

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

**Meeting Notes  
February 28, 2018**

**Board Members Present:** Jack Angley, Matt Barron, John Lee, Ted Wales, Karen Heymann

**Board Members Absent:** John Lebeaux, Mike Lueders, Pat Bigelow

**Guests:** Mary Jane Bacon, Ed Bourgeois, Charles McColough, Diane Murphy

**Extension Staff and Faculty:** Jody Jellison, Joe Shoenfeld, Lisa Sullivan-Werner, Christine Hatch, River Strong, Katie Campbell-Nelson, Paul Catanzaro, Sandy Thomas, Linda Horn

1. Meeting was opened by Jack Angley, Chair. Jack announced that board member Ed Davidian has resigned from the Board and as vice-chair. He will be looking for another person to fill the role.
2. Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Jody Jellison introduced four new videos produced by CAFE to highlight the extension and research work that is conducted and funded by the Center. New marketing and outreach materials to highlight our programs were shared as well, including the "High Impact" report to be presented to legislators at Mass. Agriculture Day at the Statehouse in March and the CARET meetings in Washington D.C. next week. Jellison encouraged people to help spread awareness within their own spheres and to drive people to our website. Question was raised about crediting state funding. Jellison responded that state funding is not directly allocated to programmatic initiatives but is rather used to fund salary costs across the unit.

Jody mentioned a new member of the Extension faculty, Katie Kahl who is based in Gloucester. Two searches are underway at the Cranberry Station, with one search committee for both positions. One is to fill the plant pathology position made vacant by the resignation of Erica Saalau-Rojas and the other is a general cranberry science position made vacant when Hilary Sandler left that position to become director of the Station. Jody also discussed the vacancy in the floriculture and greenhouse program to be filled by existing staff members Angela Madeiras and Jason Lanier whose responsibilities will be shifted to fill the gap.

Jody told the board that we do not yet have our federal budget for the current year but hope to hear about it by March 23. Director of the Extension Nutrition Education Program Lisa Sullivan-Werner discussed the options being looked at in the discussions about the Farm Bill and how they might affect her program. With budget uncertainty at both the state and federal levels, Jellison affirmed that we are taking a particularly prudent approach to spending.

Lastly, Jody briefly discussed the situation with hemp and marijuana as they effect CAFE and Extension. Both are Schedule 1 drugs at the federal level, but the state is classifying them differently. We are not able to conduct research on marijuana but are permitted to conduct research on industrial hemp if we choose to, as allowed by the last Farm Bill. However, it can only be done under state supervision and Massachusetts has not yet agreed. What is permitted on the Extension side remains murky. As research group, we are currently not supporting either marijuana or hemp research because we are a federally funded unit. We are acting conservatively in what we can and cannot do.

4. Presentations were offered by Paul Catanzaro, extension associate professor in environmental conservation and Diane Murphy, deputy director of Cape Cod Cooperative Extension.

Catanzaro discussed stabilizing the base of forested land in the state. He told the board that we are in the midst of the largest transfer of land. Catanzaro's goal is to understand intergenerational land transfer. He collaborates with colleagues in Maine, Cornell and Mass, to understand the challenges landowners face now, and to create outreach materials working with Mass. DCR that helps pay for legacy planning, establishing relationships with non-profits and land trusts. The average age of Mass. landowner is now 65 years old. Three-quarters of parcels 10 acres and more are owned by people 55 years old or older. Land is being parcelized, divided among children. Catanzaro helps with conservation-based land planning with a goal of keeping land in forest and intact. 33% of landowners have done no land planning; 44% have done planning in their wills and 20% of land goes into trust. Half of landowners want to keep their land undeveloped.

Diane Murphy described Extension programs on Cape Cod. They have strong staff stability, a strong sense of the work. Their programs are more than traditional extension, including a 20-year partnership with Woods Hole Sea Grant, and water quality outreach important because of the Cape's sole source aquifer. Their tick program is robust because of the huge problem with ticks there. Solid waste, recycling, household hazardous waste and water quality programs have all grown in the last decade. Sea Grant is one source of funding for them -- federal funding modeled after cooperative extension with goals and mission similar though aquaculture and marine fisheries are the target areas. Currently, the value of shellfish aquaculture harvest on Cape Cod is over \$23,000,000. Their dream is to have a research station (like the Cranberry Station). For growers, they offer onsite visits for emergency response and for technical assistance and monitoring.

5. Jody Jellison provided an update on Waltham. Once a vital agricultural station with 60 faculty and staff on site, the structures are now dilapidated and largely unused. In 1989, staff and faculty were transferred to the UMass Amherst campus. Responsibilities for the site were transferred to UMass Extension without any accompanying budget. We have used the space for 4-H offices and have rented out space to non-profit groups. Buildings have since slowly disintegrated. One building remains open. The 2014 Environmental Bond contained authorization to fund and create a "center for urban sustainability" which was never funded by the state. The current mode is unsustainable. Several options exist: remain open under current use, or press for allocation of funding. We have involved UMass Physical Plant, UMass Environmental Health and Safety in a discussion of current health and safety issues. The chair of the group is Deputy Chancellor Steve Goodwin. The group has met with stakeholders and renters. Discussions are being held in a very serious way about what will happen. Remediation of the site is potentially huge. City of Waltham is in discussion about what could happen, looking at partners, planning more discussions with chancellor and others. Ted Wales advocated strongly for keeping extension there as the gateway to Amherst. Jellison affirmed it is a point in of the discussion. MJ Bacon suggested cleaning it up and remediating the problems, with the Bond funding used to clean it up and stabilize. Then UMass could turn over to the city something that is clean, then could negotiate final use.

6. Plans for next meeting May 17 at Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown were discussed.

7. Program News Highlights

**Linda Horn: 4-H Youth Development.** Linda told the group that traditional 4-H is alive and well. Animals, babysitting, etc, other initiatives include: Google gave chrome books and virtual reality set-teaching about computer science with programming and coding. Hanscom Air Force Base with military kids --working on

science project. 4-H provides science kits. STEM ambassadors (4-6 college students hired to set up sites in summer programs throughout state for kids in need and expose them to computer science) was funded by CAFE Summer Scholar program. Community service with four seasons of giving.

**Lisa Sullivan-Werner: Nutrition Education** The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) program was very successful but has been suspended as of April 15 because funding was exhausted. State funds are being sought to reinstate the program. Food demonstrations at farmers and mobile markets have been used to promote local produce.

**Katie Campbell Nelson: The Vegetable Program** is conducting applied research and reached farmers this year with cucumber varieties recommended as mildew resistant. She also discussed the SARE-funded program for professional development among the agriculture staff.

**River Strong: Clean Energy Extension** Hired half time research assistance. Working to diversify funding sources. Collaborating with MDAR and DOER on solar incentives and agricultural dual use of solar under SMART program. Preparing materials to get ready for pollinator-friendly solar certification working with developers to make it happen. Moving forward on thinking about research aspects of ground source heat pumps, air source, renewable thermal heating. Working on demand analysis, understanding it, looking at battery banks which can give us a great rechargeable tool to understand how storage can be used. Clay bed storage clean energy test facility: can we combine heat sources with storage and be an innovator?

8. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07.