

**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers  
UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown**

**Meeting Notes  
May 17, 2018**

**Board Members Present:** Jack Angley, Karen Heymann, Michael Lueders, John Lebeaux, Ted Wales, Matt Barron, Deb Phillips, Jody Jellison

**Board Members Absent:** Pat Bigelow, John Lee

**Guests:** Ed Bourgeois, Laurie Flanagan, Ken Nicewicz

**UMass Faculty and Staff:** Tricia Serio, Bill Miller, Joe Shoenfeld, Pat Vittum, Wes Autio, Jaime Pinero, Duane Greene, Elsa Petit; Lindi Sibeko, Vannoch Sin, Sandy Thomas, Sonia Schloemann, Sherrie Guyott, Dwayne Breger, Peter Holden, Lynn Adler, Chris Dunn, Jon Clements

1. Chair Jack Angley opened the meeting at 10:00. Jody Jellison, CAFE and UMass Extension Director, welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the agenda. She provided a news update on several items:

- Vacancies hoping to fill soon.
  - BOPO
  - Cranberry Station – searching 2 positions, both Extension faculty
    - Plant Pathologist
    - General Cranberry Agronomist
  - Turf Entomologist (Extension faculty)
- Budget
  - Federal budget is late and level for 2018
  - Hoping for earlier notice in 2019
- Farm Bill is highly contentious
- Mass. Agriculture Day – we participated as we usually do at the Statehouse event
- New promotional videos are now online
- Workplace Climate and Diversity committee is being formed – will consider both internal and stakeholder related issues
- 2018 is 3<sup>rd</sup> year for Summer Scholars
  - Policy Scholars Pilot added

2. Cold Spring Orchard Update:

Faculty and staff who work at or with Cold Spring Orchard then provided updates on their work at the facility:

Duane Greene, faculty member in the Stockbridge School and director of Cold Spring Orchard provided an update and overview of Orchard activities

- UMass Student internships at Orchard
- Research Review

- Outreach Review (growers, school groups)
- Plant growth regulators in apple production
- Flower bud formation research
- Fruit abscission
- Regulation of Ripening

Wesley Autio, director of the Stockbridge School, introduced recently arrived Extension Associate Professor Jaime Pinero.

- His focus is pest management for tree fruit
- His position is supported by Mass. Fruit Growers Association, the Mass. Society for Promoting Agriculture, and the UMass Propoky Endowment.

Jody Jellison introduced Dean Tricia Serio, the second dean of UMass Amherst College of Natural Sciences. The dean was most recently a department chair at the University of Arizona and was trained as a molecular biologist. She told the group that she views Extension as a way to bridge the gap between public and academic for mutual benefit. Jody then introduced Ken Nicewicz, fruit grower from Bolton and longtime volunteer “CARET” representative for UMass Amherst. Jody described CARET, the Council on Agricultural Research, Education and Teaching, which conducts advocacy and education to federal lawmakers and provided a summary of annual CARET activities. Ken was presented with gifts of appreciation for his service and made brief remarks.

Extension Educator Sonia Schloemann summarized small fruit research and extension. She mentioned:

- Cold climate wine grape trials and management practices
- Table Grapes – Cultivar evaluation
- Brambles – Blackberries and Black Raspberries
  - Manage SWD
- Blueberries - Cultivar evaluation
  - Pollinators as disease vector
- Pollinator Conservation

Extension Educator Jon Clements summarized tree fruit research and extension, mentioning:

- Pesticide trials and analysis
- Management of apples with spindle
- Flaming fury peach demonstration
- Peach/Nectarine evaluation
- Sweet Cherry evaluation
- RIMpro advisory services
- Asian Pear variety trails
- Pheromone Traps and technology monitoring

Elsa Petit, lecturer in the Stockbridge School, summarized her grape research and education work:

- Varietal evaluation
- Canopy management for juice quality
- Cold tolerance and cultural practices
- Wild grape micro biome
- Student-run organic vineyard

Professor Dan Cooley, Stockbridge School, discussed apple disease management:

- Disease and weather data
- Software (apps) for apples
- Testing disease risk models
- Fire Blight control
- Data collection for the development of models

Jaime Pinero – (Associate Extension Professor, Stockbridge School) Integrated Pest Management tools and strategies for apples

- Review of pests and management strategies
  - Plum Curculio
  - Apple Maggot Fly
  - Spotted Wing Drosophila
  - Japanese beetles

### 3. Extension Program Updates

Nutrition Education Program update was provided by Lindi Sibeko, extension assistant professor in the Nutrition Department:

- Nutrition Education Programs (Snap Ed and EFNEP) are meeting targets for the year
- Farm Bill – current version proposes reductions and changes in funding stream for Extension Nutrition Programs
  - Funding would go directly to University rather than through the state Department of Transitional Assistance.

Clean Energy Extension update provided by director Dwayne Breger, extension assistant professor in the Environmental Conservation Department.

4-H Youth Development Program update provided by program director Sherrie Guyott with an update on the Mass. 4-H Foundation, the 4-H Engagement Campaign (branding 4-H on national and local levels). She noted that fifty 4-H clubs in Mass. are participating in community service projects and also provided an update on upcoming programs, fairs and academies.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.