
- Thursday, October 1, 2015 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.