

## North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes      April 11, 2017      FEMA Joint Field Office, Durham, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars, Anita Brown-Graham, Jaye Cable, Jeff Hughes, Mark Little, Rick Luettich, and Brad Ives.

Guest presenters in attendance were: Chris Lenhardt (RENCI) John Lovette (UNC Institute for the Environment) Gavin Smith (UNC Department of City and Regional Planning)

Guests in attendance were: Jim Hawhee (DEQ), Lea Sabbag (NC Emergency Management), Jane Hortelano, (League of Women Voters).

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

Chair Al Segars began the meeting at 10:05 by welcoming members and guests and with short introductions of all those in attendance.

Segars reminded members of the UNC Conflict of Interest Policy and asked members to let him or Collaboratory staff know of potential conflicts related to the funding of projects. The Board approved the minutes from the March 14, 2017 Advisory Board meeting. Segars asked about the availability of minutes from prior Advisory Board meetings. Steve Wall responded that all minutes from the meetings are available on the Collaboratory website.

### Director' Report

Brad Ives began the director's report by noting the absence of the Research Director, Jeff Warren, because of a previously scheduled trip. Ives stated that over the past couple of weeks Warren had been busy meeting with legislative leadership to discuss Collaboratory items. First among those items is a request to have the matching funds provision extended for two years to 2019. In addition to this extension, the Collaboratory is seeking to add language that would allow for \$1 million of the matching funds to be non-reverting.

Ives stated that Warren has been working with legislators on a couple of study provisions. One of the studies would be an evaluation of water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the state. Jeff Hughes noted that such a study could complement the work of the State Water Infrastructure Authority and in particular, concerns about how to assist and manage smaller systems that are facing financial issues. Gavin Smith echoed the importance of the topic based on his work in smaller towns in the middle of hurricane recovery efforts, including repairing and replacing damaged infrastructure. Hughes emphasized that the study was not his idea, but was glad to see the legislature had identified the topic as one in need of addressing.

Ives reported on a recent meeting with some of the leadership team of the Department of Environmental Quality. During the course of that meeting the topic of hydrilla and the need to assess the magnitude of the problem came up as a potential study topic. The NC State Parks Division and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission both have an interest in assisting in a study on this issue.

Ives updated the Board on a couple of administrative items. Collaboratory staff is working with the budget office to carry forward the current balance and also to ensure that the project leaders are spending down funds in advance of the end of the fiscal year. Ives stated that Campus Enterprises is in the process of hiring a communications specialist to work on the Three Zeros project and that position could support some of the Collaboratory's communication efforts.

Segars asked about the legislative process for the studies. Ives answered that the studies could become individual bills, but most likely would be provisions added into the budget bill.

#### Collaboratory Request for Proposals

Wall outlined the process for moving forward with the Collaboratory RFP and asked if putting out the solicitation in the summer was a concern. Rick Luettich stressed the need to move up the date for release and award. Jaye Cable agreed and stated that August 1 would be an appropriate start date.

Mark Little asked that selection criteria be added to the RFP to give applicants a better sense of how projects will be selected for award. He also suggested that a separate group of faculty be identified for the review process.

Hughes suggested that ongoing projects or the continuation of research were most likely to be funded given the timeframe. Luettich stressed the need to understand the practicality of lining up graduate students and personnel to carry out projects. Cable noted that the solicitation lacked any themes and that perhaps that issue should be revisited in future RFPs.

The Board engaged in a discussion of its role in reviewing and whether it should function as a grant committee. Luettich suggested the open meetings guidelines may have exceptions for grant review. Anita Brown-Graham advised that she believed recent changes allowed for exceptions related to research.

Segars stated that he recognized the need to move with haste but wanted to ensure the process is well thought out. He also would like to check with the Provost and request his input about the proper role of the Advisory Board in review and selection of projects. Segars requested that language from the Advisory Board's Responsibilities documents related to scientific inquiry be added to the RFP.

#### Inland Flood Mapping

Christopher Lenhardt gave an overview of the Inland Flood Mapping Pilot project. A number of factors, such as Hurricane Matthew, created the need a near real time mapping tool for inland areas. Lenhardt provided an overview of the current method for determining flood risk. Ives asked how severity of storms, such as the 100 year flood, are determined.

Lenhardt gave an overview of the work flow for the project. Segars inquired about the modeling tools underlying the project.

Lenhardt noted that the project members are engaging with the Division of Emergency Management and the project represents a way to utilize leading edge science for flood mapping. The project will ultimately allow for a more dynamic view of flood events. Hughes asked whether the watershed data could be compared to the tax parcel data. Luettich responded that the state is trying to understand many factors, such as tax and economic impacts, and is looking holistically at the impacts.

Little suggested showing side by side comparison of maps as a way to strengthen the presentation. Brown-Graham inquired about the predictive value of the modeling tool.

#### Hurricane Recovery Initiative

Gavin Smith outlined the work underway through the Hurricane Matthew Recovery and Resilience Initiative. The work of the Initiative is located in six communities in the eastern part of the state. Focus for the work is centered around:

- Relocation strategy for housing
- Flood retrofit of downtowns and revitalization
- Updating land use plans
- Greenway design and implementation

Segars asked for further details on the work in helping to retrofit downtown areas affected by the flooding.

Hughes cited recent examples of major storms and asked about the research available that could help guide recovery and housing decisions. Smith responded that several applied research projects from a variety of academics are a part of the Initiative. Smith added that the Initiative is also engaging numerous students in the project.

Smith outlined how the Initiative is also serving as a clearinghouse for policy considerations during the recovery process.

Smith detailed how this work fit with the emerging International Learning Laboratory focused on disaster recovery.

Brown-Graham asked what the level of coordination of all the outside agencies felt like to those living in the affected areas. Smith responded that this was an excellent point and that understanding and addressing those types of issues was critical to the work of the project.

Segars notified members of the next meeting on May 9 and outlined the Board schedule moving forward.

Segars adjourned the meeting at 12:02.