



Minutes - UNC Coastal Studies Institute Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Friday, September 16, 2011

Outer Banks Welcome Center on Roanoke Island
Manteo, North Carolina

ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Michael Kelly (Chair), Rolf Blizzard, V. Charles Bruton, Benjamin Cahoon, Charles Evans, Richard Johnson, William Kealy, and Joan Weld

Ex-officio: Deirdre Mageean

Staff: Nancy White, Robert McClendon, John McCord, Nathan Richards,
Marie Magee, and Kimberly Armstrong

Guests: William Massey (CSI Foundation)

Board Members Absent: Ronald Baird, Cheryl Oliver, David Twiddy, John Wells

CONVENE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Mr. Michael Kelly called the annual meeting of the UNC-CSI Board of Directors to order at 1:15 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was noted.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes from the last board meeting (March 25, 2011) were approved.

REPORTS AND CONTINUING BUSINESS

Director's Report:

Director Dr. Nancy White asked if there were questions about the written report and provided the following updates:

Dr. Mike Piehler published papers that are significant to coastal communities. One paper involves nitrogen fixation and removal rates for oysters. Dr. Andrew Keeler has been working with Dr.

Piehler on the policy implications. Another paper involves the study of salt marsh stabilization methods. The methods discussed will help stabilize the shoreline against storms and other issues that cause erosion. Dr. Piehler is initiating important practical and applied methods with regards to the health of the ecosystem.

The Ocean Energy Program was a very significant effort this past year. It required getting up to speed quickly to learn the state of the science. A good team of advisors was recruited and a symposium was held to identify the strategic areas for this effort. Work is being done on magnetic gearing with the lead PIs from UNC-Charlotte. A method for storing energy offshore using compressed air and ways to pull energy from the Gulf Stream are being examined. This research will create economic opportunities for North Carolina using North Carolina expertise.

The legislature funded this program for \$2 million-- \$900,000 of which was dedicated to research last year and \$1.2 million for this year. The remainder is slated for graduate students and contractors who are working on modeling, measuring waves, and background work and the research and education up-fits for Jennette's Pier. CSI has installed touch-screens that provide information on the Coastal Studies Institute and the Ocean Energy Program and will be installing the necessary infrastructure to support research and testing. Already a private developer will deploy equipment from the pier in October for testing. CSI also plans to partner with Florida Atlantic University, one of the national DOE centers, to study the Gulf Stream.

Mr. Kelly stated that CSI owes a great deal of thanks to Sen. Basnight for his support of the Ocean Wave Energy program.

Dr. White commented that it is great to have a "policy person", Dr. Andrew Keeler, at CSI. He is a great resource for the researchers as well as for the community.

Dr. Nathan Richards has been working on the U-Boat Battle of the Atlantic for the last couple of years. Currently, he's working with a team of students in Columbia exploring archaeological issues in the Scuppernong River.

The Education and Outreach group expanded their reach by involving Hyde, Pasquotank, and Currituck schools. The CSI Foundation received contributions from Towne Bank and Southern Bank that will help support the programs. At Manteo High School, Mr. Robert McClendon led a project that involved constructing a boardwalk to the creek behind the school and converting a storm water pond into a wetlands area. Microscopes and sampling equipment were also purchased for the schools. The Education staff is serving on committees and boards – they have an increased presence in the community.

Ms. Weld stated that the involvement of the Education staff in the community is a giant step forward for the Institute and is extremely important.

Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

Mr. Kelly stated that in light of Dr. Wells's absence, Dr. White would address the committee report

on Administration, Governance, and Bylaws.

Dr. White stated that when President Erskine Bowles and the Board of Governors changed the university code (remanding the management of all centers and institutes previously under GA to their administrative campuses), it resulted in the Institute Board being out of compliance. In particular, the UNC CSI Bylaws vest the authority for advisement on policy matters with the Board and with General Administration being responsible for policy decisions. More particularly the need to clarify responsibility for various areas such as facilities, master planning, budget development and approval has always been needed. CSI was given “grace” to take extra time to determine the best way forward given its broad scope and complex inter-Institutional mission. Much research has been done and recommendations have been made. Now, the Board seeks advice, guidance, and a decision from the President, Dr. Ross. A letter was sent to him requesting a meeting, but he has not yet confirmed a time. CSI looks forward to his visit and the discussion.

Foundation:

Mr. Benjamin Cahoon went over the Foundation’s Report to the CSI Board of Directors. There have been five grant proposals written, two have been funded and two are under consideration. Discussions are being held with Dr. Andrew Keeler regarding a major grant proposal which involves the creation of a model for community engagement in potentially divisive environmental discussions. Possible fund-raising strategies for buildings that were eliminated from the initial campus construction plan are being discussed.

Nominating Committee:

Mr. Kelly stated that Dr. Ronald Baird and Mr. David Twiddy will be leaving the board. The five new board nominees are: Mr. G. Irvin Aldridge, Mr. Michael Thompson, Mr. Malcolm Fearing, Dr. Russ Lea, and Mr. Glenn Futrell.

Ms. Weld made a motion to accept the slate of nominees. Mr. Blizzard seconded the motion. All were in favor. Ms. Weld commented that when she and Cheryl (Oliver) leave the Board next year, there will be no women on the board. She said it’s something to be thinking about. Mr. Kelly stated that when selecting the nominees, geography and professional and local affiliations were taken into account. He said they had considered two females.

Dr. White stated that a Chair and Vice-Chair needed to be elected. Mr. Blizzard nominated Mr. Kelly to continue on as Chair. Ms. Weld seconded the nomination. All were in favor of Mr. Kelly continuing as Chair. Ms. Weld nominated Mr. Richard Johnson to continue as Vice-Chair. Mr. Blizzard seconded the nomination. All were in favor of Mr. Johnson continuing as Vice-Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Committee on Public Affairs:

Dr. White stated that she and Mr. William Massey had discussed the formation of this committee. The idea would be to have a committee between the CSI Board and the Foundation Board that would work on public issues such as fund-raising with the legislature or interfacing with

government entities. However, it cannot be put into action until the board authority issue is resolved. Dr. White suggested the discussion on this committee be tabled for now. All were in agreement.

BOD Meeting Schedule:

Dr. Deidre Mageean stated that she cannot make the next Board meeting scheduled for Dec 2. Dr. White suggested the meeting be rescheduled for sometime in January. She suggested a longer meeting, one that will include an orientation for new members as well as a social event. She will send out an e-mail to arrange a date.

After Mr. Robert McClendon's brief presentation of the new building's floor plan and site layout, the Board adjourned for a campus tour and topping-off ceremony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong
Recording Secretary