

## North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes      February 7, 2018      UNC Service Center of Excellence Carrboro, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars (chair), Greg Characklis, Jeff Hughes, Mark Little, Rick Luettich and Brad Ives. Advisory Board members joining by phone were: Jaye Cable, Anita Brown-Graham, and Don Hobart.

Guests in attendance were: Jim Hawhee (DEQ), Jay Sauber (Upper Neuse River Basin Association), Drew Coleman (UNC Department of Geology) and Carol Rosenfeld (UNC Environmental Finance Center).

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

Chair Al Segars began the meeting at 3:00. Segars welcomed members and guests and asked for a short round of introductions of all those in attendance.

Segars reminded the Board of the Conflict of Interest policy and noted that the process for identifying conflicts was working well. Segars asked for and received approval of the September 2017 meeting minutes

### Director's Report

Ives began by letting members know that he would be leaving the meeting after his report because he had been asked to present at a committee meeting at the General Assembly. Ives welcomed Don Hobart to the Board and noted that Hobart had been providing guidance to the Collaboratory since its inception. Ives stated that the new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations, Jonathan Pruitt, had recently begun in his new role.

Ives outlined the status of the Collaboratory's legislatively mandated studies, including:

- Energy Storage
- Environmental Data
- Aquaculture Industry
- Nutrient Management/Jordan Lake.

Ives detailed the presentation on the Energy Storage Study, led by NCSU professor Joe Decarolis, made to the legislature's Joint Commission on Energy Policy. Ives suggested that the reception from committee members about the study was extremely favorable and demonstrating that the Collaboratory was funding projects beyond UNC-Chapel Hill made a positive impression.

Ives transitioned to a discussion of House Bill 189, which was the subject of legislative meeting that day, and assigned the Collaboratory certain duties in response to the GenX contamination of the Cape Fear River.

Hobart asked about NCSU's interest in serving as a resource on this issue. Ives responded that the Collaboratory had been talking with NCSU researchers and it would be a collaborative research effort. Little asked about whether the research and projects on this topic needed legislation to move ahead. Ives responded that because the work was tied to appropriations and the use of the Collaboratory's

matching funds that the bill was required. Ives excused himself to leave for Raleigh. Segars thanked the Board for a full discussion on the topic and suggested that this type of significant project confirmed the vision for what the Collaboratory could achieve.

### Matching Grant Report

Warren summarized for the Board the status of the Collaboratory's matching grant funds. He began by noting that the Collaboratory had received \$108,650 in direct donations to fund the Energy Storage Study. Warren stated that those funds would be matched by the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) dollar for dollar and that the matching request would be made soon.

Warren stated that OSBM has already approved three matching projects and transferred funds to UNC for: 1) Phase II of Hurricane Relief (\$150,000); 2) Battery Storage (\$73,100); and 3) Environmental Intern Program (\$25,000). Warren suggested that the Collaboratory was working with several other researchers to identify matching grant potential projects. Little inquired about the type of grants that would be eligible. Wall stated that under the terms of the matching grant contract with OSBM that projects needed to have a clear connection to the Collaboratory.

### Financial Report

Sam Veraldi provided a brief overview of the financial status of the Collaboratory funds. He outlined the work in recent weeks to set up various accounts to receive donations for the trust funds and matching funds. He cautioned that it was important to keep these funding streams separate and that private donations and state matching funds, even when going to the same project, must be managed differently.

### Environmental Intern Program

Jeff Hughes presented an overview of the Environmental Finance Center's efforts to develop and move ahead with an environmental intern program. Hughes said that he planned to utilize funds from the EPA to establish an intern program that placed undergraduate and graduate students with local government environmental service providers. Hughes said he had shared the idea with Jaye Cable and others on campus. Hughes said the goal for the first year was to place six interns for a ten-week program. Little asked about selection process for the communities involved. Hughes responded that he planned to leverage existing connections and encouraged other Board members to identify partners.

### Project Updates

- Long Term Planning of NC's Water and Wastewater Utilities

Carol Rosenfeld presented on the status of her research project working with local water and wastewater utilities. The project includes a major survey of utility operators to determine how they make decisions about long-term financial planning decisions.

Segars inquired about whether the project would provide information about differences among the utilities. Rosenfeld responded affirmatively and that the size and financial capability of the utilities being surveyed varies considerably. Hughes asked for comments about what the survey would capture related to utility practices. Rosenfeld answered that the survey would gather important information in regard to interaction with governing boards, software use, billing rates, etc. Segars thanked Rosenfeld for her presentation.

- The Origin and Fate of Lead in NC Surface Waters

Drew Coleman presented on his work related to sampling of the Neuse River. Coleman provided an overview of the sampling and analytical protocols that have been developed for the project. He presented slides that illustrated preliminary results of the sampling. Segars asked about the source of the spikes. Coleman responded that at this point it was unknown, but that more sampling would be undertaken to help answer the question. Segars thanked Coleman for the presentation.

Segars state the next Board meeting would be held in April. He adjourned the meeting at 4:40.