Board of Public Overseers Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Sept 5, 2008
UMass Collaborative Services Center, Shrewsbury, MA

Members: Nancy Garrabrants, Jack Angley, Art Eve, Lynn Griesemer, Rena Prendergast, Ed Bourgeois, Douglas Petersen, Pat Bigelow, Michael Lueders, Ted Wales, Fred Dabney, Eugene Tworek

Guests: Jay Vogt, Bob Macleod, Bob Luczai, Mary Jane Bacon

1. (9:00 AM) Jack Angley called the meeting to order.

2. (9:00 AM) Jack called for a review of the minutes. Michael Lueders moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Lynn Griesemer. Minutes were accepted.

3. (9:05 AM) Update from UMass

Nancy Garrabrants noted Robert Holub began on August 1st. The chancellor comes from University of Tennessee Knoxville with many years of service at UC Berkley.

Nancy spoke briefly of the FY09 UMass and state budgets effecting UMass Extension. She noted the UMass budget only grew to the extent of the cost of salary increases. Lynn Griesemer added that she was concerned that budget cuts might be implemented by the governor during the fiscal year. Douglas Peterson noted he was unsure if cuts would be made to MDAR.

Nancy noted FY09 projects are being developed and will be posted to the Extension website.

Turning to new opportunities, Nancy noted opportunities within the Farm Bill, stating there were four new areas: specialty crops, organic agriculture, biomass and new farmer training. She also noted she and Bob Schrader had met with NRE Dean Steve Goodwin to discuss opportunities for grant development.

In closing, Nancy stated she recently attended the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association annual meeting at Wareham. She also met last week with a group working on new farmer development for immigrant and refugee farmers. A brief discussion followed related to opportunities to have immigrants help meet farm labor needs. She also thanked board members who have agreed to review proposals to MDAR for Integrated Pest Management funds.

4. (9:35 AM)   Board Roles and Responsibilities

Nancy introduced Jay Vogt, a consultant retained to assist the board in developing board roles. Jay presented a model for board roles which progressed, descending from clarifying roles, setting goals, utilizing committees and developing a work plan.

Fred Dabney suggested splitting the budget and advocacy committee into two committees. Ted Wales concurred. Fred Dabney suggested persons other than board members should be allowed to serve on the committees.

Jay noted the budget role has been raised as an issue. He noted Bob Schrader would provide an overview as means on understanding the specific areas

Jay then distributed three work sheets to be used in developing the goals and work plan for the committees.

4A. (10:00 AM) Overview of Fund Sources and Funding Cycle
Bob Schrader described budget process and responded to questions

4B. (10:15 AM) Identifying Impact Strategies
Jay led a process to identify board needs and intervention points for each of the following areas: Budget and Advocacy; Planning and Evaluation; Membership and Bylaws; Policy Advocacy. SEE SEPARATE NOTES FROM JAY VOGT WRITTEN AS A BOARD WORK PLAN

4C. (11:45) Identify Leadership
The following individuals were identified leaders for the committees.
  - Budget and Advocacy: Pat Bigelow (Budget), Ted Wales (Policy Advocacy)
  - Planning and Evaluation: Art Eve
  - Membership and Bylaws: Lynn Griesemer
Each board member was also asked to identify committees they would be interested in serving on. Board assignments to be set by Jack Angley

4D. (11:50) Next Steps
Jay reported he will develop a work plan for each committee. Committee's will be formed and will develop the first draft of a plan prior to our next meeting.

4E. (11:55) Next Meeting: Friday, November 14th, 9AM, Shrewsbury

The meeting adjourned at 12:05.

Submitted by Robert Schrader, September 9, 2008
Approved: November 14, 2008