

**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers  
302 Stockbridge Hall, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Thursday, April 25, 2013**

**Members Present:** Jack Angley, Jerry Myers, Michael Lueders, Deb Phillips, Richard Chandler (representing MDAR), Lynn Griesemer, Marla Michel, William King, Stephen Herbert

**Members Absent:** John Lee, Ted Wales, Ed Davidian, Patricia Bigelow, Christy Foote-Smith

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Ed Bourgeois

**Guests:** Robert Schrader, William Miller, Karen Connelly, Kathy Carroll, Mary Jane Bacon

**1. Welcome – Jack Angley**

Jack Angley called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM

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

Michael Lueders moved to approve minutes, Marla Michel seconded. Minutes were approved for the February 1, 2013 meeting.

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

- a. Fiscal Update: Stephen Herbert provided an update on federal budget cuts. Federal Extension funds, like most federal line items, were reduced 5%. Stephen also provided highlights of points emphasized by NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy during his visit to the UMass campus. They are: 1) the importance of documenting the impact of our research and extension programs, and 2) Positioning the national organization as promoting health and preventing disease

Bob Schrader noted Extension is in good shape for this year's budget. He noted funds are tight in the area of Extension funding, due to federal sequestration and effect of new faculty positions.

- b. Faculty & Staff: Bob Schrader reported on several searches moving forward
- New Extension Educator based in Wareham, MA beginning July 1. Will attend to general area of Ag and Green industries.
  - New Faculty in Nutrition Education hired for May 1. Lindiwe Sibeko has expertise in maternal and neo-natal nutrition, specifically in high-risk populations.
  - New search underway for and Extension Faculty position in Horticulture

#### **4. Extension and Center for Agriculture Program Reports – William Miller**

William Miller provided an overview of Extension reports and demonstrated how to access annual reports for research, extension and integrated research and extension projects on the Center for Agriculture website

- Extension annual project reports are located at <http://ag.umass.edu/extension-outreach/extension-outreach-project-reports>
- Research project summaries are located at <http://ag.umass.edu/current-research-projects>

#### **5. Integrated Research and Extension Project: Phytophthora Rapid Response Project – Nick Brazee**

Extension Plant Pathologist Nick Brazee provided a report on this integrated three year project funded in 2012 by the Center for Agriculture. Phytophthora is a plant disease, partial to wet soils, that is significantly effecting vegetable production in western Massachusetts.

#### **6. Update on Board Appointments and related discussion – Bob Schrader**

To date no one from the Board has been contacted by the governor's office regarding reappointment to the Board. Bob Schrader reported that the UMass legislative liaison had contacted the governor's appointments office twice to inquire regarding the status of appointments.

In response to a question from Michael Lueders as to whether members should be contacting the board, Mary Jane Bacon suggested we leave it alone for now. She noted the governor will not be rushing to make any new Agricultural appointments and there is no need to change unless there were votes that needed to be taken and no quorum.

Jerry Myers inquired about the status of the Center for Agriculture Advisory Board as it has not convened for a while. Bob Schrader noted that several individuals from BOPO (e.g. Bob MacLeod, Marla Michel, Ted Wales) have participated in those meetings. Bob Schrader stated he was unaware of any meeting scheduled.

## **7. Upcoming BOPO meeting (July) – Jack Angley**

Jack Angley requested that members send suggestions for next meeting. Marla Michel suggested the board look at Center impacts and their importance in advocating for funding. Kathy Carroll noted Michigan State has a software program that might help to demonstrate the economic impact of extension - cost is \$2,000. In reply Lynn Griesemer said it is very hard to look at impacts in Extension/Agriculture – It's expensive, well beyond the cost of the software.

In detailed discussion on issues related to conducting an investigation of the economic impact of Extension in Massachusetts, the board determined that: it's costly; takes a lot of collaboration; and most people don't understand the breadth and depth of agriculture and its importance to Massachusetts. However we still need to tell the story of why this work is important.

### **Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM**

Future Meetings:      July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
                                  October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

William Miller & Robert Schrader  
July 1, 2013