

## UNC Coastal Studies Institute Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Friday, January 17, 2014, 1:00 PM  
UNC CSI Campus, Room 262

### **ATTENDEES**

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Michael Kelly (Chair), Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Dr. Charles Bruton, Mr. Charles Evans, Mr. Malcolm Fearing, Mr. Glenn Futrell, Ms. Joan Weld, and Dr. John Wells

**Ex-officio:** Ms. Willo Kelly, Dr. Ron Mitchelson, and Mr. Warren Judge

**Via Phone:** Ms. Cheryl Oliver, Dr. Margery Overton, and Dr. Sarah Smith (for Dr. Chris Brown)

**UNC CSI Staff:** Dr. Nancy White, Ms. Marie Magee, Ms. Kimberly Armstrong, Mr. John McCord, Dr. Michael Piehler, Dr. Nathan Richards, Dr. Andy Keeler, Mr. Robert McClendon, Dr. Lindsay Dubbs, Dr. J. P. Walsh, and Mr. Johnathan Jones

**Guest:** Mr. Bill Massey

### **CONVENE AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Michael Kelly, Chair, called the meeting of the UNC CSI Board of Directors to order at 1:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Ms. Armstrong conducted the roll call.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

The minutes from the last BOD meeting (9/20/13) and agenda were approved.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Dr. Nancy White stated that CSI will host East Carolina University (ECU) Board of Visitors on February 7. An evening reception will be held for the group on February 6. Anyone interested in participating in any of the activities is welcome.

Upon the conclusion of the business meeting today, Drs. Andy Keeler and Lindsay Dubbs will make a presentation regarding the UNC OBX Field School's fall 2013 Capstone Project - *Habitat Preservation in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore*.

Dr. White stated that at the next Board meeting, Dr. Reide Corbett will report on the newly formed CSI Research Committee.

Dr. White stated Mr. John McCord and Mr. Robert McClendon received titles for new positions. Mr. McCord is Interim Director for Education, Outreach, & Communications and also serves as Field Operations Coordinator. Mr. McClendon is Interim Director of Academic Operations.

### **BOARD AND STAFF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### *Administrative Update*

Dr. White stated there have been many visitors to the building: David Edgell (ECU Sustainable Tourism), Jeff Warren (Senior Policy Advisor, NC Senate), Neal Robbins (NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources), Senator Burr, Mark Phillips and Tim Ivey (NC Department of Commerce), Phil Morgan (Director of UNC Center for Demographic and Population Research), Eric Kaplan (Hatteras Island Ocean Center), Emlyn Koster (Director, NC Museum of Natural Sciences), and several local Cooperative Extension Staff. Dr. White stated it has been a welcome opportunity to

host these visitors. In addition, it is stated on CSI's website that tours are available for the public on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.

Dr. White stated that she had received her annual review from UNC President Ross.

CSI has been working closely with the Oregon Inlet Task Force, as well as with the Governor's staff and NC Department of Transportation (DOT) personnel. Dr. White stated it has been a rewarding experience to work on something so important to the community and state and to contribute to finding a sustainable solution. Drs. Billy Edge, J. P. Walsh, Reide Corbett, and Andy Keeler have all contributed in their areas of expertise. Dr. White stated that Mr. Malcolm Fearing has asked CSI to consider working with the NC Ferry Division.

Dr. Steve Smutko (University of Wyoming School of Environment and Natural Resources and former NC State Extension Specialist) conducted a stakeholder assessment regarding opinions and attitudes about Oregon Inlet and determined that it is a very polarized issue with no common ground and no opportunity for educational work. Dr. Adam Gibson, a social scientist associated with CSI, assisted Dr. Smutko with the project.

This past October, CSI partnered with ECU School of Fine Arts, Pocosin Arts Center, Dare County Arts Council, and College of the Albemarle for an Art and Science Symposium. There were approximately 100 participants. Dr. White stated it was a success and CSI plans to make it an annual event.

#### *Budget Discussion*

Various budget reports included in the BOD handout were examined.

#### *Operations/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review*

Dr. White stated that the Whalehead Preservation Trust (WPT) MOU was finalized this quarter. The MOU primarily involves Dr. Nathan Richard's program. At this point, Dr. White requested Dr. Richards to share information regarding his work.

Dr. Richards stated the recording of four historic boats has been completed and reports, catalogs, 3D models, and animations have been given to WPT. A cadastral survey and gradiometer survey of major portions of the Currituck Light Station has been completed with Outer Banks Conservationists (part of ongoing work with one of the 2013 Currituck Maritime Heritage Fellowship recipients). In the Town of Manteo the recording of a recovered screw pile from the Roanoke Marshes lighthouse (1877) was completed. A poster of results will be on permanent display in the Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse Replica, and may be integrated into an outdoor display on the Manteo waterfront. Dr. Richards finished section editing 12-volume Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology (Springer Press) – 8,100 pages, \$6,000/copy. He stated that the MOU with Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is making progress.

Dr. White stated that WPT has offered to host CSI's next BOD meeting on April 4. Dr. Richard's work will be featured as well as that of his students. As WPT is located in Currituck County, the Currituck County Board of Commissioners will be invited.

Mr. Kelly mentioned that Whalehead is in a heavily traveled area and that affiliation with the site will increase CSI's exposure.

Dr. White stated there have been fruitful conversations with Dr. Emlyn Koster (NC Museum of Natural Science) regarding a partnership. CSI will provide the museum with content regarding coastal issues. The museum offers a tremendous venue to share northeastern North Carolina happenings with people statewide. The museum has contact with every school in NC. CSI has convened a story-telling group to tell the story of Oregon Inlet and this might be the first project in conjunction with the museum.

### *Foundation*

Ms. Willo Kelly stated the UNC CSI Foundation was happy to have been involved with the Art and Science Symposium. The Foundation would like to keep abreast of visitors (for potential contacts). They have met with an attorney to discuss strategic planning initiatives. The Foundation is currently in a holding pattern right now. Everything has been reviewed and bylaws have been approved. Ms. Kelly stated that plans are to continue focusing on how the Foundation and CSI can work together more strategically.

Dr. White stated the Foundation needs to find a sustainable business model.

Mr. Kelly stated that Lorelei Costa, Director of the Outer Banks Community Foundation, visited CSI for a tour and a preliminary conversation regarding funds.

### *Nominating Committee*

Dr. White stated a nominating committee needs to be appointed. There are four Board members who will be rotating off in 2015.

Mr. Kelly stated that he, Dr. White, Mr. Charles Evans, Mr. Bill Kealy, and Ms. Cheryl Oliver will comprise the nominating committee.

Mr. Fearing asked how new members are selected.

Dr. White answered that the bylaws state members will have strong backgrounds in coastal issues including research, development, outreach, and education on policies that affect coastal communities.

### *Events/Facilities/Operations*

Mr. McClendon stated there is a need to build a boardwalk through the marsh on the conservation property. The boardwalk would be utilized for research and education purposes. He will speak to the Nature Conservancy about moving forward with the idea. The one-year warranty on the facility is complete. The punch list is almost complete. Glass enclosures on stair towers have been installed. A roll-up door is being installed in the first floor engineering lab to accommodate the wave tank. Mr. McClendon stated there has been discussion regarding a memorial or recognition for Mr. Richard Johnson and other Board members who have moved on or passed away.

Mr. Kelly stated he would like for Mr. McClendon and Mr. Fearing to be involved in recognition efforts and suggested the ECU Foundation be contacted for guidance regarding memorials. There should be someone from the UNC CSI Foundation on the committee as well.

Dr. White stated the committee should consider a way to honor faculty who have made significant contributions to CSI's programs (for example, Dr. Edge).

Mr. Fearing stated that former Senator Marc Basnight should be recognized as well.

Mr. McClendon mentioned the endeavor to connect a walking trail from CSI to an existing trail which goes by the Dare County Visitor's Center. The Nature Conservancy, NC Department of Transportation, the Wildlife Resources Commission, and Dare County have contributed to this project.

Dr. Charles Bruton recommending getting the Boy Scouts involved in the trail project.

### *Academic Programs*

Dr. Walsh stated that last fall, the Maritime Field School and the UNC Outer Banks Field School were held at CSI. There will be another *Summester at the Coast* this summer – applications are currently being accepted. The course is open to undergraduates from any school. Dr. Dubbs will be

conducting an Ocean Energy class again this year in July. Dr. Richards is planning a Nautical Archaeological Society training course. Dr. Walsh stated that he is on an undergraduate committee reviewing potential integration of coastal studies programs.

#### *Public Education and Outreach*

Mr. McCord stated that CSI has served 925 people through onsite programs and 964 through offsite programs. Since September there have been 446 K-12 students through the building. Over 800 students will go through the facility by the end of the school year. The *Science on the Sound* series continues to be held monthly with average online participation between 20 and 50 people. There have been over 200,000 visits to the CSI website. Government Education Channels 19 and 20 have proven to be a great venue for distributing digital content. Mr. McCord stated he is working on a 3-D visual experience of diving off wrecks at the Roanoke Island Aquarium. He has met with staff from NC Museum of Natural Sciences to discuss K-12 programming. He is working with COA and their annual Marine Science Expo scheduled in April and will be bringing 500 students to CSI during the course of that day. CSI will host Outer Banks Earth Day, April 26, 1 – 4PM, and may have 600 or more in attendance. CSI is hosting *Our State* “Live and Learn Weekend” the last weekend in May. CSI will hold two day camps for 11-14 year olds in conjunction with Jennette’s Pier.

Mr. Fearing asked if there is a way to make the Foundation more aware of CSI’s endeavors and to give the Foundation more exposure.

Mr. McCord suggested that the Foundation be listed on CSI’s website.

#### **NEW AND CONTINUING BUSINESS**

##### *UNC Marine Sciences Review Update*

Dr. White stated under the leadership of Drs. Susan White and Chris Brown a consortium is looking for a governing body system wide. The group has asked constituents to provide input as to who should be on the Board and what the roles and responsibilities should be. Dr. White will put together recommendations and forward to Dr. Brown. They are reviewing ways to coordinate curriculum and classes. They are determining methods for moving students up and down the coast. A goal is to remove institutional barriers to make assets available. Dr. White stated it is a huge undertaking and it must be done without the possibility of funding. It is hoped to make the programs more efficient. CSI is actively working with ECU to merge their Dive and Water Safety Programs.

##### *Board Member Items*

Dr. Ron Mitchelson stated he could not be more pleased with the way things have developed at CSI. ECU is in the process of reconfiguring their coastal activities which will allow them to partner more effectively with CSI. The ECU Chancellor is in full support of this endeavor.

Mr. Fearing recognized the level of support from ECU. Also, he mentioned the fact that National Geographic is in the process of filming a TV program in Wanchese aboard a local fishing boat. He stated it could present an opportunity for CSI to reach out to them and be recognized. Mr. Fearing also stated he would like to suggest that the Board consider adopting an ethics policy for BOD members.

##### *Next Meeting*

The next UNC CSI BOD meeting will be held April 4, 2014 at Whalehead.

Business meeting adjourned at 2:50 to focus on the featured program: Outer Banks Field School Fall 2013 Session

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong  
UNC CSI, Administrative Assistant