

North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes September 12, 2017 UNC Service Center of Excellence Carrboro, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars (chair), Greg Characklis, Brad Ives and via teleconference: Jaye Cable, Anita-Brown Graham, Reggie Holley Jeff Hughes, and Rick Luettich.

Guest presenters in attendance were: Nels Roseland, Deputy State Budget Director and Orlando Coronell, UNC Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering

Guests in attendance were: Brett Altman (OSBM), Adam Brueggemann (OSBM), Jim Hawhee (DEQ), Jane Hortelano, (League of Women Voters), Jay Sauber (Upper Neuse River Basin Association), Lisa Sorg (NC Policy Watch).

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

Chair Al Segars began the meeting at 2:02 and asked all those in attendance for short introductions. Segars provided a reminder of the UNC Conflict of Interest Policy. The Board approved the minutes from the May 9 and July 21 Advisory Board meetings.

Director's Report

Brad Ives welcomed the Collaboratory's new Research Assistant Kasia Grzebyk and stated she would provide much needed support as the Collaboratory's workload continued to grow. Ives referenced the Chancellor's review of the Collaboratory work and that she has asked for the Collaboratory to present to the UNC Board of Trustees (BOT) at their September meeting. Ives stated the presentation to the BOT would emphasize a few main points, including 1) how the Collaboratory provides a bridge back to the legislature; and 2) how the Collaboratory provides an important funding source for research on environmental issues.

Ives noted the Collaboratory has made finding projects that can utilize the matching grant a priority. He stated that the Collaboratory has had some initial success fundraising for the legislatively mandated energy storage study. Ives stated that Warren will be reaching out to Advisory Board members for ideas about potential matching grant projects. Segars inquired about what role UNC Development could play in assisting the Collaboratory in fundraising. Ives responded that is an area he is focused on and is working with UNC Development to create a position that could serve several Finance and Administration units.

New Research Center

Greg Characklis gave a brief presentation on a new research center at UNC that he will be leading. The center will focus on "Managing Environmental Financial Risk" and will work with industry and other entities to better understand their financial risks by integrating environmental, engineering, and economic systems. The center will be housed jointly at the Gillings School of Global Public Health and the UNC Institute for the Environment. The center is leading several projects across the country and has a diverse group of funding sources.

Collaboratory Legislative Provision

Jeff Warren described the legislative language that was added by the General Assembly in House bill 56 that amends the directive on the Collaboratory's Environmental Data Proposal. The language was included as part of the legislature's response to the "GenX" contamination in the Cape Fear River. The proposal calls for the Collaboratory to identify a process to manage environmental data and for the creation of an online database for water quality permits. Warren said he was in discussions about the proposal with the NC Department of Environmental Quality and staff at UNC RENC. The proposal is due April 1, 2018.

Matching Grant Discussion

Nels Roseland began his overview of the legislative challenge grant for the Collaboratory by noting that his staff and Collaboratory staff had productive discussions about the interpretation of the legislative language that outlines the grant. Roseland described the language as having two buckets. The first bucket provides a 1:1 match for funds the Collaboratory raises as direct contributions or donations of in-kind goods and services. He gave the example that once the funds had been raised and financial information was provided that the Office of State Budget and Management would make an allocation to the Collaboratory that matched the amount raised.

Roseland said the second bucket was for non-state funds for research conducted by the Collaboratory and that could be matched at a 1:2 rate. Roseland provided an example that a \$100,000 federal grant could be matched under the rate at \$50,000 provided there was a connection by the Collaboratory to the first grant. Roseland stated that documentation would have to be available in the grant agreement or funding letter that showed the Collaboratory's involvement in the project.

The Board engaged in a discussion to seek more clarity on the interpretation of this provision. Ives stated that the Collaboratory does not conduct research, but funds and manages research projects and then provides results back to the legislature. Segars inquired about the use of corporate donations—Roseland responded that those would be considered non-state funds, as would federal grants.

Warren suggested that a specific example on the research question could assist with the discussion. Professor Orlando Coronell presented on his current research on energy storage and how it could link to the Collaboratory's energy storage study. The project is developing a battery for energy storage that operates using the principles of reversible electro dialysis. The project has received funding from the UNC Gillings Innovation Labs program. Matching funds from the Collaboratory could support the work on optimizing the battery design.

Roseland asked whether there was a connection between the award and the Collaboratory and that if not, the award letter would need to be amended to show Collaboratory involvement.

Jay Sauber provided an overview of how the Upper Neuse River Basin Association may have an interest in the future in supporting research in Falls Lake related to the UNC Nutrient Management Study. The group discussed the issue of whether the research funds flowed directly to the Collaboratory versus an outside entity would also be a consideration in which matching rate was utilized.

Holley inquired as to whether a decision by the Board needed to be made today. Ives responded that this discussion was a learning session to better understand the process. Segars raised the issue of next steps and the process going forward. Roseland stated that the process for the 1:1 match was fairly straightforward and that the research match would be handled on a case by case basis.

Segars thanked the staff from OSBM for traveling from Raleigh to participate in the discussion and adjourned the meeting at 3:29.