

UNC Coastal Studies Institute Board of Directors Interim Meeting  
Thursday, April 23, 2009  
Coastal Studies Institute  
Manteo, North Carolina

*PRESENT*

Board: Mike Kelly (Chair), Richard Johnson, David Twiddy, Cheryl Oliver, John Wells, Charles Bruton, William Kealy and Ron Baird

Ex-officio: Deirdre Mageean (VC for Research ECU) and Dr. Nancy White.

Staff: Marie Magee and Linda Davis

Guests: Irvin Aldridge (past member of UNC Board of Governors), John Rummel (ECU), Courtney Thornton (UNC GA)

Board Members Absent: Joan Weld, Charles Evans, Rolf Blizzard, Ben Cahoon and Dr. Steven Leath

**CONVENE/INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Mike Kelly welcomed all in attendance to the interim meeting of the Board of Directors meeting. A quorum is present. This is the first time we are using a variety of technologies, including videoconferencing and streaming.

**MINUTES**

No corrections were noted. Richard Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 7, 2008 BOD meeting. David Twiddy seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Nancy White would like to add “Program Updates” to the agenda under Staff Reports.

**REPORTS AND CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**Staff Reports:**

**Program Updates:**

Nancy White provided the Board with an update on CSI operations.

*Extension Education and Outreach Program*

- a. CSI is working with Currituck County on their “Going Green” project
- b. Currituck High School has been added as part of the upcoming ROV competition; there are now three local schools participating – Currituck High, Manteo High, and First Flight High
- c. CSI worked with the College of the Albemarle to offer a workshop called “Cistern Design and Construction” as part of the Albemarle Green Building Series
- d. CSI recently worked with students to install a cistern at Manteo High School
- e. CSI received a “Partners in Conservation” award from the Department of Interior
- f. CSI met with COA & ECU to facilitate a “2+2” program with the Department of Biology

- g. CSI has worked with COA and Dare County to broadcast CSI programs on local TV channel 19. Many thanks to Richard Johnson for assisting with this.
- h. CSI and partner, RENCI, participated with COA in the Land of Beginnings Festival. The focus of the conference was to discuss about how technology can help the Outer Banks transform the community.

#### *Research Programs*

- a. Estuarine Ecology and Human Health (E2H2) Program had \$10 million removed from the Outfall Study project. The money was reallocated to the reconstruction of Jennette's Pier. Enough money was left behind to finish the research. CSI is hoping that once Jennette's Pier is finished and the economy improves that that money will be returned to the program. The E2H2 program is continuing to work on that project as well as the nearshore project.
- b. Estuarine and Coastal Processes Program has brought in some grants (\$100,000 - \$150,000) during the last couple of months.

#### *Administrative*

Nancy White is currently serving on three committees – the Offshore Energy Study Committee, the NC Marine Science Education Partnership, and is working with UNC GA on the Marine Sciences Advisory Council.

#### **Facilities:**

##### *CSI Campus Update*

Nancy White provided an update on the CSI campus. The Board of Governors approved the relocation of the Coastal Studies Institute to the Skyco site. The COPs authorization was approved by the Council of State this spring. The offer to purchase contract was signed between the State Properties Office and the landowners and was approved by Government Operations on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The funds were included as part of the State's debt plan and the certificates of participation was sold and approved. This will go to the Council of State for final approval in May. The final sale price was \$8.25 million.

The design of the campus has been restarted from the programming phase. We recently convened a meeting of all the faculty, program heads, and participants to confirm their needs for program space. It is a great benefit to have our education and technical staff, Billy Edge, Engineering Program head, Rick Miller (ECP), Mike Piehler (E2H2), and ECU representation from Human Dimensions and Maritime Programs participating to more closely on the exact the space needs of those programs. The outcome of that is that we were able to cut out some square footage – the total square footage is down from 90,000 sq ft to 80,000 sq ft. The development of the technology capabilities, which will be a important resource at CSI amongst marine sciences programs, is being greatly enhanced by working with RENCI. Significant capabilities in terms of imaging, visualization, and data management and analysis are being planned. We will also be working with NCREN to establish good network bandwidth to the campus. A special sub-committee met to look at the canals since they are an added dimension to the design and development program that we did not have with the airport site. The architects are now working on a proposal to be sent to the State Properties Office for approval. We want to keep this moving as fast as possible to take advantage of a 25-30% reduction in construction costs. We hope to have the design completed and out to bid in

12 months; construction should take approximately 18 months. The current target occupancy date is early 2012.

John Rummel asked if the campus will have a windmill on site. White replied that a windmill is not part of the core program; however, she wrote a proposal to the National Institute of Standards and Technologies last fall and has been keeping watching their site for when the reinvestment (stimulus) money will call for new applications. We will then resubmit that proposal. The proposal was for \$10 million, part of which was going to be used to put technology in our research space and part of which was going to be used to put a windmill up.

#### *Nags Head Lab*

CSI is still endeavoring to get the renovations for the Estuarine and Coastal Processes Program at the Nags Head Lab installed. The budget situation freeze has been one of the primary problems. The Town of Nags Head had serious concerns whether they would be able to do the renovations because of their cash flow problems. White worked with Mayor Renee Cahoon to come to an agreement that CSI would pay the balance in one lump sum instead of over four years. This payment method was recently approved by the State Properties Office. We also have to permission to have a portion of our funds released. We are very concerned what effects the budget cuts may have on our operating budget and are being very cautious.

#### *Dare County Building Space*

CSI has been offered free space by Dare County in the former County Administrative Buildings located at 211 Budleigh Street. We are in need of the space to accommodate potential five new people coming on board within the next six months. In addition, the Institute for the Environment student population is expecting 14 students this fall (seven more than last year). We are currently getting estimates on what it will cost to install internet and phone service in that space. Due to the budget situation, we may or may not be able to utilize the space. Much depends on what cuts are implemented to our budget.

#### **Personnel:**

##### *Coastal Engineering*

The contractual negotiations have been completed to appoint Dr. Billy Edge for the Coastal Engineering Program Head position. Dr. Edge has already participated in the campus design process as well as the canal meeting. Dr. Edge will be in North Carolina on June 1st -- his primary residence will be in Raleigh. He will commute to the Outer Banks for the first year. This is to establish a good base with the faculty at the College of Engineering. After the first year, he plans to move to Outer Banks. Dr. Edge is a retired emeritus professor from Texas A&M who is legendary for the work he has done in wave modeling and shoreline erosion. Dr. Edge was given full professor with tenure at NCSU and is shared 49-51% between CSI and NCSU. Currently, CSI is not contributing any funds to his salary because we do not have them. The funds for our portion of his salary were requested as part of this year's budget, but we don't anticipate receiving an allocation this year. The Dean at the College of Engineering is committed to the program and will carry Dr. Edge until CSI receives its funding. Dr. Edge will be developing a truly innovative program focused on how the coast can be more resilient in combination with sustaining the environment. This program which will have a research element as well as adding to the professional curriculum so that future engineers coming

out of NCSU will have better knowledge and skills on how to build sustainably on the coast. We are very excited on what Dr. Edge will contribute to the Outer Banks.

#### *Human Dimensions*

There is a chosen candidate for the Human Dimensions Program Head position who has been working at the federal level on policy issues relevant to sea level rise for the last few years. If we can move forward with his contract, he will start in January 2010. We are trying to work a companion deal for his wife with RENCI. She has a background in e-learning technologies with PhD from University of Georgia in E-learning and human ecology. She has been the of a major university's E-learning program. She would be a good fit with our program for developing our e-learning curriculum for our distance education programs.

#### *Research and Education Associates*

CSI was able to hire two much needed, and long planned staff before the budget freeze. David Sybert, is an Education Assistant under John McCord, scheduled to start 5/4/09. Chris Buonassissi, is the ECP Research Associate for the Estuarine Coastal Processes program. He started on 4/6/09.

#### *Maritime Heritage*

Cheryl Oliver asked about the status of the Maritime Heritage Program Head position. Nancy White replied that we are very excited about the strides we are making with the Department of Maritime Studies at ECU as well as the NOAA Marine Sanctuary program. Hopefully we can get the necessary funds to fill this position next year. Dr. Mageean stated that this is really a question of CSI's budget. The portion of position at ECU is funded.

#### **Budget:**

Everything except for salaries and standing purchase orders that pay for utilities are frozen. All CSI expenditures are being reviewed by Vice Chancellor Mageean's. The primary concern is for what the long term effects of the recession will be. Any cut would leave us with nothing but staff salaries and the bare minimum of operating expenses. Dr. Mageean mentioned that the budget scenario is changing daily. At this point, the only thing that is clear for spending is grant money; however, some agencies are starting to cut back the use of state grants. Dr. Mageean stated that no voluntary cost sharing on grants should be done. The budget situation is not likely to be resolved soon.

#### **Other Committee Reports:**

##### **Foundation Update:**

Nancy White provided an update on the Coastal Studies Institute Foundation Board activities. The Foundation has been working with Cathy Hanby-Sikora from UNC GA to develop a long term fundraising plan. The Foundation board is meeting in May to work on that plan. They would also like to have a joint meeting with the Board of Directors for the annual meeting in the fall to discuss joint efforts they can work on together.

##### **Science Coordinating Committee:**

Nancy White stated that the CSI program heads are writing short two-page strategic plans to help guide efforts of the SCC. She has been working with individuals on the committee on an ad-hoc basis. The SCC is targeting to have a group meeting by the end of summer.

***Other Business:***

John Wells recommended that CSI keep an eye on grant opportunities available for water quality, land use planning, and coastal restoration. Dr. Mageean mentioned that there is a special section on the RGS Research web page with daily updates regarding grant opportunities and stimulus money available. CSI has been watching the National Institute of Standards and Technology website for available construction money. Ron Baird stated he would be willing to assist CSI with grant applications.

**ADJOURN**

There will be another short videoconference meeting in mid June to keep board members apprised of the budget situation. John Wells asked that a summary of the budget status be sent to members prior to the meeting. The Board of Directors annual meeting will be held sometime in late September/early October.

Ron Baird made a motion to adjourn. David Twiddy seconded the motion, all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Davis, Recording Secretary