

Board of Control  
Wethersfield, CT  
January 17, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day at the Connecticut Farm Bureau, 78 Beaver Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

Present: Messrs. Fikrig\*, Jones, White, and Ms. Maroney, Nichols, and Jaime Smith (representing Commissioner Hurlburt). Messrs. Capone\*, Last, and Ms. Triplett\* were present by invitation.

\* = attended via Zoom

Absent: Messrs. Cohan and Venkitanarayanan.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 10:06 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Maroney, seconded by Dr. White, the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting were approved by majority (Ms. Nichols abstained).

Election of Officers: Ms. Maroney nominated the following slate of officers for 2024. There were no additional nominations. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously.

President:	Governor Ned Lamont
Vice President:	Terry Jones
Secretary:	Kumar Venkitanarayanan
Director, Treasurer, and Attorney for Investments:	Jason White
<u>Executive and Finance Committee:</u>	Terry Jones Jason White Joan Nichols

Future Meeting Dates:

April 10, 2024	Wednesday	New Haven	10:00 AM
August 7, 2024	Wednesday	Hamden	1:00 PM
October 9, 2024	Wednesday	Windsor	10:00 AM
January 22, 2025	Wednesday	Wethersfield	10:00 AM
January 24 (Snow Date)			

News Articles and Correspondence: Dr. White briefly reviewed published news articles and correspondence since the last board meeting.

Fiducient Advisors: Mr. Jeff Capone reported on the Board's investment portfolio as of 12/31/2023. There were no recommendations.

Status of Projects:

- o Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouse Renovation – Funding and contract are in place. Awaiting a project kick off date from the Department of Administrative Services.
- o Valley Laboratory – We are waiting for approval from the State Properties Review Board on Modified Design Contracts.
- o Roof Replacements and Upgrades - Lockwood Farm – Ms. Smith moved to authorize \$44,715.00 to replace the roofs on the upper barns, cottage and gutters for the pavilion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously.

Update on Recruitment and Hiring: The Experiment Station had 24 staff members either retire or resign since 4/1/2020. The agency has hired 35 new staff members and is recruiting for an additional four positions. The positions being recruited are Assistant Scientist 2 (Entomology), Technician (Environmental Science and Forestry), Secretary (Director’s Office) and Administrative Assistant (Business Office).

Affirmative Action Plan: The agency affirmative action plan has been submitted to the commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. We will be notified in February 2024 on approval status.

Board of Control Audit - FY2023: Mr. Last reviewed the Board of Control Audit for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). The audit was performed by Seward and Monde, CPA, of North Haven, CT. The audit did not contain any recommendations or findings.

Solar Panel Update: A representative from the Connecticut Green Bank toured the New Haven Campus and Lockwood Farm to evaluate whether solar panels could be installed to lower agency energy costs. A feasibility report will be generated and submitted to the Board.

First CAES Climate Survey Summary: Dr. Triplett reviewed the results of a CAES climate survey. The survey was positive and the large majority of staff believe that the agency is a welcoming environment.

Staff Changes: Dr. White reviewed staff changes since the last meeting.

Ms. Maroney moved that an Executive Session be held to discuss Board Funds, Personnel, and the Director’s Report. Mr. Last and Dr. Triplett were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously at 11:44 a.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:06 p.m.



Ms. Nichols moved the following promotions effective January 26, 2024:

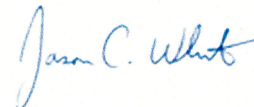
Dr. Doug Brackney from Associate Scientist to Scientist.

Dr. Blaire Steven from Associate Scientist to Scientist.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Fikrig and passed unanimously.

Ms. Maroney moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. White  
Secretary Pro-Tem