

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

**Meeting Notes
June 18, 2010**

Present

Members: Nancy Garrabrants, Michael Lueders, Jack Angley, Ed Bourgeois, Lynn Griesemer, Art Eve, Jerry Myers, Eugene Tworek, Rena Prendergast, Ed Davidian

Guests: Mary Jane Bacon, Robert Schrader, Robert Macleod, Heidi Ricci, Joe Shoenfeld

1. Welcome – Jack Angley

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

2. Approval of April 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes – Jack Angley

Ed Bourgeois noted draft minutes were posted to the web. He requested they not be posted prior to approval by the Board. Discussion followed as to whether the Board needed to follow the Open Meeting Law. Nancy agreed to check with University Counsel on application of Open Meeting Law. In the interim, notes will not be posted prior to approval. Michael Lueders moved to approve minutes. Eugene Tworek seconded. Minutes were accepted.

A motion was made by Ed Davidian, and approved by the Board, to approve all past minutes.

Jack reported Robie Hubley resigned as Audubon representative to the Board. Jack stated that Heidi Ricci, from MA Audubon, was attending today as potential representative.

Ed Bourgeois asked the status of the appointment of a Chancellor's representative to the Board. Nancy noted UMass was hiring a new government relations staff person. Nancy did not know if this person would be a representative to the Board.

3. Center of Agriculture Update – Nancy Garrabrants

- Reported Stephen Herbert couldn't attend meeting due to a medical emergency.
- Introduced Joe Shoenfeld, Associate Director for Center for Agriculture. Joe noted his job is primarily to assist with planning and communicating the Center's work and that the job is evolving.

4. UMass Extension Update – Nancy Garrabrants

- FY 11 Budget - A budget reduction of 3-6% of University funds is anticipated. Final decision will follow approval of state budget.
- Joint Committee on Community Development & Small Business Listening Session at Nashoba Winery Focusing on Agriculture – Nancy, Joe and Stephen attended meeting on June 14th. Frank Mangan and Stephen Herbert presented to the committee. Senator Moore indicated an interest in learning more about the work of the Center for Agriculture at meeting to be scheduled.
- FY 09 Project Reports & FY 10 Project Plans posted at www.extension.umass.edu/index.php/about-extension/plans-reports - Noted plans and reports are posted on the web. Nancy also stated emphasis this year is being placed on how to collect more detailed information on Extension work within specific communities and legislative districts.
- Extramural Funded Projects – Distributed a list of current projects queried from UMass Office of Grants and Contracts. Several persons noted the value of the data. Responding to a question from Lynn Griesemer, Nancy agreed to look at how this compared to last year. Both Art Eve and Lynn Griesemer noted the value of providing grant preparation support (pre award) to staff.
- Waltham Facility – Ceiling is being replaced. Auditorium will be closed until approximately January, 2011.
- Rich Bonanno Conversation with USDA Under Secretary Kathleen Merrigan –Topic was impact of potential food safety standards on agriculture in the northeast. Significant discussion followed regarding status of legislative efforts to ensure food safety.
- Position Vacancy Protocol - Noted there has been no protocol for filling positions vacant due to resignations and retirements. Going forward, Extension Directors will be asked to present a list of positions in priority order. Stephen Herbert and Nancy will review requests and meet with individual directors prior to making a decision. Criteria for decision making will be developed and shared with the Board.

5. Massachusetts Audubon – Heidi Ricci

Heidi Ricci introduced herself and provided background information on Massachusetts Audubon. She noted the focus of Audubon is on protecting the environment and that Audubon has been a collaborator with the Extension Citizen Planning Training Collaboration. A current focus is on land protection and preservation. Audubon's priorities also includes promoting Community Supported Agriculture.

6. Update on the Agricultural Development Trust Fund - Mary Jane Bacon & Bob Macleod

Brad Mitchell, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, joined the meeting via conference call and introduced the effort to gain state funding for agriculture within the "Casino Bill". The goal of this work is to provide a revenue stream in support of Massachusetts agriculture. Funding would go to MA Department of Agricultural Resources. No language was in House Bill. On Senate side, bill will be released on June 18th. Brad noted action will need to be taken quickly to support and/or include supportive language. Brad agreed to forward information, as developed, to Jack for distribution to the Board.

7. Status of Board Sub-Committees – Nancy Garrabrants

Nancy noted the Board does not use its committees and questioned whether the committee structure, developed in concert with consultant Jay Vogt, was appropriate to the needs of the Board. Comment from several members noted there was a value to the structure but that member's time was very valuable and scheduling difficult. The Board agreed to maintain the structure and assign issues to committee as deemed appropriate.

8. Advocacy Strategy Development – Nancy Garrabrants

Nancy presented an update on conversations with agricultural leaders and legislators regarding the potential role and value of developing an agricultural caucus within the legislature. Discussion followed on the role of a caucus and process to form one.

9. Meeting Schedule for 2011 – Jack Angley

Board agreed to meet during the months of January, March, June and November. Board also agreed to move the next meeting, originally scheduled for October 15th to November 19th, 2010.

The following meeting dates were set for 2011.

- January 21st
- March 18th
- June 17th
- November 18th

Next meeting: November 19th, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Robert Schrader
Associate Director
June 18, 2010