

Board of Control
Windsor, CT
October 9, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Control was held on this day at Valley Laboratory, Windsor, CT 06095.

Present: Messrs. Duffy (representing Commissioner Hurlburt), Jones, Venkitanarayanan*, White, Ms. Maroney and Ms. Nichols. Messrs. Fortuna, Last, Ms. Triplett and Ms. Ward were present by invitation.

* = attended via Zoom

Absent: Messrs. Cohan and Fikrig

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

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Ms. Maroney, the minutes of the August 7, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Valley Laboratory Update: Architect Michael Fortuna, TLB Architects, Chester, CT gave an update on the Valley Laboratory renovation and addition project. Bid documents are being developed and the project is scheduled to go out to bid in early 2025 and construction beginning in summer/fall 2025.

Research Report: Dr. Elisabeth (Eli) Ward joined the Experiment Station's Department of Environmental Forestry in 2023 and gave a research report on her research projects including the effects of forest management on soil carbon, emerald ash borer, and beech leaf disease.

Status of Projects:

- Jenkins Waggoner Greenhouses- Mr. Last updated the Board on the renovation of the Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses Project. A. Prete is the contractor, and the project is on schedule and within budget. Completion is estimated to be early 2025.

Agency Budget – Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027: Mr. Last reported that the Agency budget request was submitted on August 30, 2024, for the next Biennium. The new budget, when presented by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly, will be effective 7/1/2025.

Louis A. Magnarelli Post Doctoral Fellowship Program: Ms. Nichols moved that \$300,000 in Board Funds be authorized to fund a new two-year Post Doctoral Program.

Year Two funding will be contingent upon the successful progress of the program. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

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

Dr. White moved that an Executive Session be held to discuss Board Funds, Real Estate, Personnel, and the Director's Report. Mr. Last, Drs. Triplett and Ward were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 11:35 a.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Ms. Nichols moved the promotion of Michelle Salvas from Agricultural Technician 2 to Assistant Agricultural Scientist 1 and Dr. Andrea Gloria-Soria from Assistant Agricultural Scientist 2 to Associate Agricultural Scientist, effective October 18, 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Ms. Nichols moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kumar Venkitanarayanan', written over a horizontal line.

Kumar Venkitanarayanan
Secretary