

**NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.**  
**Board Meeting Open Session Minutes**  
**Talley Student Union and via Zoom**  
**April 20, 2023, 2:45 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Myron Floyd, Jennifer Piercy, Sam Cook, Dana Harris, Erin Delehanty, Hunter Jenkins, Brian Dangler, Gary Allred, Blas Arroyo, Gray Carter, Miles Daniels, Joann Cox, Georgia Brown, Larry Perkins, Harry Sideris, Tom Hines, Dale Threatt-Taylor, Michelle Wells, Lou Boos, Jazmin Varela, Jennifer Zuckerman, Erin Elliott

**Members Absent:** Lewis Ledford

**Others Present:** Brooke Labashousky, Shane Jarvis, Cathy Moon, Melissa Pasquinelli, Sarah Corica, Josh Gira, Stacy Nelson, Robert Bardon, Rasul Mowatt, John Sanders, Garrett Sumner

Blas Arroyo called the Annual Meeting of the NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc. to order at 2:46 pm. All members and guests introduced themselves.

President Jennifer Piercy brought the members' attention to the printed meeting materials and gave recommendations on where to insert them in their notebooks.

Mr. Arroyo read the Conflict of Interest statement. No conflicts were noted.

Chair Hunter Jenkins asked the members to review the minutes from the previous meetings. Larry Perkins called a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Board meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arroyo. The motion passed.

Chair Jenkins presented the Chair's report. The Board's meeting frequency was addressed. Chair Jenkins asked the members to consider having two in-person meetings per year instead of three. These meetings would be held in the fall and spring. The winter meeting is what would be changed. It is possible the winter meeting would no longer be held, or it would be held over Zoom. The members discussed their thoughts and opinions. Chair Jenkins asked the members to continue thinking about this and send their feedback to President Piercy.

Vice Chair Brian Dangler presented the Nominating Committee report. This September Lou Boos and Harry Sideris will complete their second terms. Gary Allred and Tom Hines will complete their first terms and they will be up for re-election for their second terms. Vice Chair Dangler asked the Board members to consider nominees for the two opening positions. President Piercy encouraged the members to treat nominating as a continuous, year-round process. It is her goal to have a running list of nominees. Secretary Erin Elliott will be sending out the nomination form for the members to fill out after the meeting.

Joann Cox asked if the Board has ever considered having a student representative on the Board as a non-voting member. President Piercy said that it has been done on other boards, but not on this Board. President Piercy noted her suggestion.

Mr. Arroyo presented the Audit and Finance Committee report. He reviewed the December 31, 2022 Investments Summary pie chart. Total investible assets were \$52.5 million as of 12/31/22. This is a decrease compared to \$56 million last year. \$47.1 million was invested in the NC State

Investment Fund. The return was -5.7% compared to a benchmark of -11%. \$1.9 million was invested in the ITF with a current annual yield of 4.9%.

The operating budget was presented. The budget was reviewed and approved during the Audit & Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Arroyo highlighted certain items on the budget. He explained that the Hofmann Income is mostly mitigation credits and are very difficult to project. He also mentioned that College initiatives are increasing to cover a new dedicated space for a College career counselor and a new embedded mental health counselor that will be shared by the College of Education. Mr. Sideris called a motion to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Lou Boos. The motion passed.

Jazmin Varela presented the Forest Management Committee report. The Committee heard from Erin Sills who shared reports on three forest industry cooperatives- Camcore, Tree Improvement Program, and Forest Productivity. The Committee also heard from Jodi Forrester and Marcelo Ardon regarding forest function research. Furthermore, the Committee heard from Garrett Sumner and John Sanders from the Forest Assets team who presented the Forest Assets Annual update.

Gray Carter presented the Advancement Committee report. The Committee discussed the results of Day of Giving. Most notably, the giving level on Day of Giving was 4x greater than year before. Mr. Carter thanked the members for their support and generosity. There was 100% Board participation. The Committee discussed ways to improve strategies for next year.

President Piercy presented the Advancement Update. As for the Fiscal Year 2023 year to date, gifts and new commitments are at \$3,572,651 million which is 85% of the goal. The CNR Enhancement fund has raised \$82,445.86 of the \$90,000 goal for FY23. Annual giving dollars are at \$716,118 which is a 35% increase over last year.

As for Advancement staffing updates, the Stewardship position has been reposted for applications. There are interviews underway for the Donor Engagement and Experience Officer position. There are two more positions that President Piercy plans to hire within the coming months. The positions cover Annual Giving and Leadership Giving. There has also been a Pulp and Paper Advisory Board Executive Director part-time position hired. President Piercy specifically recognized Anne Faul for her management of Day of Giving. Ms. Faul is a temporary employee dedicated to Annual Giving and special projects. President Piercy also thanked Robin Banker for her management of the Trailblazing Donor Brunch. Robin was temporarily employed solely to manage this event.

This year's Day of Giving was a huge success with \$1,043,105 raised. There were 934 total gifts which is a 99% increase from the previous highest total gifts. All of the giving challenge matches were met resulting in \$10,500 total in challenge match funds. Furthermore, CNR won \$10,300 from challenge funds. TAPPI received first place and the Forestry Club received third place in the student organization challenges. President Piercy announced that the date of Day of Giving 2024 will be March 20, 2024. She encouraged the members to mark their calendars.

Progress is being made on the Slocum Camp naming opportunities. There are 7 facilities that currently have a naming in progress.

The Trailblazing Donor Brunch was held on April 15, 2023. This was a reimagined donor celebration event that incorporated donors meeting scholarship recipient students. The goal of

the event was to be very interactive. The brunch was “trailblazing” themed as 2023 is the North Carolina Year of the Trail. The event involved a “trail” of exhibit tables for donors to visit to learn more about CNR. The tables covered research, college leadership, study abroad, internships, student organizations, and student life. There was also onsite custom t-shirt making. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees. This event has set the standard for the way donor celebration events will be done in the future.

President Piercy reviewed the logistics for the remaining Thursday events and Friday’s breakfast and meeting. Blas Arroyo moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erin Elliott* \_\_\_\_\_

Erin Elliott, Secretary

**NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.**  
**Board Meeting Open Session Minutes**  
**Talley Student Union and via Zoom**  
**April 21, 2023, 8:30 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Myron Floyd, Jennifer Piercy, Sam Cook, Dana Harris, Hunter Jenkins, Brian Dangler, Gary Allred, Blas Arroyo, Gray Carter, Joann Cox, Georgia Brown, Larry Perkins, Tom Hines, Dale Threatt-Taylor, Michelle Wells, Jazmin Varela, Jennifer Zuckerman, Erin Elliott

**Members Absent:** Lewis Ledford, Erin Delehanty, Miles Daniels, Harry Sideris, Lou Boos

**Others Present:** Shane Jarvis, Cathy Moon, Melissa Pasquinelli, Sarah Corica, Josh Gira, Stacy Nelson, Rasul Mowatt, Jason Bocarro

Blas Arroyo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Jason Bocarro gave a presentation on the new James Buzzard Leadership Development Program which is launching this August 2023. Dr. Bocarro has been named the Director of the program. He gave a brief background on himself and the program. Dr. Bocarro called upon the Board members to provide recommendations for the program, including community mentors, speakers, podcast speakers, and field trip ideas. At this time, the Board members entered into breakout groups to develop their recommendations.

Dean Myron Floyd presented the Dean's Update with updates on student mental health initiatives, strategic priority progress, College leadership, and faculty and staff awards. Regarding student health initiatives, the University has added Wellness Days into each fall and spring semester. Students will not have classes or exams on these days. CNR has hired an embedded mental health counselor who is available to meet with CNR students in-person on Thursdays and Fridays and virtually on Wednesdays.

Dean Floyd reviewed each strategic priority and the progress that has been made on each since the January 2023 Board meeting. Strategic Priority #1 is, "Collaborate now to solve urgent challenges at the intersection of the environment, economy and society." CNR has developed the Carbon Management & Innovation Initiative concept. This concept involves innovation for decarbonization, applied research, professorships, and fellowships, along with public science and education. There will be a College of Natural Resources and College of Sciences Climate Mixer to start networking and making connections to move forward with this concept.

Strategic Priority #2 is, "Engage with our natural environments, industries and communities as the world's best classrooms, laboratories and platforms." CNR is working on developing a Career Success Center within the College to offer career advising, career coaching, career mentoring, and internship, coop, and job placement to undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni. CNR is also going to hire a Director of Career Advising and Professional Engagement (CAPE). Also with regard to Strategic Priority #2, a vision for Schenck Forest is being developed. Studies are underway on constructing the Schenck Multi-purpose Building.

Strategic Priority #3 is, "Take bold actions to build equitable and inclusive environments." CNR recently held the first Global Engagement Celebration which highlighted the global engagement vision of the college and the achievements of CNR faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to global engagement. CNR has also developed the Environmental Justice

Collaboratory concept which will focus on community outreach and engagement. The goal is to assess the issues and find the solutions in our own neighborhoods. This team is currently working with the Walnut Creek Watershed Council to mitigate nuisance flooding.

The College leadership team has ongoing searches for the Department Head of the Department of Forest Biomaterials, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Director of Career Advising and Professional Engagement.

There were many CNR faculty and staff members who were recognized with awards this spring. Dr. Jason Bocarro received the 2023 UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching which is the university system's most prestigious teaching award. Furthermore, graduating senior Ann Winstead received the Mathews Medal. This is the highest non-academic distinction awarded to NC State students.

Other award winners included:

- Shelly English – Award for Excellence
- Kay Sun – Award for Excellence
- Steph Jeffries – Gertrude Cox Award for Innovation Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology
- Fikret Isik – Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program
- Martin Hubbe – TAPPI Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal
- Jennifer Piercy – TAPPI Woman of the Year
- Juan Acosta – Outstanding Global Engagement Award
- Ayse Ercumen – Outstanding Global Engagement Award & Goodnight Early Career Innovator
- Nathalie Lavoine – Goodnight Early Career Innovator
- Marcelo Ardon – University Faculty Scholar & Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award
- Lincoln Larson – University Faculty Scholar
- Robert Scheller – Alumni Association Outstanding Research Award

At this time, President Piercy asked the Board members to enter into breakout groups to discuss the following questions:

- What do you think OUR Board does well/not? What have you seen on other boards that works well or you'd like to reapply? What do we need to be doing that we are not?
- How can we better engage the Board?
- What motivated you to serve on our Board? What does success mean to you in terms of your work as a Board member? What do you want to be said about your service when you rotate off this Board?

President Piercy's goal is to create a high performing partnership between CNR and the Board. She plans to begin to create this partnership by reviewing the Board members' answers to these thought-provoking questions.

The next meeting will be held September 21-22, 2023. Mr. Arroyo moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erin Elliott*

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Erin Elliott, Secretary