

## **Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** April 20, 2016

**Time:** 4:30 pm

**Place:** NERSBA Jamesville Campus

**Present:** Mac Hodges, Julius Walker, Joe Landino, Benjie Forrest, Dwight Respass, Kenneth Harrell, Paul Spruill, Simon Griffin, Matthew Babcock, Ann Britt

**Tardy:** Jerry Phelps

**Absent:** Ethan Lenker, Jean Woolard, Karen Clough, Don Phipps

NERSBA Board Chairman, Mac Hodges called to order NERSBA Board of Directors meeting at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Inga Spruill proceeded with roll of the board members.

Vice Chairman Julius Walker led the board in prayer and the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda:** Chairman Hodges requested that item number 11 be moved to become number 9 on the agenda. With no further adjustments, additions, or deletions, Matthew Babcock motioned that the agenda be approved with the amendment and this was second by Paul Spruill. The board approved this motion unanimously.

**March Minutes:** Chairman Hodges requested a motion to approve the March BOD minutes for approval and noted they were posted on the NERSBA website. Simon Griffin moved to approve the motion followed by a second from Dwight Respass. The motion passed by unanimously by board.

**Public Comments:** Christi Rogerson

On Friday, April 8, 2016, the NERSBA National Honor Society sponsored their first American Red Cross blood drive from 12 pm to 7 pm. Forty-eight (48) individuals from both the community and the NERSBA student body volunteered to donate blood. Overall, 38 pints of blood were donated. NERSBA's goal was to donate 25 pints and this goal was exceeded by 13 pints. Thirty (30) of those 38 pints were donated by NERSBA students. Twenty-eight (28) of the NERSBA donors were first time donors. Mrs. Rogerson stated that "We are very proud of our students".

All 52 members of the National Honor Society volunteered either by helping with the canteen, organization, publicity, registration table, greeters and/or donations. Mrs. Rogerson stated that "they all did very well for their first community service project". The American Red Cross workers provided very positive comments about our students who participated and volunteered.

**Finance Report:** Debra Baggett, PCS Finance Officer

Mrs. Baggett presented the 2015-2016 Financial Report as of 4/20/2016 for board approval.

According to the report, all 5 counties have paid the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter revenue to NERSBA. The 4th quarter billing has been sent out to the counties.

The State Fund balance is \$371,418.68 at this point. Of the \$1.6 million, we have spent \$1,228,581.32 which is about 73% for this time of the year. This spending is right on track. At this time NERSBA is to spend down the state dollars before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Golden Leaf Fund balance is \$25,546.55. As of 4/20/16, we have spent \$61,953.45 of the \$87,500.00 funding. Mrs. Baggett noted that if the \$7,722.98 set aside as transportation is not spent, the balance of that line item will be reverted back to Golden Leaf.

The Federal Fund balance is \$13,426.70. As of 4/20/16, NERSBA has spent \$12,627.30 of the allocated \$26,054.00. Mrs. Baggett indicated that the furniture/equipment balance of \$9,356.85 will be moved to another line item within the budget.

The Local Fund balance is \$193,408.42. As of 4/20/16, NERSBA has spent \$94,110.16 of the allocated \$287,518.58. Mrs. Baggett informed the BOD that the remaining balance as of June 30, 2016 will be rolled over to the next fiscal year.

Mrs. Baggett stated she has started working on the budget for next year. Looking at enrollment of 65 scholars and the number from DPI to project what that local piece will look like. At the next month's meeting she should have those definite numbers.

A motion to accept the Finance Report as stated was made by Kenneth Harrell followed by a second from Benjie Forrest. The motion was passed unanimously by the full NERSBA board.

**NERSBA Financial Grants/MCC Information:** Melanie Stanley

Student registration for both Summer and Fall courses has begun for both Martin Community College and NERSBA courses. This process has progressed fairly well for both the summer and fall course selections.

Dr. Stanley introduced Professor Randall Etheridge, professor from the Engineering Department and the Center of Sustainability at ECU. He is currently requesting to partner with NERSBA through a USDA grant. This will provide NERSBA students a unique opportunity to investigate concepts related to the Sustainable Agricultural curriculum.

Dr. Etheridge e. It is a USDA Grant explained that the focus of the research is on sustainable agriculture in eastern NC. This grant is through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The title of the grant proposal is "Enhancing the Sustainability of Coastal NC Agriculture Research and Education". If funded, this grant will be for 3 years.

Dr. Etheridge noted that he and his ECU colleagues will conduct research experiments that focus on the impact of the sea level rise and salt water intrusion on growing crops mainly in Hyde and Tyrrell counties. He indicated that he and his colleagues would like to partner with NERSBA because of the "innovative work that is being done here as far as the education stand point and hoping to partner with NERSBA long term with grants that we will submit". There is a 10% success rate when applying for such a grant. If this proposal is funded, NERSBA will receive the following:

- The Case Curriculum the grant would provide the opportunity for 2 more teachers to go and be trained at the Case Institute
- Provide laboratory supplies for introduction to agriculture natural resources curriculum
- Lab supplies for the school
- A learning lab outside from the school to conduct labs for farmers to really know of new varieties of crops since the 80s/90s
- Incorporate into the SAE with research experience

Benjie Forrest indicated that he is very excited for NERSBA to partner with ECU. He stated that “Randall came through the FFA channel and was very involved in FFA over at Washington High School. His father was a former state FFA officer. Randall really understands the whole concept of what he is trying to do with that aspect of it. The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing is it does give us another opportunity for partnering with a University right here at our back door and is very beneficial to both. The 3<sup>rd</sup> thing is it gives us another channel for our kids to be involved on an engineering aspect of it on a first hand basis that’s tied into the grant.”

A motion to accept the partnership with ECU USDA Grant was made by Matthew Babcock followed by a second from Kenneth Harrell. The motion was passed by the full NERSBA board membership.

#### **NERSBA Instructional Facilitators Update**

The facilitators monitor our online and face to face classes. Jennifer Marrow and Melissa Woolard travels with students on the Maverick 1 activity bus Monday through Friday to Martin Community College to monitor students. Christy Gardner is the lead instructional facilitator and oversees the freshmen courses taught by MCC. Angel Pearsall facilitates the online courses taken by the sophomores and juniors on NERSBA campus. All facilitators monitor student grades and attendance and meets periodically throughout the semester with the students.

Dr. Britt stated that “this is one of the greatest group of students we have encountered. Facilitators have been there for the students and we have a wonderful relationship with them.”

#### **Introduction of Mr. Ephraim Smith new board member**

Mr. Smith is from the southern part of Pitt County and has been on several committees in his life, such as Pitt County School Board and county commissioners. He is the owner of the Pig Palace. Mrs. Tonya Leggett, Martin County Clerk of Court, swore in Mr. Smith as a NERSBA board member.

#### **Old Business: Hal Davis**

- **University of Mount Olive:** Benjie Forrest and Hal Davis met with Dr. Sandy Maddox to discuss course offerings for NERSBA students. These courses will be held on the NERSBA campus.
- **NERSBA Board Policy Development/NC School Boards Association:** This meeting is set for May 3, 2016 at 10 am.
- **NERSBA Parental Advisory Committee Membership/Organization:** Members have been contacted and they have been withdrawn from these committees if they have not attended any of the committees during the past year.
- **EC Program Audit:** The audit was completed a few weeks ago with 2 members of the NCDPI EC Department. The report will not be available until the middle of May. NERSBA has 1 year to comply with the expectations of the report. The following members have been appointed to review the report:

***EC Committee Appointed Members:  
Don Phipps, Chairman***

*Julius Walker*  
*Jean Woolard*  
*Matthew Babcock*  
*Dwight Respass*  
*Benjie Forrest*  
*Mac Hodges*

**New Business:**

- **2016/2017 Scholar Recruitment Update: Hal Davis**  
The faculty and staff have participated in the formal student interviews. The plan is to offer 65 students enrollment for 2016-2017.
- **Proposed NERSBA Board Meeting Calendar for 16/17 Year:**  
A copy of the proposed calendar was provided to all board members.
- **NERSBA Teacher of the Year Program:**  
This is where a teacher is recognized and moves on to the regional and state program. We would like to move ahead with this program for our staff. A motion to accept was made by Kenneth Harrell followed by a second from Joe Landino. The motion was passed by the full NERSBA board membership.
- **NERSBA Overnight Field Trip:**  
A motion by Jerry Phelps was made to accept the field trip followed by a second from Benjie Forrest. The motion passed by the full NERSBA board membership.
- **General Informational Items:**  
There was an overwhelming interest in the England/Paris Trip. Sixty-four students have committed to the trip. EF Tours will be hosting the trip Across the English Channel to facilitate a broader understanding of British Literature she is teaching. The goals and specifics of the trip are:
  - To bring a classroom subjects, people, places to vivid life
  - To spark a lifelong ability to take on any new experience with confidence
  - To help students become global citizens
  - Corresponds with MCC spring break thus minimizing the number of college classes missed (March 8-10, 2017) –
  - Global and local presence over 500 schools and offices in over 53 countries educational value accredited just like our school and can earn high school and college credit
  - Incredible travel experience at the guaranteed lowest price
  - 24/7 tour Director with multiple chaperones
  - 24 Hour emergency on call service
  - Peace of mind policy should social unrest or natural events make traveling tour destination unsafe. EF Tours will work with our group to make alternative arrangements
  - Students cost \$2,695.00
  - Adults cost \$2,970.00

Matthew Babcock stated the he thinks “anytime there is an opportunity like this is excellent for students is such a rural area cheers to having this kind of thing available to the students. I think we probably need to mark this down and come back to this as board to establish a formal process when doing a staggered basis who’s able to apply to go on a trip or take that selection. But a note needs to be made of this for the future trips.”

A motion was made by Matthew Babcock to accept the trip for 2017 followed by a second from Paul Spruill. The motion passed by the full NERSBA board membership.

A copy NERSBA schedule of events happening at NERSBA was given to all board members.

The next scheduled board meeting held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 4:30 pm in the NERSBA Tech Center.

A motion was made by Matthew Babcock to go into closed session under statues listed followed by a second from Paul Spruill. The motion passed by the full NERSBA board membership at 5:48 pm with a 5 minute break.

(NC G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1)/Privileged Information)  
(NC G.S. 143-318.11(5)/Facilities Lease Agreement)  
(NC G.S. 143-318.11(6)/Personnel)

**Open Session at 6:12 pm:**

Next Curriculum Design Committee scheduled for Thursday at 2 pm.

Dwight Respass asked if we are still planning on a December/January graduation for second group of early graduates. Mr. Davis replied that there will be a December graduation and the Curriculum Committee will be making a recommendation at the next board meeting.

**Personnel:**

Board members accepted Brooke Gurganus' resignation as of June 30, 2016. A motion was made by Benjie Forrest to accept the resignation followed by a second by Kenneth Harrell. The motion passed by the full NERSBA board membership.

A motion to adjourn meeting was made by Dwight Respass followed by a second from Jerry Phelps. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Inga Spruill