

## North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes      April 10, 2018 UNC Service Center of Excellence Carrboro, NC

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

Guests in attendance were: Jim Gregson (DEQ), Jay Sauber (Upper Neuse River Basin Association), Jane Hortelano (League of Women Voters) Kirk Ross (Coastal Review).

Presenters in attendance were: Christian Kamrath, Matthew Lockett, Jackie MacDonald Gibson, David Salvesen, and Marcy Waters.

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

Chair Al Segars began the meeting at 10:00. 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 specific university policy is on the website for those who would like to review. Segars asked for and received approval of the February 2018 meeting minutes.

Segars adjusted the agenda to allow for Sam Veraldi to present the financial report first. Veraldi distributed a spreadsheet showing how all of the funding for the 2017-18 projects had been allocated and also the progress of utilizing the matching grant.

### Director's Report

Brad Ives began by discussing an upcoming meeting of the legislature's Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources Committee meeting. Ives stated that he had been invited to present and describe the work of the Collaboratory. Specifically, Ives had been asked to present on the Environmental Data Study and the Shellfish Mariculture Plan. Ives noted that the Collaboratory's Research Assistant, Kasia Grzebyk, had been playing a leading role in the Mariculture Plan. Ives stated that he planned to use the meeting as an opportunity to highlight all the research supported by the Collaboratory and referenced the 2018 Research Brochure that summarized that work.

Ives referenced the press release announcing the new Emerging Contaminants Initiative and noted some of the media coverage of that issue. Reggie Holley asked for more information on the Initiative. Ives concluded by discussing the UNC Jordan Lake Study Symposium held at the end of March. Ives praised the event and the work of the researchers and thanked Board Members Jeff Hughes and Rick Luettich for their leadership of the Study.

### 2018-19 Research Priorities

Jeff Warren started his overview of the 2018-19 funding priorities by noting that the Collaboratory would not be offering a Request for Proposal program as it had in the past. Rather, the Collaboratory would focus on targeted issues already identified of emerging interest, including invasive species and

biogas. Warren also stated that funds would be needed to support the ongoing work of the Mariculture Plan and to supplement the Jordan Lake Study. Reggie Holley asked about how the issue of invasive species and hydrilla got on the radar of the Collaboratory. Ives responded that it arose from a discussion with Department of Environmental Quality officials and was a priority for the State Parks system. Warren also stated that the Collaboratory would be holding some funds in reserve to support research projects not yet identified.

### Project Updates

- Well Water Stewardship

Jackie MacDonald Gibson began her presentation by highlighting her previous work on private well water stewardship. She proceeded to give a report on her work funded by the Collaboratory to explore factors related to well water testing. Segars asked her to expound on the significance of factors influencing well testing. She discussed the next phase of the study which would be looking at risk communication. The final portion of her presentation focused on her new research, which includes impacts of lead in private wells, performance of household water treatment and leveraging resources to prevent future crisis like the one involving GenX in the Cape Fear River.

Jeff Hughes asked about the connection of the research to community wells and concerns about non-viable systems. Anita Brown-Graham asked if there were protocols in place for how often private wells should be tested. MacDonald Gibson responded that recommendations vary but the state does have suggested guidelines.

- Flood Plain Buyouts

David Salvesen and Christian Kamrath presented on their project to evaluate whether the flood plain buyout programs were beneficial to municipalities. This work includes trying to understand what the economic consequences for towns are and why residents choose not to participate. Kamrath stated that buyouts have a wide range of costs and benefits associated with them. The project looked at seven municipalities across the state. Segars asked about establishing a ratio. Salvesen responded that the complex factors involved, and varying data made that a difficult task. Kamrath stated that they are hoping to develop a tool for local governments to help guide decisions on this topic. Holley inquired about whether the research team had evaluated Princeville.

- Emerging Contaminants Detection

Matthew Lockett described the purpose of his laboratory was to make results of science accessible to the public. Lockett cited home pregnancy tests as an example of the type of work his lab was interested in. His lab has developed tests for bacteria in food and metals in drinking water.

The Collaboratory is funding his lab to explore the development of a paper test for GenX. He is working in partnership with Marcy Waters, who will lead the work on molecular recognition. Lockett said the intent is for the test to be low cost and accessible to the public. Waters stated that the test could be modified to identify other compounds. Board members engaged in a discussion about the potential benefits of this work

Segars thanked all the presenters and stated that the next Board meeting date had not yet been determined. He adjourned the meeting at 11:55.