

NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.
Board Meeting Open Session Minutes
U.S. National Whitewater Center
September 21, 2023, 2:45 p.m.

Members Present: Gary Allred, Blas Arroyo, Georgia Brown, Sam Cook, Joann Cox, Brian Dangler, Erin Elliott, Myron Floyd, Tom Hines, Hunter Jenkins, Larry Perkins, Jennifer Piercy, Jazmin Varela, Michelle Wells

Members Absent: Lou Boos, Gray Carter, Miles Daniels, Erin Delehanty, Dana Harris, Lewis Ledford, Harry Sideris, Dale Threatt-Taylor, Jennifer Zuckerman

Others Present: Sarah Corica, Kate Furiness, Josh Gira, Jonathan Hernandez, Ronnie Hise, Cathy Moon, Melissa Pasquinelli, Kate Saul, Robert Scheller, Erin Sills, Zach Vanhekken, Jennifer Viets

Chair Hunter Jenkins called the Annual Meeting of the NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc. to order at 2:49 pm. All members and guests introduced themselves. Chair Jenkins recognized that this will be the last meeting for Directors Lou Boos, Harry Sideris, and Lewis Ledford.

Chair Jenkins read the Conflict of Interest statement. No conflicts were noted.

Ms. Joann Cox called a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2023 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larry Perkins. The motion passed.

Mr. Blas Arroyo gave a brief overview of what was discussed during the Executive Committee meeting. There was a discussion on how we will structure the January 2024 virtual meeting. There was another discussion on revising the bylaws. There will be a subcommittee solicited to conduct a review and revision of the bylaws.

Vice Chair Brian Dangler gave the Nominating Committee report. Mr. Lou Boos and Mr. Harry Sideris are finishing their second terms of service on the Board. The following positions are being presented to the Board for voting: Mr. Gary Allred and Mr. Tom Hines for their second four year terms, Chair Hunter Jenkins for reappointment as the Chair for a two year term, and Dr. Ronnie Hise and Ms. Nancy Thompson for two vacant four year terms. Discussion was had about the nominees. There being no additional comments or questions, the Board proceeded with voting. At this time, Mr. Allred and Mr. Hines were asked to leave the room. Mr. Arroyo called for a motion to reappoint Mr. Allred and Mr. Hines to the term noted. Ms. Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed. At this time, Mr. Hise was asked to leave the room. Ms. Cox called a motion to appoint Mr. Hise and Ms. Thompson to the term noted. Mr. Arroyo seconded the motion. The motion passed. At this time, Chair Jenkins was asked to leave the room. Mr. Perkins called a motion to reappoint Chair Jenkins to the term noted. Mr. Allred seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Arroyo gave the Audit & Finance Committee report. The Committee heard from Ms. Erin Delehanty on the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Delehanty referred the Directors to the investments

summary pie chart in their materials. She gave a summary of assets held by the Natural Resources Foundation.

Total investable assets held by the Foundation were \$56.3 million as of June 30, 2023. Operating cash was \$5,372,945 and included FY24 spending budgets which are withdrawn from endowments in June. Operating cash is invested in three areas: the NC State Intermediate Term Fund (\$1.9 million yielding 5.1%), a Towne Bank Money Market (\$1 million yielding 4.6%) and the State Treasurer Short Term Investment Fund (\$2.4 million yielding 3.47%). The College of Natural Resources had \$247 million in total endowment support as of June 30, 2023. The Hofmann Timber Deed was included at \$117.4 million and the non-monetized portion of the forest was valued at \$76.1 million. The Foundation's investment in the long term pool was \$47.2 million.

Mr. Allred gave the Forest Management Committee report. The Committee heard from Dr. Erin Sills who gave a report on the FER department which included research updates, program updates, enrollment rates, job rates, and vacant faculty/staff positions. Vice President Sam Cook gave the Committee an update on forest management. The solar agreement with Duke Energy at the Hofmann Forest will be terminated at the end of December because the rezoning application was not approved. Therefore, the solar option area at the Hofmann Forest is being reconsidered. Vice President Cook also gave an update on the Schenck Forest outdoor education center project. There were environmental limitations encountered at the original building site, so they are currently looking for alternative sites. Ms. Jennifer Viets gave an update on naming opportunities at Slocum Camp.

The Advancement Committee did not report.

Dean Myron Floyd gave the Dean's Update. This fall semester, the College welcomed its largest first year class of about 5,700 students. Dean Floyd reviewed the number of students during the Fall 2023 semester. Compared to the Fall 2022 semester, all student numbers have increased except for the number of grad students which saw a slight decrease.

Across the University, there were three new Deans employed at the College of Engineering, College of Sciences, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This semester there will be major construction starting on campus for the Integrative Sciences Building. The estimated completion date is Spring 2027. The State budget is expected to pass soon. The budget includes salary increases for faculty and staff and funding for NC State to expand educational and research opportunities. Dean Floyd briefly mentioned the implications of the Supreme Court decision regarding affirmative action in college admissions. The University is reassessing our application process. They are looking into how we recruit and admit students.

There were three new positions hired within CNR leadership this semester. Dr. Jingxin Wang was hired to begin in January 2024 as the Department Head of Forest Biomaterials. During the interim period, Dr. Katherine Saul was hired as the Interim Department Head. Deanna Knighton was hired as the Director of Career Advising and Professional Engagement.

Dean Floyd reviewed the research highlights within CNR. There were 194 proposals submitted and 167 new awards granted with 10 awards totaling over \$200,000. He noted that the size of the awards granted continues to grow. Dr. Lokendra Pal and the Department of Forest Biomaterials received a \$10M award from EPIXC Institute to lead an initiative to decarbonize the forest products industry. Additionally, there were two articles published in *Science*, one of

the world's top academic journals, by CNR faculty. Finally, Dr. Jason Bocarro was awarded the 2023 Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award.

President Piercy gave the Advancement Update. She reviewed the Fiscal Year End 2023. Gifts and new commitments were \$4,160,147 which is 99% to the goal. The CNR Enhancement fund raised \$92,144 of the \$90,000 goal. Annual giving dollars were \$868,809 which is a 39% increase over last year. President Piercy gave an update on the advancement staff. Four positions have been hired- Kate Furiness as the Stewardship Officer, Zach VanHekken as the Donor Engagement and Experience Officer, Jonathan Hernandez as the Assistant Director of Philanthropy, Leadership Giving, and Allen Sanders as the Executive Director of the Pulp and Paper Advisory Board. There are three vacant positions left to fill which are Assistant Director, Annual Giving (a new position which will be shared with the College of Veterinary Medicine, Assistant Director (vacated by Robin Banker), and Program Associate supporting PPAB (vacated by Paula Harrod). President Piercy reminded the Board that Day of Giving will be held on March 20, 2024. She encouraged the Board members to mark their calendars.

President Piercy presented the College's top 10 fundraising priorities. This info is to be kept internal. She referred the Board to the strategic fundraising priorities document included in their materials.

1. Graduate Student Support

Support for graduate students attracts and retains the best graduate students in our disciplines, advances the work of our faculty, fuels research, funding, and publication production, advances progress against the local and global challenges we face, increases awareness of our college and work, and elevates the prestige of CNR. Currently, graduate students make up 27.8% of our student population. There is a funding gap of \$5,000 to \$10,000 compared to our peer institutions. 56% of all Pack Essentials applications are from graduate students. Rental prices in Raleigh have increased 20.9% in the past year which causes challenges for graduate students.

2. Faculty Support

Similar to graduate student support, support for faculty attracts and retains the best faculty in our disciplines, recruits the best graduate and undergraduate students, fuels research, funding, and publication production, advances progress against the local and global challenges we face, increases awareness of our college and work, and elevates the prestige of CNR. There are three types of faculty support- Endowed Chair which starts at \$2.5M to fund and includes salary and operational support (research, grad/undergrad support, etc), Endowed Distinguished Professorship which starts at \$1M to fund and includes salary supplement and operational support (research, grad/undergrad support, etc), and Endowed Faculty Award which includes supplemental faculty support for teaching, research and extension.

3. High Impact Experiences

High Impact Experiences include study abroad, unpaid internships, domestic "field trips," research (on and off campus), alternative service breaks, professional development, conferences, leadership development programs, Paper International Experience, and more. This is a major part of being a CNR student. All CNR students must have at least one "hands on" learning experience before graduation.

4. CAPE – Career and Professional Engagement Center

The goal of the CAPE Center is to provide access to discipline specific career services for all graduate and undergrad students, increase diversity of employment opportunities, increase job placement rates, and offer mentoring and other professional development skills to students. The CAPE Center will also serve Alumni with career services for life. It will also provide employers a single point, full-service career center for all hiring, career fair and branding needs. Deanna Knighton was recently hired as the CAPE Director.

5. Schenck Outdoor Education Center

The vision for the Schenck Outdoor Education Center is to be a space where students, faculty, staff, visitors, the community at large and our neighbors can interact with and learn about natural resources in a new way. It will create increased ability to teach, learn and conduct research in the field and serve as a venue to host events as well as classes and groups. It will be a demonstration of the values and offerings of CNR to the public. The project scope is \$8-10M.

6. Outreach: High School “Discovery Camp”

This is a future vision which involves an in-school mentorship program and a three week, hands on, field-based summer camp. There will be a multi-year, “cohort” approach with mentoring and active engagement at all levels. The target audience will be high school students and the focus will be on schools serving high populations of rural, first generation and underrepresented students. CNR will benefit by raising awareness of our college related fields among students, teacher and parents. There is an estimated investment need of \$65k for 15 students in each cohort.

7. RAISE – Research Activating Inclusive Stewardship of the Environment

RAISE will provide consultation and “on-the-ground” support to NC communities. This support includes scientific resources for actionable knowledge to address environmental injustices. Undergraduate and graduate students will be trained and utilized to engage with communities. RAISE aims to provide the research and technical support for real-world environmental justice challenges. Currently, the focus is on Edgecombe County and we are working to secure foundation funding with campus corporate and foundation relations (CFR) and CNR alumnae, Marquette Dickens of Freedom.Org. There is a need for funding for faculty, staff and student support, as well as research, travel, lab supplies and materials, etc.

8. Slocum Camp at Hill Forest

The goal is to renovate, refurbish and refresh Slocum Camp so that it may be used as a 9-12 month facility (vs summer only). Also improve quality of facilities and experiences, enhance and expand recruitment and outreach efforts, generate additional revenue with facility rental, and create an additional space for CNR uses. Currently, this is a \$1.5M fundraising campaign of which approximately \$500k has been raised and approved to date.

9. SAFI – Sustainable Alternatives Fibers Initiative

SAFI is a 24 “partner” consortium which involves global industry/university partnerships that research, develop, and utilize alternative fibers for a variety of sustainable products. SAFI is funded through Canopy and Climate Breakthrough. There are opportunities for SAFI support

through companies joining the SAFI Consortium, funding for the work, graduate student support, and faculty support.

10. Sustainable Tourism

The goal is to position NC State's PRTM Department and CNR as the flagship institution in the US for teaching, research, and extension on sustainable tourism practices. We can achieve this by educating students and conducting research on the role of leadership in planning, policies and partnerships that facilitate sustainable tourism development; and providing programs, resources and assistance to enhance strategies that nourish community development and resources conservation. There are funding needs for faculty and graduate student support.

President Piercy encouraged the Board to engage in networking at Chancellor's reception and bring back potential partnerships that will help us with our top fundraising priorities.

President Piercy reviewed the logistics for the evening's events.

Chair Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Elliott _____

Erin Elliott, Secretary

NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.
Board Meeting Open Session Minutes
Quest at Latta Nature Preserve
September 22, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Gary Allred, Blas Arroyo, Georgia Brown, Sam Cook, Joann Cox, Brian Dangler, Erin Elliott, Myron Floyd, Tom Hines, Ronnie Hise, Hunter Jenkins, Lewis Ledford, Larry Perkins, Jennifer Piercy, Harry Sideris, Jazmin Varela, Michelle Wells

Members Absent: Lou Boos, Gray Carter, Miles Daniels, Erin Delehanty, Dana Harris, Dale Threatt-Taylor, Jennifer Zuckerman

Others Present: Sarah Corica, Jonathan Hernandez, W. Lee Jones Jr., Susan Ledford, Cathy Moon, Melissa Pasquinelli, Christa Rogers, Kate Saul, Rob Scheller, Zach VanHekken, Jennifer Viets

Chair Hunter Jenkins called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. He welcomed everyone and introduced the first guest speaker, W. Lee Jones Jr, Director of the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department.

Mr. Jones gave his background and experience working in Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation. He then gave an overview of the Mecklenburg County Park Recreation Department. During Fiscal Year 2022, Mecklenburg County parks, recreation centers, nature preserves, greenways and other facilities hosted 20 million visitors. The department's operating budget is \$60.7M and there is a Capital Improvement Plan budget of \$297M. The department has a comprehensive Master Plan for development over the next 10 years. Currently, there are 28 funded park and facility projects under development. Funding was recently approved for 38 more projects. Paved greenway trails are the #1 most requested amenity by Mecklenburg County residents. The Department has a Greenway Master Plan which calls for construction of 344 miles of greenway trails and 280 miles of urban trails. Currently, there are 26 funded greenway projects under development.

Chair Jenkins thanked Mr. Jones for his presentation and introduced the next guest speaker, Christa Rogers, Natural Resources Manager of Mecklenburg County.

Ms. Rogers gave her background and experience working in the Division of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources of Mecklenburg County. She then gave a brief overview of Mecklenburg Country Nature Preserves. There are 8,000 acres of nature preserves in Mecklenburg County. There are 13 full-time staff members within the Division which are Foresters, Biologists, and Ecologists. The work of the Division includes forest management, biodiversity inventory and monitoring, prescribed fire, invasive species, endangered species, and trails.

At this time, Ms. Rogers led the Board members on a one-mile hike around the Latta Nature Preserve.

There was an open debrief after the Board members returned from the hike. Dr. Erin Sills connected the hike to CNR's Schenck Forest and our Forestry program. She highlighted our prescribed fire program and invasive species courses. Dr. Myron Floyd highlighted the

connections of our PRTM department with our events at the U.S. National Whitewater Center and Quest at Latta Nature Preserve. He noted that Quest at Latta Nature Preserve is a great example of the idea, "The Planet is Our Classroom." PRTM students are trained to be versatile and exposed to work in places like the U.S. National Whitewater Center and Quest at Latta Nature Preserve.

At this time, Chair Jenkins made remarks about the years of service of Harry Sideris, Lewis Ledford, and Lou Boos and presented their retirement trays.

Chair Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Elliott _____

Erin Elliott, Secretary