

Board of Control
August 5, 2020

The statutory meeting of the Board of Control was held this day at Lockwood Farm, 890 Evergreen Avenue, with some members participating via Zoom video conferencing because of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Present: Messrs. Fikrig (joined at 1:40PM), Hurlburt, Jones, Larson, Royer, White, and Ms. Maroney and Nichols. Messrs. Elmer and Last were present by invitation.

Absent: None.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 1:05PM.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Royer, seconded by Dr. White, the minutes of the April 15, 2020, meeting were approved unanimously.

News Articles and Correspondence: Dr. White briefly reviewed the many articles and press releases regarding Station research and services.

Fiduciary Investment Advisors: Mr. Last briefly reviewed the Board's investment portfolio as of 6/30/2020. The portfolio continues to bounce back and showed strong returns for the second quarter.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update/Status: Dr. White reported that the agency continues open and all programs are operational. The agency continues to follow State guidance with 50% staff occupancy. The buildings continue closed to the general public.

New Chief Scientist: Dr. White announced that Dr. Christian Dimkpa joined the Experiment Station as Chief Scientist of the Department of Analytical Chemistry effective August 3, 2020.

Station Audit - Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019: Mr. Last reviewed the Experiment Station audit for the years ended June 30, 2018 and 2019. There was one recommendation regarding the agency software inventory. The Business Office will correct the audit finding.

Licensing Agreements/Royalty Payments: The Experiment Station received \$110,838.60 in tobacco licensing and royalty fees in fiscal year 2020. Mr. Larson moved the approval and distribution of royalty payments in compliance with the Station's policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Status of Building Projects:

- Valley Laboratory Renovation and Addition: There has been no progress in obtaining additional funding for the project. Mr. Last will request an additional \$6.3 million for the project in the agency budget submittal due September 1, 2020. Currently, there is \$11.5 million authorized with construction estimates of \$17.8 million.
- Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses: Christopher Williams Architects in New Haven continue to work on bid documents. Mr. Last will request an update and timeline.
- Farmhouse Renovations – Lockwood Farm: Mr. Last reported that the renovation is about 80% complete. The project was slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic but is scheduled to be approved for occupancy by October 1, 2020. The project will come in within the Board of Control's approved budget.

New Officers – Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Research Foundation, Inc.: Dr. White reported that the foundation held its annual meeting on July 2, 2020, and elected officers. Mr. Michael Last will remain as President. The Foundation was founded in 2007 and is an IRS designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Staff Changes: Dr. White reviewed the staff changes since the last meeting, which included Chief Scientist in the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Dr. Christian Dimkpa, who joined the Station on August 3, 2020.

Dr. White moved that an Executive Session be held to discuss Board funds, personnel, and the Director's report. Messrs. Elmer and Last were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt and passed unanimously at 1:42PM.

The Executive Session adjourned at 2:27PM.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to send a letter of appreciation to the Virtual Plant Science Day Committee for their hard work in making the 2020 Plant Science Day successful on a virtual platform. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously. Mr. Jones will work with Dr. White to draft a letter.

Mr. Larson moved to approve a cost extension for the Louis A. Magnarelli Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program entitled "Using Nanoparticles to Deliver dsRNA for Controlling Destructive Plant Viruses." The program would be extended because of delays caused by COVID-19 by up to 5 months and an additional \$50,000 would be allocated by the Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt and passed unanimously.

Board of Control

-3-

August 5, 2020

Dr. White moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larson and passed unanimously at 2:32PM.

A tour of the Lockwood farmhouse ensued after the conclusion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul C. Larson, Secretary