

**NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.**  
**Board Meeting Open Session Minutes**  
**Via Zoom**  
**April 23, 2021**

**Members Present:** Gary Allred, Blas Arroyo, Elizabeth Biser, Lou Boos, Jim Bowen, Lara Brown de Fuenmayor, Sam Cook, Brian Dangler, Myron Floyd, Tom Hines, Hunter Jenkins, Lewis Ledford, Dick Ludington, Barbara McCutchan, Charles Meeker, Mary Peloquin-Dodd, Larry Perkins, Harry Sideris, Genie Ussery

**Members Absent:** Erin Delehanty, Genie Ussery

**Others Present:** Cathy Moon, Melissa Pasquinelli, Robin Banker, Jennifer Piercy, Caren Cooper, Jennifer Viets, Megan Hudson, Jenn Fawcett, Jennifer Richmond-Bryant, Vicki Hardee, Robert Bardon, Zakiya Leggett, Stacy Nelson, Louie Rivers, Shane Jarvis, Sarah Corica, Erin Sills, Joshua Gira, Richard Venditti, Michael Kanters, Jewel Walcott

Lewis Ledford called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the April meeting of the Natural Resources Foundation Board. Role was not called.

Mr. Ledford asked Dean Myron Floyd if he had any updates before the presentation started. Dean Floyd shared that three of the College of Natural Resources graduates were recognized by the Chancellor at the community awards ceremony for work in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. All three students were from Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management.

There was no Chair's report. Mr. Ledford called on Hunter Jenkins to deliver the Nominating Committee Report.

Mr. Jenkins mentioned that four positions need to be filled. Jim Bowen will be stepping down at the end of his term in September. There will be a focus on diversity when considering candidates to fill the positions. Mr. Jenkins read NC State's definition of diversity. It is *an inclusive community of people with varied human characteristics, ideas and worldviews, whose interactions both benefit and challenge each other to grow while making the community better.*

Mr. Jenkins also mentioned that during the Wolfpack Women in Philanthropy presentation, they challenged the Board to get to 50/50 gender mix on the Board. In addition to the focus on diversity, the Board will also consider candidates geographical location, disciplines inside the College, and individuals who are active and knowledgeable in the Natural Resources field. Dean Floyd mentioned that in the outdoor recreation area, there may be some opportunities with the private sector for diversifying the Board (i.e. The North Face, REI, CGA, etc.). Nominating materials will be sent out and we anticipate the Nominating Committee will meet by phone. Mr. Jenkins encouraged the Board members to consider the factors presented and look within their networks and relationships for viable candidates.

Dick Ludington gave the Advancement Committee report. The meeting started by remembering the committee's long time Chairman and leader, Jim Buzzard who passed away recently. Mr. Ludington acknowledged Mr. Buzzard's guidance and lessons. Robin Banker gave the Day of Giving Report for March 24, 2021, noting 100% Board participation. \$1.6 million was raised through 401 gifts. There were 65 first time donors. Kayla Esan joined the CNR Advancement team as the new Donor Relations Manager.

We are launching a campaign to support Hill Forest renovations and maintenance. We are looking to raise funds to support the renovation of the Slocum Camp Lodge. Mr. Ludington closed the report by asking the Board members to think about how to capitalize on the momentum to address climate change and how the College is at the forefront of that.

Lara Brown de Fuenmayor gave an update on the Think and Do Campaign. She reported that the University raised \$58.1 million for Day of Giving and thanked the Board for 100% participation. The next Day of Giving will be on March 23, 2022, during which the advancement team will focus on increasing the number of new donors who give to College and University. As of March 31, the University has raised over \$1.9 billion with an aspirational goal of \$2 billion. The University is confident they will raise that by December 31, 2021 but they will more likely reach that by Red and White week in October. The College has raised over \$38 million. The focus has been on working with donors to match their wishes with the work that College does. For the CNR Enhancement Fund we have raised \$110,838.87 to date against a goal was \$90k. Ms. Fuenmayor concluded her report by thanking the Board for their time, talent, treasure, ties and testimony.

Jim Bowen delivered the Audit and Finance Committee report. Mr. Bowen referred to the Investment Summary pie chart. The Foundation had total investable assets of \$46.4 million including Operating Cash Investments of \$3.4 million, with a yield of 1.2%, the Life Income Funds \$1.5 million and Long Term Investments \$41.4 million as of February 28, 2021. The Committee was also provided with the results of the 2020 National Association of College and Universities Business Officers Survey. NC State ranked 78 out of over 700 respondents. The Committee also reviewed and approved the NC State Associated Entity Cash and Short-term Investments Policy Statement for 2021. A motion was made by Jim Bowen and seconded by Harry Sideris to approve the budget. The motion carried.

Barbara McCutchan gave the Forest Management Committee report. The Committee received a comprehensive overview of research related to FER, delivered by Sam Cook and Erin Sills. Mary Watzin, the coordinator of Coastal Resilience and Sustainability, also gave a report. One of the questions that was asked of faculty was what could make their work with students more impactful and it was noted that an outdoor classroom with facilities would be useful, so that was raised to the Board. The Board was impressed with the work that the faculty have done during the difficult times.

Mr. Ledford introduced Erin Sills from FER for her presentation. The focus was on 'Building on Our Forestry Tradition to Meet Desired Goals, Needs and Values' with an emphasis on diversity, environmental justice, and participatory science. Dr. Sills provided an overview of the Forestry and Environmental Resources department highlighting the presentation themes. The Board was presented a picture of what the department is trying, how it is working, and what challenges

they are facing. Students were invited to share their perspectives with the board, through videos, highlighting their experiences related to the presentation theme.

The Society of American Foresters defines forestry as "the science art and business of creating, managing and conserving forests and associated resources in a substantial manner to meet desired goals, needs and values." The department continues to focus on its traditional area of teaching, research and extension in the area of production/forestry/working forests, but has also expanded to forest health, ecological silviculture, environmental sciences, management of wildlife, water, and renewable energy. One question the department is exploring is 'How do we more broadly serve the populations served by natural resources?' Diversity improves outcomes, consistent with University values and strategic plans.

The three themes focused on addressing this question are related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Environmental Justice and Participatory Sciences. Within the theme of diversity, equity and inclusion diversity improves outcomes; the theme of environmental justice is to better serve disadvantaged communities participatory Science asks questions, around managing research and implementing action. Our work in these three themed areas will result in diversity, equity, inclusion and justice-based outcomes.

Faculty presentations included:

- Foresters and Conservationists of the Future: Improving Participation of Underrepresented Students presented by Dr. Zakiya Leggett
- Improving Engagement of Women Woodland Owners presented by Jen Fawcett
- Environmental Justice presented by Dr. Louie Rivers
- Citizen Science: Pursuing Inclusive, Equitable Research presented by Caren Cooper
- Community-Engaged Scholarship in Forestry and Environmental Resources presented by Jennifer Richmond-Bryant
- CNR Approaches to Integrating Diversity (Equity, Inclusion and Justice) in Our Curriculum presented by Dr. Stacy Nelson

Brian Dangler asked about the College's work to recruit diverse students, specifically within high schools. Melissa Pasquinelli stated that the College is actively recruiting at high schools and it is a priority. Lara Brown de Fuenmayor mentioned the work that Sam Cook is doing with local high school students around forestry, environmental resources and how we attract the students.

Lou Boos asked what the faculty and administration was seeing concerning available funding for research on climate change, since it has been a focus for the current administration. Erin Sills stated the College is expecting new resources, as well as competition in response to Federal priorities.

Mr. Ledford thanked Dr. Sills and her department for sharing their insights. Ms. Fuenmayorencouraged the Board members to reach out if they have additional thoughts or ideas.

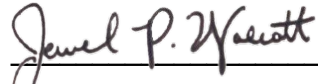
In closing remarks from Dean Floyd thanked Dr. Sills and the Forestry and Environmental Resources faculty for their presentations, and he thanked the board and everyone for

attending. He closed with our plans to meet in person in Asheville for the September Board meeting.

The next meeting will be September 30 – October 1, 2021 in Asheville, NC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jewel P. Walcott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Jewel Walcott, Secretary