

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

Meeting Minutes      January 20, 2017 South Building, Chapel Hill, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars, Greg Characklis, Jeff Hughes, Rick Luetlich and Brad Ives.

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

Guests in attendance were: Trevor Clements (Tetra Tech), Lisa Sorg (NC PolicyWatch), Patty Culpepper Brady, and John Morris.

Other UNC and Collaboratory staff in attendance were: Emily Harnish, Allison Reid, Sam Veraldi, and Steve Wall.

Chair Al Segars began the meeting at 9:05 by welcoming Board Members and guests and with short introductions of all those in attendance.

Segars reminded members of the UNC Conflict of Interest Policy and noted that Board Members have been notifying him and the Board of potential conflicts related to the funding of projects. The Board approved the minutes from the December 16, 2016 Advisory Board meeting.

### Director' Report

Brad Ives presented the director's report noting that the next planned Advisory meeting on February 17 would need to be modified to accommodate Board member Jaye Cable's teaching schedule.

Ives stated that the Collaboratory website was live and the site contains information on Advisory Board meetings, project updates, and Collaboratory news items.

Ives provided an update on staffing issues, including that the process for the Research Director position was ongoing and that the position would likely be filled by early to mid-February. He introduced Sam Veraldi from UNC Finance to the Board. Veraldi will be providing oversight of the funding of Collaboratory research projects and assisting with the organization's business practices.

Ives provided an update on the fundraising aspects of the Collaboratory noting that there is a need for some modifications to the legislative provisions to provide more clarity as to the allowable use of the matching funds. He noted UNC has recently hired a Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs and that this new position will be available to assist the Collaboratory with legislative matters.

Ives outlined the importance of taking researchers over to Raleigh to meet with legislators and develop relationships. He discussed the importance of educating lawmakers about the academic calendar, while also learning from them about the critical issues and environmental challenges they see facing the state. Ives recommended that continuing to focus on hurricane relief research in FY 2017-18 could be a valuable role for the Collaboratory, but that the organization needs to also understand and learn about priorities from the legislature.

Jeff Hughes followed up on the fundraising issues and asked about progress and if the \$3.5 million in state matching funds would operate similar to a trust fund. Ives responded that this is an issue that needs clarification from the State Budget Office or additional legislative language.

### Collaboratory Project Updates

Steve Wall provided an update on the two legislatively mandated Collaboratory projects. First, Wall noted that the Interim Legislative Report for the UNC Nutrient Study was submitted at the end of the 2016 calendar year. Wall said the Collaboratory would likely have to present to a legislative budget committee in the coming months. Segars asked what a successful outcome would be from a legislative presentation. Wall answered that success could be measured in having legislators understand the value of the research and continue to fund the UNC Nutrient Study in upcoming years.

Wall highlighted outreach meetings already underway to solicit feedback and guidance on the research activities. Anita Brown-Graham suggested that it would be beneficial for policy-makers to have a synthesis of those comments and concerns coming from local governments and other stakeholders.

Wall offered that the Nutrient Study team's work for this fiscal year is underway and that it would begin transitioning to determining the funding of projects for FY 2017-18, such as the Jordan Lake Educational Field Site. Wall suggested Board Member Jaye Cable could play a key role in the development of that project.

Wall summarized recent activities related to the UNC Aquaculture Study, including UNC faculty participating at the Oyster Steering Committee last week in Morehead City. Wall stated that a large convening around this topic was scheduled for late March in Raleigh that would bring together a number of interested parties, including UNC faculty.

### Discussion of Project Submittals

Segars transitioned the meeting to a discussion of three project proposals for consideration by the Board. Wall offered some general observations of the three projects. His comments were followed by a roundtable discussion by all members about the types of projects that are appropriate for funding by the Collaboratory.

Rick Luettich kicked off the discussion by stressing the potential opportunity the Collaboratory represents in its ability to bring researchers across the state together to work on projects. Segars echoed these comments and noted that the Collaboratory is in the position to catch opportunity as it finds us. Segars stated that the initial funding cycle would set the tone and that it was important for early projects to meet the Collaboratory's academic rigor standards outlined in previous meetings.

Brown-Graham weighed in with a recommendation that the Board should be sensitive to precedent and the signals that would be sent with the initial round of funded projects. Greg Characklis suggested that future funding cycles should have more clearly defined parameters, including lengthier proposal summaries. Board members noted the opportunity costs that when one project is funded that it necessarily means other projects will not receive financial support from the Collaboratory.

Jeff Hughes emphasized the importance of supporting projects that are of practical use by state and local governments as outlined in the legislative language. Segars concurred and noted the value of getting academic researchers engaged in projects with state and local decision-makers.

The Board preceded to a discussion of the proposed project “Facilitating Age-Friendly Community Development in Hurricane Matthew’s Aftermath.” Members noted that the project met the academic requirements and that the project lead is a well-respected demographer and leader in the field. Members questioned whether the project was tightly connected to the core mission of the Collaboratory and expressed reservations about whether it should be a stand-alone project.

Luetlich referenced the Collaboratory’s earlier hurricane project and cited that project’s intent to work with faculty across campus on hurricane recovery related matters. Board members reached a consensus of support for the project, but recommended placing it under the purview of the existing hurricane recovery initiative.

The Board transitioned to a discussion of the proposed project “North Carolina Real-time High Resolution Flood Mapping Pilot.” Luetlich cited his close working relationship with the project leads and recused himself from discussing the merits but offered to answer questions about the project.

The Board engaged in a discussion of whether the project was more basic research than applied and how the deliverables would be used by state and local emergency managers. Characklis recommended that state officials should be involved from the outset of the project. Brown-Graham agreed with the recommendation and suggested the project would also benefit from the guidance and input of local government officials.

Ives stated that this was a worthy project and the type of project that could illustrate the value of the Collaboratory. The Board recommended support of the project, contingent on the ability of the researchers to bring on board state and local officials to assist in the development of the tools.

Board members suggested in future funding cycles that criteria be developed for project applicants to demonstrate support and engagement of local governments.

The Board transitioned to a discussion of “Assessing Wildfire Impacts and Mitigation in North Carolina.” Board members concluded that this project met the academic standards and was closely aligned with the Collaboratory’s mission. The Board recommended support of the project, also contingent that relevant resource managers, such as the U.S. Forest Service and the North Carolina Department of Forestry are involved.

Segars solicited feedback and comments from Board members as to how the Advisory Board was operating. Luetlich noted the new website and praised its value in providing transparency and information on the activities of the Collaboratory for interested research colleagues and the public.

Segars charged members with the task of turning their attention to next year’s funding cycle at the upcoming Board meetings and to be prepared to offer guidance to staff on priorities for project funding.

Segars thanked members and adjourned the meeting at 10:47.