

**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers  
UMass Collaborative Service Center, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury  
Friday, February 1, 2013**

**Members Present:** Ted Wales, Marla Michel, William King, Stephen Herbert, John Lee

**Members Absent:** Lynn Griesemer, Ed Davidian, Patricia Bigelow, Christy Foote-Smith, Jack Angley, Jerry Myers, Michael Lueders, Richard Chandler (representing MDAR), Rena Prendergast

**Advisory Board Members Absent:** Ed Bourgeois

**Guest:** Robert Schrader

**1. Welcome – Stephen Herbert**

Stephen Herbert called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM

**2. Approval of Minutes – Stephen Herbert**

John Lee moved to approve minutes, Marla Michel seconded. Minutes were approved for the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting.

**3. Center for Agriculture/UMass Extension Update: Stephen Herbert**

- a. Fiscal Update: Federal funding is level pending resolution of final FY13 federal budget. Potential sequestration of funds has been moved forward to March 1, 2013.
- b. Contracts: FY13 funding for SNAP ED nutrition education program was reduced 28% by congress. Actual impact on the UMass contract is not yet known. Extension will seek to maintain staff and educational programs through the year.
- c. Faculty & Staff: Several searches moving forward
  - i. Green Industries/Regional Liaison professional located at Wareham Cranberry Station

- ii. Nutrition Department Extension Faculty
  - iii. Geoscience Department Extension Faculty
  - iv. Marine Industries Extension Educator/Regional Liaison located at Gloucester Marine Station
- d. Energy Extension Program: Discussed ongoing development of UMass campus proposal to respond to availability of \$6 million from MA EOEEA. Extension and CNS departments are expected to be included within the project. Extension will focus on outreach to identified industries as well as policies that encourage conservation and renewable energy.

#### **4. Morrill Act 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event: Stephen Herbert**

A series of events are planned through the year. A significant early event focuses on Agriculture at UMass. A daylong event is planned for Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> in Amherst. The current draft program for the day includes:

- a. Morning bus tours to agricultural S. Deerfield and Belchertown research facilities
- b. Lunch and ground breaking for Agricultural Learning Center
- c. Agriculture celebration dinner

Discussion followed of the ways the Extension community and agriculture industry could be involved with supporting the event. Suggestions included potential donation and planting of the 150 trees planned by the campus; integrating time capsule into ground breaking; and working with agricultural groups to insure invitation too and participation from the agricultural community.

The board also discussed and supported moving April 26<sup>th</sup> BOPO meeting date to Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at Amherst. Moving the meeting to Amherst will allow ease of participation by the board in the planned day of events. More information will be sent shortly.

#### **5. Center Reorganization Plan: Stephen Herbert**

Stephen broadly reviewed the organizational chart focusing discussion on the spectrum of work supported by the Center, with the expressed goal of increasing integration of research and extension, increasing collaboration across faculty and providing better public access to university resources. Discussion ensued of several elements of the plan.

Marla suggested BOPO might review the effectiveness of implementation within a 1-2 year period. Discussion also followed of the value/need to reconsider if BOPO should be reexamined to be advisory to the Center for Agriculture.

#### **6. Massachusetts Ag Day: Stephen Herbert**

Set for Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, board members reviewed planned representation of their organizations. The Green Industry Alliance and 4-H Foundation are planning significant participation. Farm Bureau is managing the day and developing a legislative white paper. The Center for Agriculture will have a table with informational materials.

Ted requested that an Extension informational packet be developed and sent via email to Extension collaborating organizations such that each could print materials and include as appropriate in their legislative communications. Stephen agreed to follow up with educational materials and reach out to Farm Bureau and the 4-H Foundation for cooperation. The board suggested Agricultural Learning Center materials link to food, water and energy.

## **7. Board Appointments Update: Bob Schrader**

Nominations have been received from six organizations for ten members of the board. UMass legislative liaison Chris Dunn is working with the governor's appointment office to move the appointments forward.

### **Meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM**

Future Meetings:      April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013; (moved to Amherst)  
                                 July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
                                 October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Robert Schrader  
Assistant Director  
February 1, 2013