

Hubbard Brook Research Foundation

Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 20, 2017, 12:00 pm

HBRF Administrative Offices in Woodstock, VT, and via Zoom Videoconference

Trustees Participating by Zoom: Charley Driscoll (CD), Steve Hamburg (SH), Fred Hunt (FH), Peter Martin (PM), and John Smitka (JS)

Other Participants in Attendance: Anthea Lavallee (AL), Zach Ralph (ZR), and Dave Thurlow (DT)

Absent: Anant Sundaram

Action items are highlighted in blue.

At 12:08, PM called the meeting to order.

At 12:09 the minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Federal Funding

PM and AL described the inaccessibility of federal funds that have been awarded (i.e., LTER site award and a recent modification to HB's FS Joint Venture Agreement). Although these funds have been committed, they have not been released. We are working on short-term solutions so as not to disrupt operations and project work. CD explained that funding from the NSF will likely be less affected than the FS or the EPA.

Hubbard Brook Consortium

CD provided feedback on AL's recent written proposal to UVM and recommended tightening up the description of benefits. PM explained that the Executive Committee authorizes AL to proceed with her efforts to recruit new university members. JS described his effort to connect Colgate to HB through Rich April. One of Rich's students would like to work with CD over the summer. **CD offered to contact Rich April to discuss the possibility of student participation. JS offered to follow up regarding Colgate's membership in the consortium.**

Mirror Lake

SH suggested communicating the rental subsidy to scientists as a key component of the business plan (i.e., X% below market rate). Most HB scientists don't know the story and how far we've come to ensure the long-term viability of the property through fundraising and business management (i.e., more than \$880K raised to pay down the loan).

Corporate Sponsorship

PM met with Anant Sundaram recently to discuss his thoughts related to this initiative and to review the document that Anant and JS prepared. **PM indicated that he would like to make this a major topic of discussion at the summer annual meeting (e.g., an hour long discussion, including breakout groups).** FH agreed that this would be a good focus area and an opportunity to present a draft of the criteria for evaluating potential sponsors. CD stated that it would be worthwhile to reach out across the private sector for linkages and opportunities. Finding the right fit will require due diligence. DT explained that it helps to know which door to knock on (i.e., marketing, charitable, etc.).

Private Donors

SH outlined a pitch aimed at re-engaging lapsed donors. Due to the transition in Washington, we have reason to believe that federal funding for EFRs and long term monitoring is at risk. Thanks to the foundation, HB is better prepared to ride out the uncertainty. There has been a major surge in charitable giving across the non-

profit sector (e.g., ACLU) in response to the new administration and the risk of underfunding. FH offered to meet with AL to brainstorm how we can raise awareness of HB in southern VT (e.g., events, presentations, media coverage). [SH suggested collaborating with Squam Lakes Conservation Society](#). We could provide a missing piece in terms of terrestrial ecosystem science as a natural complement to their focus on aquatic ecosystems. We might find opportunities to collaborate through the Squam Uplands Initiative, aimed at protecting the Squam watershed through the conservation of large tracts of forested land above 900 feet.

PM thanked committee members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 1:00.