

MINUTES
District Board of Trustees
Tallahassee Community College
Wakulla Center
2932 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327
April 15, 2013
Board Workshop – 2:30 pm
Business Meeting – Immediately Following

The March 2013 District Board of Trustee meeting was called to order by Chair Callen at approximately 2:31 pm.

Members Present: Chair Callen, Trustees Callaway, DeFoor, Lamb, Messersmith and Moore

Absent: Vice Chair Moon

Via phone: None

Others Present: President Jim Murdaugh, Barbara Sloan, Teresa Smith, Ginny Wagner, Calandra Stringer, Alice Nied, Gloria Mitchell, D. Wildes, Kim Allen, Robin Johnston, Sally Search, Colleen M. Castille, Marge Banocy-Payne, Frank Brown, Alice Maxwell, Barb Gill, Lei Wang, Karinda Barrett, Jacque Parramore, Dale McColskey, Anthony Jones, Gareth Euridge, Bill Bierbaum, Marcia Willis, Patricia Manning, Vanessa Lawrence, Marilyn Dickey, Bill Spiers, Debbie Robinson, Deanna Davis, Danette Davis, Isela Castrejon, Bonnie Holub, Victoria Holmes, Wayne Rabon, David Hendry and Lenda Kling.

COMMENTS

Board Chair – Chair Callen welcomed everyone, asking all to stand for a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance. She indicated it was great to be on the Board during this time when they visit locations, stating she liked the blue shirt for the Wakulla Environmental Institute. She thanked everyone for what they do, indicating she saw the basketball team at Springtime Tallahassee and got to take a picture with them.

Chair Callen said she is proud to be with a group like this and we have taught her a lot. She shared that one of the people who welcomed her to the Board and meant a lot to her was Trustee Moon, who accepted a new position last year. Chair Callen read a letter, prepared by Trustee Kimberle Moon, which indicated Trustee Moon finds it necessary to step down from the TCC Board of Trustees. Chair Callen stated she would miss Trustee Moon, indicating friendships go past jobs.

Board Members – Trustee DeFoor said once the Board Meeting was convened he would like to make a motion to thank Trustee Moon. President Murdaugh stated the Board Meeting is first this month, so the meeting is convened.

In a form to be drafted by the President and working with the Board, Trustee DeFoor requested a resolution thanking Trustee Moon for her service and best wishes in her new adventure.

MOTION: Trustee DeFoor

SECOND: Trustee Lamb

Motion passed unanimously.

President – President Murdaugh said one of the items to be taken up by the Board, since Trustee Moon has resigned, is who would be the next Chair. He said Trustee Moon, as Vice Chair of the Board, was scheduled to become the next Chair -- stating he did not have a precedent to assist them.

Trustee Moore suggested all Board Members think through what might be of best interest to the Board. Trustee DeFoor confirmed Trustee Moon would have assumed the Chair position in August. President Murdaugh asked if there was anything we could do or provide.

President Murdaugh asked Director Maxwell to provide a briefing to the Board about the incident that occurred on campus earlier today. Director Maxwell stated Chief David Hendry sent a TCC Alert around 12:30 pm, indicating a report had been received that a person on campus assimilated as if they had a gun. She said Chief Hendry indicated Campus Police had interviewed witnesses, but they have not found a gun or the person.

She indicated the story had been picked up by WCTV, the Democrat and WFSU. She said Chief Hendry took all media inquiries in reference to the incident and the campus was not locked down. President Murdaugh said to his knowledge, no witness said they had seen a firearm. In response to a question from Trustee Messersmith, President Murdaugh stated Chief Hendry had indicated there was an alleged confrontation between two individuals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Callen asked if there were any comments and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2013 Board Meeting.

MOTION: Trustee DeFoor
SECOND: Trustee Callaway
Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AND NEWS ITEMS

Director Maxwell introduced Channel 22 stories and news clips about the grand opening of the Wakulla Center in the Centennial Bank Building, Wakulla Environmental Institute programs currently housed at the Wakulla Center, the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy Veteran's Program at the Florida Public Safety Institute, Florida College System Economic Impact Study, the Veteran's Consortium, and TCC Eagles baseball success.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT OR PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Callen asked if there were any comments or requests for the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: Trustee Moore
SECOND: Trustee Lamb
Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Services

2012-13 Equity Report (Action)

President Murdaugh indicated we are required to submit an annual report to the state that updates our status as it relates to the Educational Equity Plan, indicating we provide the entire document in the Board packets for information.

This request is for the Board to approve the 2012-13 Equity Report as presented.

MOTION: Trustee Moore

SECOND: Trustee Lamb

Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Callaway referred to the Success and Gateway math courses section of the report, inquiring about defined grade S. Provost Sloan said the state used the S for success (grades A through C), however we use regular A through F grades. Trustee Callaway referenced methods and strategies and the three urgent needs in the community – academic enrichment, personal enrichment and parental involvement. She asked how much parent involvement there is and if we are keeping data.

VP Search said 21st Century is a grant program with strict goals and we have data, although she is fairly new to this process and does not know the specific information. Responding to a question from Trustee Callaway, VP Search indicated her impression is that Roger Milton is engaged and runs the program very well. Trustee Callaway asked how many parents were involved, with VP Search indicating she would get the info and provide.

Trustee Callaway inquired about the presence of the FSU Seminole Room & the FAMU Rattler Room on the TCC campus, asking if it was open all the time. VP Search indicated it was not staffed full-time, but there was a presence every day and is a great benefit to our students.

Trustee Callaway asked if we start over to identify disabled students or if we accept information developed under law from k-12. VP Search indicated the students must self-disclose and request accommodations, so we may have students on campus who have chosen not to disclose this information. Provost Sloan said this is a huge difference from k-12 and we might want to talk to the high schools about encouraging students to provide the information to us.

Provost Sloan stated the transition period is a gap, however if students would self-disclose we could give them the needed resources. Chair Callen said often students in their senior year discover they get the accommodation for longer testing periods. She said with the counselors focusing on that, the student is more apt to disclose.

Trustee Lamb commented that Mr. Milton does get a lot of the parents and the public involved in the programs.

Construction Status Report (Information)

Director Wildes shared the science renovations for two new physics labs along with two new anatomy and physiology labs are underway in the TPP Building, with hopes of starting the organic chemistry renovations this summer. He said we are taking a closer look at the site in Quincy for possible construction of a new Quincy House. Director Wildes indicated that in Wakulla, our request for architects is out and we will extend the due date to April 30th.

Trustee Lamb inquired about the location of the land in Quincy, with Director Wildes indicating it was the Wards Lot (one block north of the City Building and two blocks south of the historic School Complex).

Trustee DeFoor inquired about the number of responses for the architects in Wakulla. Director Wildes stated there were about eight (8) or nine (9) firms at the pre-meeting, with twenty-five (25) or thirty (30) people there. Trustee DeFoor requested and Director Wildes indicated he would supply the sign-in sheet from the meeting to the Board. Trustee DeFoor confirmed with Director Wildes the meeting was mandatory for those firms wishing to submit a bid.

President Murdaugh stated Director Wildes had been working hard to identify locations in Gadsden, but most everything we find is wood construction and we cannot occupy a wood structure for educational purposes. He shared he had asked Director Wildes to look for land and consider how much we could build for the same cost as the current lease. Director Wildes confirmed we could build about 6,000 – 8,000 square feet at our current level of cost.

President Murdaugh indicated the funding for the current lab and upcoming dental renovations is coming from the TCC Foundation. He said the money was received from the sale of The Orchards, indicating the Foundation has been very supportive of our needs in the absence of PECO funding.

Fund Analysis – March 2013 (Information)

President Murdaugh indicated VP Smith would address any questions.

Student Affairs

New College Policy for Student Complaints, Appeals and Grade Disputes (Action)

President Murdaugh stated this is a new college policy. He said we have been preparing for our accreditation and this was identified as an area of need for SACS.

This request is for the Board to approve College Policy 10-08

MOTION: Trustee Lamb

SECOND: Trustee Messersmith

Motion passed unanimously.

TCC Foundation

TCC Foundation Update (Information)

VP Johnston stated the TCC Foundation Board Planning Retreat will be held May 16th & 17th at the Honey Lake Plantation. He indicated that currently twenty-one (21) out of thirty-eight (38) Board Directors have confirmed their attendance.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan for the 2013-2014 fiscal year (Action)

President Murdaugh stated the Board approved the Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities at their last meeting, indicating at this meeting we are requesting Board approval for the proposed strategies associated with the previously approved Strategic Priorities.

This request is for the Board to approve the Strategic Plan to become effective for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

MOTION: Trustee Moore

SECOND: Trustee Lamb

Motion passed unanimously.

Trustees Callaway and Moore stated they thought the Strategic Plan was well done. President Murdaugh expressed his thanks and indicated the next step would be to develop the metrics and annual initiatives, which are not brought to the Board for approval – although we provide updates on our progress.

He provided draft copies of the metrics, stating we have spent a great deal of time and energy trying to benchmark against national metrics when possible. He said we are working to ensure we report the required items to the State, indicating we will continue to identify the appropriate measures and then develop the annual initiatives that move us forward.

Chair Callen asked if the Board would receive periodic updates. President Murdaugh stated at some point he hoped to be able to dashboard it for the Trustees. Trustee DeFoor asked how this would be benchmarked with our competitors. President Murdaugh said there are different methodologies.

AVP Wang said we can measure ourselves against the 28 institutions, the State strategic plan, the national community college information and we can also look at ourselves over time to see if we are making progress. President Murdaugh said there will be a number of different strategies we use, but some of the data we want to improve does not have any data available elsewhere.

Trustee Moore stated when we started the process TCC was good at identifying internal and external stakeholders. She asked if we could give the identified data back to the folks who had originally given us information, with President Murdaugh indicating it was important for us to provide that information at least to the three school boards. Trustee Moore recommended it be provided to the five Chambers of Commerce and regional EDC Boards. Trustee Messersmith asked it be provided to the elected officials, with Trustee Moore indicating it should include our State Representatives.

President Murdaugh shared there were two wonderful sessions with students, getting ideas from them to incorporate into the Strategic Plan – indicating this was the first time we included students to shape the direction of the college for the next ten years. Trustee Moore confirmed the plan would be placed on the website.

Trustee Messersmith requested we return to Tab 10, New College Policy for Student Complaints, Appeals and Grade Disputes. He referenced the statement “A student complaint is based upon a claim that a policy or procedure was not followed or was not applied equitably” and asked how a student would know what the college policy or procedure is. VP Search indicated there is a student handbook that includes all student procedures, although FPSI has some separate ones and Workforce is working on some.

She said students are advised during orientation they should go to the Student Handbook. She said they will be developing a chart to refer them to the correct area for assistance. Trustee Messersmith confirmed the handbook would refer them to a location and/or job title. VP Search shared as an example, a student with a concern about advising would then go to the Director for Student Success and Retention and then, if not resolved, to VP Student Affairs. She said they have talked about an electronic format that would allow for tracking. She indicated the vast majority are resolved by two or three people sitting down and discussing.

Trustee Messersmith confirmed the handbook is on the website, with VP Search indicating it is currently being revised to place all the procedures in one area. Chair Callen asked if at the beginning of each class, the professor shares this information in the syllabus. VP Search stated it is not in the syllabus and deferred to Provost Sloan for further information.

Provost Sloan said this is a big item under SACS, stating each student is given a handbook during orientation, along with information on how to use it as a resource. She indicated all process information will be collected and placed in one area for resource purposes. She said it was important for students to know they have rights, people to go to and that retaliation is not acceptable.

Chair Callen asked if there were any mediation processes or does it go through the chain of command. Provost Sloan said for grade appeals we encourage them to work with the professors and then the deans, but for more serious matters there is mediation. VP Search stated there are official appeals through Student Conduct and Community Standards, for things such as late withdrawals, etc. that are reviewed by committee. She said if the committee cannot agree, then those items would come to her.

Trustee DeFoor inquired about the number of appeals received annually. VP Search said the committee met last week to address ninety (90) appeals for late withdrawals, fourth attempts in classes, waivers for full cost of instruction for third attempts, etc. President Murdaugh asked if we had a feel for complaints, without appeals. VP Search said before this policy, we had not defined what a student complaint was. Trustee DeFoor confirmed we have a tracking process to identify trends.

VP Search said at the Dean's level, they are aware of the students who come to them. She said as we put our tracking mechanism in place, we will have a better way to identify the complaints and the volume. Trustee DeFoor said he would like to hear the people who call him say they had a problem, but it was fixed in a warm and supportive way. He said it is a challenge to keep the humanity of it as we grow.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Murdaugh, on behalf of Trustee Lamb, brought before the Board a request to deviate from Board Policy. Trustee Lamb passed out the applicable Board Policy indicating a 2.0 is required for a posthumous degree. President Murdaugh stated this is a relatively new policy, since we get requests of this nature from time to time. He said the student's GPA was 1.95 and he was enrolled in class at the time of his passing. He said if we make an assumption the student would have made an A in the class, it would have brought the GPA to 2.0.

Trustee DeFoor asked for more information about the individual, with Trustee Lamb indicating he did not know the student personally. Trustee Callaway asked about the professor's viewpoint, with VP Search saying the professor stated the student would have probably received a C or possibly a B. Trustee Messersmith confirmed with Trustee Lamb that the request was just for goodwill. Trustee Callaway felt for an exception to a new policy, it would need to be something unusual and out of the ordinary, confirming with VP Search that a 2.0 GPA was considered in good standing.

This request is to provide exception to the Board Policy at the request of Trustee Lamb for this student.

MOTION: Trustee Messersmith

SECOND: Trustee DeFoor
Motion was deferred as indicated below.

Trustee Moore inquired if the family had requested, with Trustee Lamb stating there had not been a request from the family. He stated he was getting a feel from the Board about the exception to policy before contacting the family. President Murdaugh said if the Board agrees, then Trustee Lamb will reach out to the family. Trustee Callaway confirmed the student was originally enrolled in fall 2009.

Attorney Bill Mabile asked the Board to vote to defer decision on this matter. He indicated he would like to conduct research for statutory and/or rule references. He stated we do not want to mention the student by name nor discuss grades here in a public forum.

This request is for the Board to defer decision until legal counsel can complete research.

MOTION: Trustee Callaway
SECOND: Trustee Moore
Motion passed unanimously.

President Murdaugh stated the Nursing Program has been granted their initial accreditation by the NLNAC. He said this is extremely time-consuming behind the scenes, thanking Dean Nied and others who worked on this project.

He shared there are a series of upcoming events, including an American Association of Community Colleges Convention, a number of pinning and graduation ceremonies, a Rotary roast for Marjorie Turnbull, Leadercast, a Disney Institute and the Foundation Board Retreat.

President Murdaugh shared our baseball team is #1 in the Florida College System Activities Association and #2 in the National Junior College Athletic Association. He stated we will be going to Lakeland May 10-14.

He indicated we have a new agreement with the Veterans Administration, sharing we have more veterans than FSU and FAMU. He stated in the new agreement VA will be providing on campus outreach, transition support services, referrals for medical and mental health support services, adjustment and career counseling services, assistance with applying for other VA benefits, job placement assistance and referral to TCC services.

He said we will provide office space, inclusion of vocational rehabilitation counselors in new student programs, practical training on current services, on campus point of contact, expertise on VA to college student development and college student experience. He shared this is becoming an important part of what we do as a college.

Trustee Moore inquired about information from the legislative session. President Murdaugh indicated it does appear the FCS may be receiving additional funding, although an amount is unknown. He said the funds go into CCPF and then is distributed to each college based upon FTE. He said there are some additional discussions about CAPE (Career and Professional Education), which helps high school students get credentials for jobs. He indicated that helps us align with what we are doing in Workforce and our academic programs.

Trustee DeFoor asked if it would be appropriate for the Board to offer a resolution commending our baseball team and their coach for their outstanding ranking. President Murdaugh indicated

he had invited them to the meeting today, however they had a game. He shared they plan to be at the next meeting. Trustee Callaway indicated it might be best to defer until after the playoff.

Trustee Moore said she liked having the Board Meeting first, indicating external audiences would know exactly when we will start. President Murdaugh said we are happy to comply with Board request.

This request is for the Board to approve moving the Business Meeting before the Board Workshop.

MOTION: Trustee Moore
SECOND: Trustee DeFoor
Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Messersmith indicated this would move the meeting up to the middle of the workday. Trustee Callaway stated this was a little concern.

NEXT MEETING DATE

May 20, 2013

Location: Main Campus

BOARD WORKSHOP

Chair Callen called the Board workshop to order at approximately 4:06 pm

Serving Wakulla County

President Murdaugh said this month we would be talking about Wakulla County, indicating we needed to be done before the 5:00 pm groundbreaking event.

Provost Sloan stated this would be an update on academic programs. Dean Stringer shared a picture, indicating it was of a Professor with students at the FSU Marine Lab. She said we started 2013 with a program for a Certificate in Water Quality, sharing that when students complete the program their credits can transfer to the AS Degree in Environmental Science Technology. Trustee DeFoor inquired about the number of students, with Dean Stringer indicating we started with five (5) to seven (7) students.

Trustee DeFoor asked how many of the other twenty-eight (28) colleges offered a Water Quality program, with Dean Stringer sharing about seven (7) have the Certificate in Water Quality and most of them offer the AS Degree in Environmental Science Technology. She shared another photo, indicating most of the program is offered online but there is an opportunity for hands-on field experience.

Dean Stringer shared a picture of students kayaking on the Wakulla River who are enrolled in the new Chemistry and Biology of Natural Waters class, offered for the first time this semester. She shared the next photo of another professor and students at the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge.

She said in Fall 2014 we will offer an AS Degree in Aquaculture, which will provide job opportunities as shellfish grower, oyster culturist, fish hatchery assistant, clam bed supervisor, shrimp pond supervisor, fish culturist and shellfish farming supervisor. She indicated they will be working with VP Moore to develop some non-credit programs.

Dean Stringer indicated we are planning to offer in Fall 2014 an AS Degree in Recycling & Resource Management. She stated possible job opportunities would be landfill science, waste

prevention, waste reduction, recycling, management of special wastes, treatment of contaminated soil and composting. Provost Sloan said currently there is no offering elsewhere for this program, however Director Ballard introduced them to people in the industry and there are some really good programs, both credit and non-credit, we can offer.

Trustee DeFoor inquired about the current AS offerings in Aquaculture, with Dean Stringer stating there are two in Florida – Indian River State College and Hillsborough Community College. Trustee DeFoor inquired how many were nationwide, with Dean Stringer replying there were not many – most are at the bachelors or graduate level.

Dean Stringer indicated in Fall 2015 we will offer an AS Degree in Parks & Leisure. The graduates of this program will have job opportunities in parks, nature centers, tourism facilities and others. Provost Sloan said this should align with new small businesses at that time. Trustee DeFoor indicated the State Parks people should be deep into this and asked who currently offers this program, with Dean Stringer stating St. Petersburg College offers this program.

Dean Stringer said we offer dual enrollment at the Wakulla County School District, where we are increasing from one to three courses at the high school. She stated the offering will have some alternative delivery methods, such as web or hybrid classes, with students using the Wakulla Center for resources. She shared we will also offer STEM Distance Learning via a PAEC grant, indicating with new equipment students will be able to tune into our programs real time.

Provost Sloan stated this program would also be offered to Gadsden County students, indicating this is another opportunity for students who do not have STEM courses at their high schools. Trustee DeFoor asked if the schools lose funds when a student is dual enrolled. Provost Sloan said if a student passes AP, the faculty member who teaches them actually gets money and the high school also gets some credit. She said the legislation was changed so dual enrollment counts the same as AP in terms of weighted GPA, which has made a big difference with the schools.

Dean Stringer said in Fall 2012 we offered credit courses here at the Wakulla Center. She stated we will continue to offer these evening courses, promote alternative delivery methods and provide support through the Wakulla Center. Provost Sloan said it has been a slow start here and we have not found new college students, however we will be taking a new approach.

Provost Sloan said this location provides transition right out of high school and is another opportunity for dual enrollment students to take classes with the other students. She said right now the students are mostly those taking some classes on main campus and some here. Dean Stringer said most of the evening professors are Wakulla residents.

VP Search said we will establish a regular presence here at the Wakulla Center in the future, where we will provide service and connect to the main campus via webcam or Skype. She stated we will also expand our ability to proctor tests and provide opportunities for career exploration or advising. She indicated with some cross-training, we will not need a lot of people. She shared we could also hold some open houses to familiarize residents with our services.

Provost Sloan stated we will provide the Learning Commons type staff that can provide resources or tutor students, stating we hope to help students with one person or phone call.

VP Moore shared the population of Wakulla County had decreased by one hundred six (106) residents, with a downturn of 6.4% in income. She said the number of people requiring additional assistance (food stamps, Medicaid, etc.) has increased. She stated there has been a drop in unemployment since February 2012, when it was 8.3%, to a rate of 6% in February 2013. She said before the economic downturn, Wakulla County was known for one of the lowest unemployment rates in the State of Florida.

VP Moore shared there are three hundred fifty-eight (358) employers in Wakulla County. She said of those employers, two hundred eighty-four (284) employers have nine (9) or fewer employees, which represents seventy-one percent (71%) of the employers. She stated there are eight (8) employers with one hundred (100) or greater employees, which represents fifty-one percent (51%) of the employees.

VP Moore stated one thousand one hundred ninety-four (1,194) residents live and work in Wakulla County, two thousand three hundred eighteen (2,318) people travel into Wakulla County to work and nine thousand two hundred eighty-nine (9,289) residents travel out of Wakulla County for work. She said 82% of the available workforce leaves Wakulla County to work – the 2nd highest in the state.

VP Moore shared the opportunity this creates is economic workforce driven – the opportunity to work with the group as a workforce and educational arm to pursue new business attractions and support existing businesses. She said we also have the opportunity to leverage what we know – develop strong relationships with the large employers to create a talent pipeline.

President Murdaugh asked if we have the data on the nature of the employment for Wakulla County residents outside the county. VP Moore stated she could provide more detail, however it goes into five counties (Leon, Duval, Gadsden, etc.) and is an interesting mix. Trustee Messersmith said there is a lot of dynamics in workforce in the rural counties and it is hard to digest all the information in this comprehensive report, indicating there is great potential.

Director Holub thanked TCC for bringing the credit courses and dual enrollment program to Wakulla County, indicating it means a lot to the community. She indicated Charlotte Cobb, the 21st Century Coordinator for Wakulla County, is housed at the Wakulla Christian School. She said this is a partnership among Wakulla County Schools, Wakulla Christian School and TCC.

Director Holub shared one hundred fifty (150) pre-k through middle school students are bused by Wakulla County Schools to the Wakulla Christian School site to attend academic and personal enrichment classes from 3:15 – 6:15 pm. She indicated the grant for the program was \$3.5 million over 5 years, with most of the money being spent in Wakulla County.

She said the main purpose is to serve the students, sharing excerpts from letters received from parents. She expressed thanks from the parents of these letters and many others, indicating parents are required to be involved or the child is not accepted into the program.

Director Holub stated the Green Guide program is ongoing and expected to expand with the new Environmental Institute, sharing the pictures presented were taken by students of the Green Guide Program. She said Wakulla Springs hired three (3) students and Maclay Gardens hired one (1) student of the Green Guide program, with some students opening businesses.

Director Holub indicated the video she was planning to show was not available, however it was available on the TCC Wakulla Center website. President Murdaugh said we could send the video link to the Trustees. Director Holub stated they teach Ecology, Starting a Small Business, Marketing and Customer Service. Trustee DeFoor said the Green Guide Program has long-term real potential.

Trustee Lamb inquired when parents can attend the 21st Century program, with Director Holub sharing they can come any time – although, parent nights and events are scheduled.

Director Ballard stated for him the reality of the Wakulla Environmental Institute started when the legislature approved funding last year and the Governor did not veto it. He presented an architect's rendering of the building, indicating some changes might occur. He said we have a business plan and as Executive Director he has held town hall meetings, done countless speeches and held many question and answer sessions.

Director Ballard indicated from our outreach efforts, we learned the campus needed to be:

- centrally located, but south of Crawfordville
- easily accessed by highway
- on the county sewer system
- at least one hundred fifty (150) acres to have a world class campus
- on dry, buildable land with a certain north Florida quality, and
- less than or equal to \$382,000 with a grand entrance.

Director Ballard shared that in December 2012 we placed a contract on one hundred fifty-eight (158) acres for \$382,000, with an option to purchase additional property. He said the property is located off of US 319, so it has easy highway access and we own an easement for access to the property. He indicated the property has a beautiful sinkhole (which is emerald blue when it is not raining), a natural bridge and Swirl river that goes into Swirl Swamp.

Director Ballard showed a picture of the entrance to the new campus, indicating before we could close on the property it was necessary to rezone the property from agriculture to institutional use and obtain Planned Urban Development (PUD) approval from the State. He stated we received the approval and rezoning authorizations on March 27th, the fastest rezoning on record in Wakulla County. He shared this is not due to any action on our part, but because the County loves this project.

Director Ballard stated we closed on the property April 1st, indicating the groundbreaking date of April 15th was set back in September and we have hit our projected dates. Displaying another picture he said the groundbreaking is taking place on property about 30 feet above sea level, rather high for Wakulla County. He shared the trees are planted pine, so it is a monoculture. He indicated there are other beautiful areas on the campus that we may not wish to touch.

Director Ballard projected a picture of Swirl Swamp, sharing that it is connected to the Gulf of Mexico. He stated the tide level of Swirl Swamp changes every six hours and is the opposite of what occurs in the Gulf of Mexico. He shared that last week, on a tour with the Leadership TCC participants, they saw an eagle fly by looking for lunch.

Director Ballard stated in January the first Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI) Advisory Committee meeting was held, with Paul Johnson named Vice-Chair. Director Ballard introduced Colleen Castille, who has served as Secretary of DEP and Secretary of Department of Community Affairs – indicating it is rare for one person to serve as Secretary for two different areas. He shared that even more importantly, Ms. Castille was Key Cabinet Aid to former Governor Bush.

Ms. Castille said she was honored to be asked to chair the WEI Advisory Committee, indicating it included business members, elected officials and environmental groups. She shared everyone on the Committee is supportive of this plan – a small vision that she knows will grow to a large institution. She said on April 22nd we will celebrate the 44th Earth Day, so it is very fitting for us to have the groundbreaking this week.

Director Ballard presented a drawing of how the campus could look in the future. He said they are having discussions with the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center in Walton, who is interested in establishing a branch campus here. He stated all the building roofs will have southern exposure, to assist with them becoming energy independent. He shared an Eco Training Center and possible auditorium may be built, to be used by high school seniors for graduation.

Director Ballard shared the planned Eco Lodge could have as many as 200 fairly luxurious guest rooms to house people coming for eco tours. He stated if the recycling degree is approved, we will have a Recycling Training Center. He said funding for the projects could come from BP Restore Act money of \$5 - \$20 billion to be divided by five states, including Florida. He indicated the WEI is poised well to obtain some of those funds, with applications totaling up to \$32 million.

Director Ballard said in the next couple of months the construction of infrastructure will begin – roads and sewer, water and electric lines. He shared we plan to begin construction on the first building in October, with a ribbon cutting in August 2014. He indicated the building will be energy free – producing more energy than it uses.

Director Ballard said a lot of the beautiful scenery described will not be visible at the groundbreaking. So everyone could see the natural beauty, he introduced a video clip produced by Rob Hall that showed a helicopter view of the area.

Trustee DeFoor said this was a deep, serious commitment and it shows – indicating it was a great job.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.

Minutes approved at regular meeting of the District Board of Trustees on May 20, 2013.

Dana Callen, Ph.D.
Chair

Jim Murdaugh, Ph.D.
President