

Board of Control
April 15, 2020

The statutory meeting of the Board of Control was held this day via ZOOM video conferencing because of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and crisis.

Present: Messrs. Fikrig, Hurlburt, Jones, Larson, Royer, White and Ms. Maroney and Nichols. Messrs. Capone (FIA), Elmer, and Last were present by invitation.

Absent: None.

The meeting was convened by Vice President Terry Jones at 10:00AM.

The Board welcomed the newly appointed Vice Director Wade Elmer.

Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Larson, seconded by Ms. Nichols, the minutes of the January 15, 2020, meeting were approved by majority. Commissioner Hurlburt abstained.

News Articles and Correspondence: Dr. White briefly reviewed the many articles and press releases regarding Station research and services. There were also many thank-you emails received from residents who submitted ticks to be tested for the causative agents of Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis. The Station has received and tested 398 ticks during the pandemic period of March 23 – April 7, 2020 and a total of 750 ticks from December 1, 2019 – April 7, 2020.

On a motion by Commissioner Hurlburt, seconded by Mr. Larson, the minutes of the February 4, 2020, and March 3, 2020, special meetings were approved by majority. Ms. Maroney abstained.

Fiduciary Investment Advisors: Mr. Jeff Capone reported on the Board’s investment portfolio as of 3/31/2020. Mr. Capone stated that the investment targets will continue to be rebalanced as we respond to the volatility in the stock market caused by the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update/Status: Dr. White reported that the agency continues open and operating and currently 80% of staff are working from home. There was one employee who tested positive for COVID-19. The employee is working from home and seems to be getting better.

Approval of Appointment of Vice Director: Ms. Nichols moved to formally approve the selection of Dr. Wade Elmer as Vice Director effective 4/1/2020. Mr. Larson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Signatory Authority: Ms. Nichols moved to authorize Mr. Terry Jones, Vice President; Dr. Jason White, Director; and Dr. Wade Elmer, Vice Director signatory authority to execute legal documents, investment and banking instruments, and grant applications and reports. The Board also authorizes the Director to commit and expend up to \$15,000 without prior approval of the Board of Control. Expenditures will continue to be reported at the quarterly Board meetings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maroney and passed unanimously.

Request for Emeritus Status – Dr. Theodore G. Andreadis: Mr. Larson moved the approval of Emeritus status for Dr. Theodore G. Andreadis as Director Emeritus, consistent with the Emeritus Policy adopted by the Board of Control on August 7, 2019. The Board will provide, subject to availability and financial resources, the facilities and support relating to Dr. Andreadis' continued research and service to the residents of Connecticut. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nichols and passed unanimously.

Plant Science Day Update: Dr. White reported that Plant Science Day will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt will give the Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture.

New Scientist – Forestry and Horticulture: Dr. Susanna Kerio, Assistant Scientist II, joined the Experiment Station on Monday, April 13, 2020. She will conduct research on urban forestry.

Status of Building Projects:

- Valley Laboratory Renovation and Addition: Mr. Last reported that the agency has requested an additional authorization of \$6.3 million.
- Jenkins-Waggoner Greenhouses: Christopher Williams architects in New Haven are finalizing bid documents.
- Farmhouse Renovations – Lockwood Farm: Mr. Last reported that the renovation is going well. The project is on schedule for a June 1, 2020 completion and is within the approved budget.

Staff Changes: Dr. White reviewed the staff changes since the last meeting, which included a new Director, Vice Director, and Scientist.

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 Mr. Larson and passed unanimously at 10:53AM.

The Executive Session adjourned at 11:15AM.

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Ms. Nichols moved to authorize the Director, as a position appointed by the Board of Control, to be awarded salary increases (COLA/PARS) consistent with the increases approved for Station managers by OPM and DAS. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larson and passed by majority. Dr. White abstained and Commissioner Hurlburt was absent.

Mr. Larson moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. Royer and passed unanimously at 11:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul C. Larson, Secretary