

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

**Meeting notes  
March 31, 2016**

**Present:**

**Members:** Deb Phillips , John Lebeaux, Mike Lueders, Ted Wales, Jack Angley, Jody Jellison, Bill King, John Lee

**Guests:**

Mary Jane Bacon , Lisa Sullivan-Werner, Sherrie Guyott, Bill Miller, Joe Shoenfeld, Ed Bourgeois, Kathy Carroll

**Absent:** Lynn Griesemer, Ed Davidian, Pat Bigelow

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

Jody Jellison introduced herself to the Board and passed along regrets from Steve Goodwin who was not able to participate. Dr. Jellison told the members that she hoped to enter into partnership with them and discussed her background. In her remarks, she stressed four points for the future of Extension: mission; relevancy; integration of research and extension; and sustainability as an organization for next 5-10 years.

Dr. Jellison notes that UMass Extension's footprint has shrunk, with fewer staff asked to do more with less. The impact of the regulatory burden place on growers and others is significant. She also noted the opportunities presented by stakeholder involvement and guidance and in statewide and regional partnerships.

Ted Wales noted that the unbiased information provided by Extension is vital to his industry and noted the importance of a renewed presence in Waltham, to "put Extension back on the map for the largest part of the state's population."

Commissioner Lebeaux noted the strong partnership between his department and Extension in the area of nutrient management. Jody Jellison noted importance of maintaining the distinction between government making the regulations and Extension helping with technical support but not actually making policy. The Commissioner noted "absolutely, we don't represent it otherwise." He indicated his agency will work to keep the message clear. Jellison discussed capacity shortfalls in meeting needs created by complex regulations.

Kathy Carroll discussed the increasing pressure for technical assistance and the reduced number of staff in her area. Jellison noted that Kathy and her teams are accomplishing a tremendous amount considering the size of the staff.

Sherrie Guyott presented the current situation in the 4-H program. She noted the program had reached 23000 youth in previous year through clubs, short term programs, schools, the

five 4-H camps. She discussed program structure, staffing, special projects. She also discussed role of Mass. 4-H Foundation which provides over \$200K to the program each year.

Lisa Sullivan-Werner discussed the Nutrition Education Program (NEP), which has a total of 57 staff members. The largest part of NEP is "SNAP-Ed." Mass. receives USDA funding for SNAP-Ed through the state Department of Transitional Assistance. SNAP-Ed funding for UMass Extension is currently about \$3M/year. The biggest change recently is the program being able to address environmental change in communities so that healthier choices can be easier choices. Now working with school food services to administer universal breakfast, healthy choices in cafeteria, work with school wellness committees... replace food fundraisers to change environment, fun runs etc. NEP has hired two professionals to work on environmental programs, they are located at DTA offices working with all four SNAP-Ed implementing agencies. The program as a wonderful Extension faculty member working with them, Lindi Sibeko, currently working on a project in Worcester, assessing food ways of children and families from different immigrant groups.

Deb Phillips commented that she was "incredibly impressed" with what she had heard. She asked if she collaborated with WIC and Sullivan-Werner replied that they collaborate in the farmers' market work but that they are careful not to duplicate other agencies. Bill Miller mentioned that NEP has a federal mandate for evaluating their programs and success each year and that our program has shown consistent success.

Bill Miller reviewed Extension faculty numbers and arrangements. He reviewed the work of all fourteen members of the Extension faculty.

Jody Jellison reviewed Extension funding overview. Most of our Smith-Lever funding goes to salary support. Most important source of funding is federal and outside of our control. Extension staff have stepped to plate to develop fee revenue for tests, services, etc. Much revenue pays costs of providing the services themselves.

In response to a question from Jack Angley on the Soils Lab, Kathy replied that our lab does 18,000 soil tests plus 3,000 tissue tests/year. While the lab is very busy, it also has a lot of competition. Many businesses depend on the Soils Lab. Turnaround is now between 3 days and two weeks and staff tells you on the Lab's website what the current turnaround is. Mike Lueders commented that he finds it amazing how much impact the tests can have for that amount of money, saying fees are not a lot of money by private standards.

Joe Shoenfeld reviewed BOPO membership and vacancies. He and Jack Angley will work to contact the organizations with vacancies. Ed Davidian suggested updating the minutes on the website

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.