

## **North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes      December 16, 2016 South Building, Chapel Hill, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars, Jaye Cable, Reggie Holley, Jeff Hughes, Rick Luettich and Brad Ives.

Advisory Board members joining by teleconference were: Anita Brown-Graham and Greg Characklis.

Guest speakers in attendance were: Gavin Smith, Director, UNC Coastal Resilience Center.

Other guests in attendance were staff from the Department of Environmental Quality: Linda Culpepper, Rich Gannon, and Jim Hawhee.

Other UNC and Collaboratory staff in attendance were: Emily Harnish and Steve Wall.

Chair Al Segars began the meeting at 9:12 and welcomed Board Members and guests.

Segars reminded members of the UNC Conflict of Interest Policy and directed members to the Advisory Board responsibilities document, which contains the specific language. The Board approved the minutes from the November 11, 2016 Advisory Board meeting.

### Director' Report

Brad Ives presented the director's report which outlined recent actions on several Collaboratory items. He stated that the Collaboratory was in the process of developing a website that would contain relevant information such as reports, project updates, and meeting information. Ives stated that the website would make the Collaboratory's work more transparent across the university and for the public.

Ives updated the Board on the status of the Research Director position noting that it was his intent to have that person hired by the end of January. Ives stated that the Search Committee was still being finalized. Rick Luettich asked about the Board's role in the hiring process. Ives responded that the structure of the Collaboratory calls for staffing decisions to be handled by the Director. It was noted that Segars will serve on the search committee and, as such, represent the Board.

Ives outlined his efforts at the legislature in recent weeks to have the portion of Collaboratory funds that are subject to match allocated for hurricane recovery and disaster planning projects. Although the legislative request was not acted on, there is the potential for further discussion on this issue during the 2017 legislative session. In reference to the match money, Jeff Hughes asked about the current status of development and fundraising projects. Ives responded that he recently briefed UNC leadership on this topic and also had success in getting preliminary guidance that certain federal funds could be counted for the match.

### Hurricane Matthew Recovery Project

Segars moved the discussion to the action items on the agenda and asked Gavin Smith to begin his presentation. Luettich advised that in accord with the conflict of interest policy he wanted members to know that Smith was a direct report to him. Smith presented on his proposed project for a Hurricane

Matthew Disaster Think Tank. Smith stated the proposed project was suggested by the Director of the North Carolina emergency management agency.

The project is intended to:

- Serve as a point of contact for the UNC System and its faculty to assist the state.
- Engage with communities to assist them in identifying local needs and plan for recovery.
- Coordinate activities with federal agencies.

Smith emphasized that this project could harness the power of the UNC system in a very applied manner to assist communities in need. He noted that several positive items had taken place since he developed this concept, such as the recent state legislative relief package and his increased interactions with state officials.

Reggie Holley expressed his support for the project and asked for clarification as to how it relates to the legislative relief package. Smith responded that the legislative package is consistent with the proposed project.

Jaye Cable followed up and asked how the project would engage with communities on the ground and whether there were lessons to be learned from other recent flooding and disaster events. Smith answered that a review of recent disaster events, such as Hurricanes Floyd and Fran, would be a component of the work and is needed to help guide current decisions.

Segars asked how the project would address the question of scope and focus. Smith replied that he would have to do that at the outset of the work and that it would be the responsibility of his team to put bounds on the issues and the projects that they take on, including the number of communities they try to serve.

Hughes questioned if the Collaboratory's mission and focus on natural resources allowed for the funding of non-environmental components of the work proposed in this project. Members engaged in a discussion on this question and reached consensus that it was critical to approach the interrelated issues of economics, environment, and equity from a comprehensive perspective. Ives stated, that in his view as Director, these types of complex policy issues are a natural area for the Collaboratory to engage in.

Luetlich asked about the timeline for moving the project forward and Smith responded that the recent federal and state spending decisions on recovery projects provided greater clarity to the work to be done since the proposal was originally drafted. Anita Brown-Graham referenced Smith's earlier comments that recent developments have been mostly positive related to hurricane response and inquired about the negatives. Smith cited the general uncertainty of leadership has potentially caused some delays in making decisions.

Segars asked for the Board's view on moving forward with funding for the project. Members approved this request, subject to a recommendation from Hughes, to modify the title of Think Tank, to something more representative of the project. Smith agreed with that recommendation and planned to submit a new title.

Cable inquired as to the appropriateness of having continued dialogue with Smith to discuss the project. The Board responded that guidance and feedback from members was clearly within the scope and role

of individual members. The Board thanked Smith for his presentation and clarifications about the proposed project.

#### UNC Nutrient Study Interim Report

Segars asked Steve Wall to present on the draft legislative report for the UNC Nutrient Study. Wall provided an overview of the UNC Nutrient Study Interim Update report. Wall discussed the various components of the Jordan Lake research projects that will begin in early 2017, including new water quality monitoring, the development of biological assessments, a review of financing options, and community engagement aspects of the study.

Wall referenced that the planned research pursuant to the study was already being shared with external stakeholders. He stated that initial reactions had been positive based on the caliber of the study team members. Cable asked who took the lead in putting the project team together. Wall responded that faculty members Larry Band and Hans Paerl put the original work together and identified key faculty. Wall noted that Band will be leaving UNC in the summer of 2017.

Wall also outlined a section of the report that noted the potential to make Jordan Lake a centerpiece of research and experiential education for UNC students. Cable inquired whether this proposal would be limited to graduate students or included the participation of undergraduates through Capstone projects. Wall responded that the idea was still a work in progress being developed by Brent McKee in the Department of Marine Sciences but that the intent was to be inclusive of undergrads as well.

Board members engaged in a discussion of the education component possibility and enthusiastically supported the concept, but expressed the importance of engaging many units from across campus in its development and implementation. Holley asked about the term living laboratory that was referenced in this section of the report. Board members responded that it was similar to the concept of existing field sites as a means for students to get hands on experience.

Luetlich asked about how the UNC research could be integrated with NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) work on this issue, including the model for Jordan Lake. Staff from DEQ responded and noted the formation of a Jordan Lake stakeholder group and how the UNC work could be shared with that entity.

Holley referenced the stakeholder and community engagement section of the report and specifically asked about outreach to communities of low-economic status. Wall responded that the outreach effort would include discussions with stakeholders, including community groups in the watershed.

The Board reached consensus to move forward with submittal of the report to the legislature by the end of the year. Luetlich suggested he had some minor revisions before submittal. Ives encouraged him and other Board members to submit modifications and additions to the report before submittal.

The Board engaged in a discussion of funding other projects. Segars expressed the need for Collaboratory staff to have some latitude to make decisions on the funding of projects given the importance of identifying projects in a timely manner. Wall asked Board members to share with the Collaboratory staff any projects that might be appropriate for the Collaboratory to support in fiscal year 2016-17.

Segars noted the next meeting is scheduled for January 20 and adjourned the meeting at 10:58.