

North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2017

UNC Service Center of Excellence Carrboro, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Jaye Cable, Jeff Hughes, Mark Little, Rick Luettich (via teleconference), and Brad Ives.

Guests in attendance were: Jim Hawhee (DEQ), Lisa Sorg, (NC Policy Watch).

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

Collaboratory Director Brad Ives began the meeting at 1:15 by noting that Chair Al Segars was unable to attend due to a family illness. Ives welcomed members and guests and with short introductions of all those in attendance.

Ives stated that approval of the Board meeting minutes from May 9 would be delayed until next meeting when a quorum was present. He noted that there were no other action items on the agenda so the meeting could proceed as planned with informational items. Ives reminded the Board of the Conflict of Interest policy.

Director's Report

Ives began by updating the Board of a recent meeting he had with Chancellor Folt to brief her on the Collaboratory. Ives stated that the Chancellor is very supportive of the Collaboratory and appreciative of the role of the Board. Chancellor Folt was impressed with the Collaboratory's efforts to fund a number of diverse units across campus.

Ives offered a few administrative updates. The Collaboratory has hired a Research Assistant position for the academic year. Ives outlined how the Collaboratory plans to utilize \$175,000 of its general appropriation to supplement the ongoing work of the UNC Nutrient Study. Ives stated the Board would be transitioning to two meetings per semester with one in September and one in November.

Legislative Report

Warren summarized for the Board the legislative provisions relevant to the Collaboratory. He began by noting that the Collaboratory was fully funded and also received some additional funds for specific studies. Warren stated the matching grant provision was extended for two years. Hughes suggested the need for further discussion on the matching grant funds given their potential.

Warren outlined the studies that were directed to the Collaboratory including, energy storage technologies, environmental data, and continued work on aquaculture. Cable referenced an online database put together by Louisiana called SONRIS as a potential model for the data study. Little suggested colleagues from NC State whose expertise could benefit the aquaculture study.

The Board engaged in a discussion of the matching grant provision. Ives stated that he is exploring the potential for a development position to help with fundraising. Ives asked for Board members to think about and offer suggestions for potential options for drawing down the matching grant. Hughes suggested a brainstorming session at the next Board meeting to discuss the matching grant.

Finance Update

Sam Veraldi stated that Finance was working with Collaboratory funded projects on closing out the fiscal year. He also stated that it looked like carryforward funds would be granted this year.

Funded Projects

Wall detailed the Request for Proposal submittals. The Collaboratory received eighteen proposals with \$1.57 million in requests. Wall stated that the selection process agreed to at the last Board meeting was followed in the review and selection of projects, including a representative of the Board, Chair Al Segars.

After review of the submitted projects four projects were selected for funding. Wall noted that each of these projects had their budgets cut to allow for the funding of more projects. Wall also stated that some projects had items cut from the budget that were not appropriate for the use of state funds. Wall said that one project submitted under the RFP would be funded as part of the UNC Nutrient Study and one project submitted under the RFP would be funded with the aquaculture funds.

The four projects selected for funding at \$75,000 each include:

- **Improving Stewardship of Private Groundwater Wells**
- **Long-Term Planning to Improve Resiliency and Service of NC's Water and Wastewater Utilities**
- **Are Floodplain Buyouts a Smart Investment for Local Governments**
- **The Origin and Fate of Lead in North Carolina Surface Waters**

The Board engaged in a discussion of the selection process. Little asked about takeaways from the process and lessons learned. Cable stressed the importance of communicating with researchers whose projects were not funded. Luetlich suggested making clear that this year a thematic theme of water quality impacted which projects were selected. Warren offered that future years a more targeted RFP could be more beneficial.

The Board discussed how the matching grant could be utilized for RFP projects and other environmental work and research on campus. Little offered that future projects selected could be required to have outside sources of funds that could be utilized to drawdown the match. Luetlich asked about federal funding and the potential for funds that support centers, such as his Department of Homeland security center.

Luetlich inquired about the status of the Jordan Lake field site. Cable responded that a capstone class was being funded this fall.

Ives adjourned the meeting at 2:30.