



**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers
UMass Collaborative Service Center**

**Meeting Notes
January 29, 2010**

Present

Members: Nancy Garrabrants, Michael Lueders, Jack Angley, Ted Wales, Ed Bourgeois, Lynn Griesemer, Art Eve, John Lee, Jerry Myers, Eugene Tworek

Guests: Mary Jane Bacon, Robert Schrader, Bob Macleod, Stephen Herbert

1. Welcome

Jack Angley called the meeting to order. Nancy Garrabrants welcomed two new nominees to the Board, introducing Jerry Myers, nominated by the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and John Lee, nominated by Massachusetts Farm Bureau.

John introduced himself, noting he has run Allendale Farm in Boston for 25 years. He is on the board of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and Massachusetts 4-H Foundation.

Jerry noted his previous work experience as Director of Education for the Eastern States Exposition and as an Extension Agricultural Agent in Maryland. He currently consults in landscape design. Jerry is on the board of the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and past president of the Massachusetts Agriculture Club.

Jack welcomed Jerry and John to the board and asked for a motion to accept the notes for the December 11, 2009 meeting. Mike Lueders moved to accept the minutes. Ted Wales seconded. The notes were accepted.

2. Center for Agriculture Update

Steve Herbert reported on the following Center initiatives:

- Involved with campus planning process to reduce carbon footprint. Center submitted proposal for project funding to integrate solar electric that was not funded
- Investigating vertical shelving greenhouse design prototype

- Working with Stockbridge School to look at development of sustainable agriculture and/or energy major at either the associates degree or certificate level
- Considering industry request for planting of chestnut trees as part of long term project to determine feasibility of new cultivars in Massachusetts

3. Extension Update

Nancy reported first on the FY11 budget. She noted the Governor's budget was just released and is positive for UMass. Funding for the five campus system is nearly level with FY10 and similar to FY09 level. Of the \$505 million budget, \$24 million is to be provided by federal stimulus funds.

Nancy then reviewed a report of FY09 expenditures and revenues noting details from FY08 were provided in the footnotes. Ed Bourgeois asked for an update on status of the transition of Outreach Marketing and Technology staff. Nancy replied that four persons will be funded by Extension in FY11. She noted FY11 will be a transition year for Extension as IT and communications needs and capacities are reassessed.

Returning to Board nominations, Nancy reported that Bob Macleod contacted Kathy Abbott, Massachusetts Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), asking if she would represent the Audubon seat on the board. She was receptive to the request, noting either she or another TTOR member would welcome nomination to the Board.

Nancy closed with comments related to efforts within Extension to increase the understanding and utilization of social media. She noted the increased use of social media such as Twitter and blogs and for Extension to increase use of this media.

4. Agriculture Day at the State House

Nancy Garrabrants reported on Ag Day preparation explaining that a three page handout and a table top display are being prepared for use at Ag Day. The message will focus on three priority areas:

- Sustainable Energy – emphasis on corn furnace outreach, switch grass research
- Sustainable Agriculture – emphasis on food safety and good agricultural practices (GAP)
- Improved Health – emphasis on nutrition education in Fall River schools

More detailed documents related to these initiatives will be developed and posted to the Extension website.

Nancy turned to review of the letter to be distributed at Ag Day. The letter was reviewed and advice was offered related to several elements. Nancy asked that additional comments be sent to her via email. A revised copy of the letter will be sent to the Board for review.

Nancy distributed a copy of a letter to be sent, by the Board, to EOEEA Secretary Bowles, providing support for the work and continuing structure of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

Nancy also distributed a list of state representatives and senators known to be advocates for Extension. She suggested appointments be scheduled with individual representatives.

5. Waltham Update

Nancy Garrabrants reviewed development of a reuse plan for Waltham. Although not finished, the plan will suggest three scenarios for reuse. All scenarios involve replacing the current facility.

A meeting was held with stakeholders on January 13th. The meeting was attended by 26 persons, primarily representatives of organizations that rent or otherwise use the facility. This was a listening session organized by the organizations meant to convey both their support and needs to the leadership of the College of Natural Sciences.

Mary Jane Bacon suggested the existing facility needed to be repaired and promoted to the City of Waltham as a community resource. In turn Waltham should be expected to invest financially in the upgrade. Such an upgrade would be a step towards building support for a new facility.

6. Action Steps for Next Meetings

- **Develop Ag Day letter (will be sent to Board)**

Meeting Adjourned 11:45

Robert Schrader
Associate Director
January 29, 2010