

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

**Meeting Notes
November 19, 2010**

Present

Members: Nancy Garrabrants, Michael Lueders, Jack Angley, Ed Bourgeois. Lynn Griesemer (via conference call), Jerry Myers, Eugene Tworek, Rena Prendergast, Nathan L'Etoile,

Guests: Mary Jane Bacon, Robert Schrader, Robert Macleod, Heidi Ricci, Joseph Shoenfeld, Brad Mitchell, Stephen Herbert

1. Welcome – Jack Angley

Jack Angley called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

2. Approval of June 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes – Jack Angley

Rena Prendergast made a motion to accept the notes. Michael Lueders seconded. Notes were accepted.

3. Center for Agriculture Update – Stephen Herbert

- Agriculture summit was held on four season food production at UMass Amherst on October 26th. Stephen reported a great deal of conversation and feedback was received from attendees. Sixty four persons participated. Notes to be sent out soon.
- Celebration of Agriculture event was held on November 12 at UMass Amherst. A primary goal was to gain recognition of agriculture by campus leadership. Stephen noted positive comments by Chancellor Holub and ongoing interest in agriculture by Provost Staros. One hundred twenty five persons attended. The celebration was preceded by an initial meeting of the Center for Agriculture Advisory Board.
- Update on South Deerfield Photovoltaic project. Stephen is looking at potential opportunities to have NRCS consider PV as an approved cost share measure.

4. UMass Extension Update – Nancy Garrabrants

- Noted three positions are currently being filled related to Extension. Nancy noted each is a faculty position with a split appointment between Extension, teaching and research. The Extension funded portion is 60%-80% of each position.
 - Building Energy Faculty position. Hired Ben Weil. NREC related position located in Department of Environmental Conservation.
 - Soil Lab Director Faculty Position. Agriculture and Landscape related position located in Stockbridge School. Search is underway. Replaces retired director Stephen Bodine.
 - Water Resources and Climate Change Faculty Position. NREC related position located in Department of Geosciences. Search to be initiated soon.
- Developed joint youth development proposal with Donahue Institute. Proposal was not funded but project was a good start on collaborative work.
- State budget. Noted recent UMass Chancellor's budget message projected loss of \$18 million (8%) in state funding from FY11 to FY12 due to loss of federal stimulus funds and projected state budget challenges.
- Federal FY12 budget. Nancy noted recent message from Association of Public and Landgrant Universities (APLU) that funding levels may revert to FY08 level. She noted it is too early to know how FY12 budget will evolve.
- Budget Reports. Bob Schrader reviewed distributed FY10 and FY11 fiscal reports.
 - FY10 Expenditures: Revenue up from non appropriated funds. Revenue down from appropriated funds. Significant carry forward of funds to provide future cushion and investment fund. Changes from FY09 provided in footnotes.
 - FY11: Projection updated from projection provided in April and similar to FY10. Level federal funding. Small decrease (3.5%) in state funding.
 - Fiscal Trends: Appropriated funding is largely level over the years and not keeping up with inflation. Allocation among programs has remained consistent. Percent allocated to administration has decreased over past several years.
 - Contract Trends: New report. Shows significant increase over time.

5. Develop a Strategy for Working with Legislatives – Nancy Garrabrants

- Nancy introduced the issue of how to prepare advocacy for the upcoming state and federal legislative sessions. Discussion followed related to issues and approaches to advocacy
- State Budget Advocacy. Brad Mitchell noted Farm Bureau will again be developing a “priorities” white paper, primarily related to food safety, for the coming legislative session. State level initiatives will probably include: process for sale of raw milk; increasing slaughter capacity; local board of health regulations related to livestock; on farm product sales; and sales tax exemption for farm energy equipment.
- Noted the primary advocacy event, Agriculture Day, is April 7th, 2011.
- Federal Budget Advocacy. Following significant discussion, committee members suggested the most effective approach is to advocate at the district level inviting congressman to local events. Focusing

on issues broadly identified at the federal level, e.g. preventing obesity, food safety, was identified as a good approach (see issues below).

6. NIFA Priorities & CFA Public Issues - Stephen Herbert & Nancy Garrabrants

Nancy summarized the proposed Extension priorities for FY11 and asked for comments on priority areas. Issues were reviewed individually. Comments will be incorporated in Extension FY11 program plans. Comments follow for each issue.

- Food Security: Focus on Massachusetts is good. Farm systems should be emphasized to link farms and consumers. Suggested additions: on farm food processing; outreach to local officials; emphasis on food security.
- Climate Change: Suggested additions: note anticipated increase in severe storms and flooding as well as droughts; focus on explaining locally what impacts will be; note probability of increased invasive species and pests; develop protocols for assessing impact of changes.
- Sustainable Energy: Suggested additions: removing organic waste from the waste stream.
- Food Safety: Suggested additions: focus on appropriate farm scale food safety systems; focus on local health regulations.
- Childhood Obesity: Suggested additions: increase focus on farm to school.
- Agricultural Economic Development: Suggested additions: focus on plant health care; commercially feasible organic production practices; economic development as land preservation tool.
- Youth Development: Focus on safety and experiential learning is good. Suggested additions: current social impacts of youth development programs and how to reach new audiences; how to connect youth to businesses.
- Environmental Stewardship: Suggested additions: focus on local official training; managing and eradicating invasive species.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM

2011 Meeting dates:

- January 21 (January 28th snow date), March 18, June 17 and November 18
- April 7 - Massachusetts Agriculture Day at the State House

Robert Schrader
Associate Director
November 19, 2010