

North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes December 3, 2018 UNC Service Center of Excellence Carrboro, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars (chair), Reggie Holley, Jeff Hughes, Rick Luettich and Brad Ives. Advisory Board members joining by phone were: Anita Brown-Graham and Don Hobart.

Guests in attendance were: Chris Galik (North Carolina State University).

Other UNC and Collaboratory staff in attendance were: Laurie Farrar, Emily Harnish, Kasia Grzebyk, Steve Wall, Jeff Warren, and Melanie Wright.

Segars began the meeting at 10:00. Segars asked for approval of the October meeting minutes.

Segars reminded the Board of the Conflict of Interest policy and asked members to contact both he and Ives if they had concerns about a possible conflict.

Director's Report

Ives began by asking for introductions of those at the meeting.

Ives stated that the Collaboratory had done a nice job of identifying and funding important projects over the last two years. In 2019 the priority of the Collaboratory is to ensure that findings and results of those projects are shared with policy-makers and stakeholders. He noted that staff had recently met with coastal legislators to provide an update on the Shellfish Mariculture Plan that is do to the General Assembly at the end of the year. Ives informed the Board that the Collaboratory was planning a public meeting in the spring at UNC-Wilmington to share early results of the PFAS project.

He concluded by letting the Board know the Collaboratory would be bringing in two interns for the spring semester to help with some of the communications and project summary work.

Energy Storage Study Report

Galik began his presentation by thanking the lead researcher of the study, Joe DeCarolis and all the members of the research team. He provided an overview of the legislative directive for the study. Over the last year the team held several stakeholder meetings to receive feedback as the study was progressing. The approach to the study involved evaluating the intersection of energy storage technologies and grid services. From there the study team was able to evaluate the economic impacts of specific technologies. The study recommended a number of policy options for further deliberation. These options fell into the broad categories of prepare, facilitate and accelerate.

Holley asked what was the most important policy. Galik responded that he believed it was updating the planning provisions. Segars asked about the most impactful policies from other states. Galik suggested it depended on what states were trying to accomplish. In North Carolina the study was intended to look at the benefit of these technologies for consumers. Hughes asked about whether any problematic policies were identified during the study. Galik responded that allowing the utility to have access to customer sited storage had caused issues.

Luetlich encouraged the researchers to identify the policies that could be considered low-hanging fruit. Ives followed that comment by asking about the next steps. Galik stated that he believed a lengthier conversation was needed to answer that question—one that included others from the research team. Ives thanked Galik and the team for a thorough piece of work that will advance discussion on this topic.

Shellfish Mariculture Plan

Grzebyk began the presentation by providing a historical overview of the state's oyster population. She stated that the General Assembly has been active in recent years to try and catalyze the oyster industry. Grzebyk outlined the legislative charge which included a stakeholder convening, a final plan, and the development of an oyster trail.

The Shellfish Mariculture Advisory Committee (SMAC) has been reviewing existing policies and laws that impact the industry and working to develop siting strategies that reduce user conflicts. The plan will recommend the development of a \$100 million industry by 2030, by including incentives such as a low interest loan program. The oyster trail plan was developed by a program at the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Holley expressed interest in learning more about the recommendations related to the loan program. Segars asked how realistic the goals were. Grzebyk stated that the plans were well thought out and she was optimistic they could be met. Ives noted the damage to the shellfish industry from the recent hurricanes and suggested the plan could help the industry be more resilient.

Collaboratory Funding Update

Ives stated that with a new legislative session approaching the staff were still examining the proper mix of a funding request that could include both a general appropriation and a new challenge grant. Segars stated he would continue to represent the Board in those discussion as they move forward.

Segars adjourned the meeting at 10:50.