

Board of Control
Wethersfield, CT
January 18, 2022

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

Present: Messrs. Cohan,* Fikrig,* Hurlburt,* Jones,* O'Neill,* White, and Ms. Maroney and Nichols. Messrs. Capone,* Elmer, Larson, and Last were present by invitation.

*Attended by Zoom.

Absent: None.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 10:03AM.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Nichols, the minutes of the October 13, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

Election of Officers: Commissioner Hurlburt moved the following slate of officers for 2022:

President	Governor Ned Lamont
Vice President	Terry Jones
Secretary	Michael O'Neill
Director, Treasurer, and Attorney for Investments	Jason White
Executive and Finance Committee	Terry Jones Jason White Joan Nichols

The nomination was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously.

Future Meeting Dates:

April 20, 2022	Wednesday	New Haven	10:00AM
August 3, 2022	Wednesday	Hamden	1:00PM
October 12, 2022	Wednesday	Windsor	10:00AM
January 18, 2023	Wednesday	Wethersfield	10:00AM
(January 20, 2023 – snow day)			

News Articles and Correspondence: Dr. White briefly reviewed published news articles and press releases since the last Board meeting.

Fiducient Advisors: Mr. Jeff Capone reported on the Board's investment portfolio as of 12/31/2021. There were no recommendations.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Dr. White updated the Board that 97% of staff is vaccinated. Approximately 20% of the Station staff applied for a routine or situational telework schedule. The Omicron variant is beginning to decline (17% transmission). The Station will have self-test kits available.

Status of Building Projects:

- Valley Laboratory: The Department of Administrative Services – Division of Construction Services has set up a meeting with TLB Architecture to resume work and submit final construction drawings. The Station will request a current cost estimate. The project will still need approvals from the State Properties Review Board and the Bond Commission.
- Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses: Mr. Last reported that the bids for the Jenkins-Waggoner greenhouses came in high. An analysis of the bids will be performed, and the project will be rebid including to greenhouse construction companies. The consensus at the Department of Administrative Services is that the original budget is reasonable.
- Steam Leak - New Haven Campus: The State Bond Commission approved emergency funding of \$154,000 to replace the broken steam line between the Osborne Library and the Britton Building. Connecticut Boiler Repair has been selected to perform the work.

Update on 2022 Retirement Wave, Recruitment, and Agency Reorganization Plan: Dr. White updated the Board on announced retirements, recruitment of scientists, and progress with agency reorganization.

Board of Control Audit – Fiscal Year 2021: Mr. Last reviewed the Board of Control audit for Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). The audit was performed by Seward & Monde, CPA, of North Haven. The audit contained no recommendations or findings.

Paving – Lockwood Farm: Mr. Last presented a request for funding for paving 24,092 square feet at Lockwood Farm. The bids were presented, and Empire Paving was the low bidder. Ms. Nichols moved approval of \$82,153.20 for paving at Lockwood Farm to be funded by the Lockwood Trust Fund. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Request for Emeritus Status: Dr. White recommended emeritus status for several retiring staff members. Ms. Nichols moved the approval of emeritus status for Drs. Elmer, LaMondia, Stafford, Vossbrinck, and Ward. Approval would be consistent with the Emeritus Policy approved by the Board of Control on August 4, 2021. The Board will provide, subject to availability and financial resources, the facilities and support relating to continued research and services to the residents of Connecticut. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Louis A. Magnarelli Post-Doctoral Fellowship – New Award: Dr. White announced that Dr. Susanna Keriö (PI), Dr. Nubia Zuverza-Mena (Co-PI), and Dr. Leigh Whittinghill (Co-PI) were awarded a Louis A. Magnarelli Post-Doctoral Fellowship grant for their project entitled “Early Detection of Urban Maple Decline Syndrome Based on Non-Structural Carbohydrate Levels in Association with Site and Tree Growth Metrics in Urban Environments.”

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

Ms. Nichols moved that an Executive Session be held to discuss Board funds, personnel, and the Director’s report. Messrs. Elmer, Larson, and Last were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Dr. White and passed unanimously at 11:19AM.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:06PM.

Dr. White recommended the following actions:

1. Dr. Lindsay Triplett be promoted to Chief Scientist of Plant Pathology and Ecology and Station Vice Director effective March 1, 2022.
2. Dr. DeWei Li be promoted to Chief Scientist of the Valley Laboratory effective April 1, 2022.
3. Dr. Victoria Smith be promoted to Agricultural Scientist and appointed State Entomologist effective June 1, 2022.
4. Dr. Joseph Pignatello’s title change from Chief Scientist to Chief Distinguished Scientist effective immediately.
5. Terri Arsenault be promoted from Agricultural Research Technician II to Assistant Agricultural Scientist I effective January 28, 2022.
6. Tracy Zarrillo be promoted from Agricultural Research Technician II to Assistant Agricultural Scientist I effective January 28, 2022.
7. Michelle Salves be promoted from Agricultural Research Technician I to Agricultural Research Technician II effective January 28, 2022.
8. Angela Bransfield’s salary be increased from ES27/7 to ES27/8 effective January 28, 2022.
9. Appoint Dr. Robert Marra and Dr. Susanna Keriö to the State Tree Protection Examining Board effective March 10, 2022.

Dr. O'Neill moved the approval of the Director's recommended actions. Ms. Nichols seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Larson read a letter resigning from the Board of Control as a Special Advisor. He thanked the Board for their support over the years and he enjoyed his many years as a member appointed by the University of Connecticut. Vice President Terry Jones thanked Paul for his many years of service and loyalty to the Experiment Station.

Ms. Nichols moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. White. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:16PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael O'Neill, Secretary