

CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

CESAS Meeting Summary

102 Ward Hall, KSU

February 26, 2009

Participants

Ken Barnard, Aviation Department, K-State (via teleconference)
Ben Champion, Director of Sustainability, Geography, K-State
Larry Erickson, CHSR, Chemical Engineering, K-State; also representing the KNRC
Gary Gerhard, 4-H Youth Development, K-State
Ryan Green, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Wendy Griswold, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Blase Leven, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Shireen Roshanravan, Women's Studies, K-State
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Lee Skabelund, Landscape Architecture/Regional and Community Planning, K-State (via teleconference)
Rebecca Spexarth, Student Assistant to Director of Sustainability, K-State

Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Remarks

- Larry Erickson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Agenda Review

- The participants reviewed the tentative agenda and concurred on its content.

Technical Assistance for a Sustainable Kansas (TASK)

- TASK meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 1:30 PM, Ward 102.
- Various organizations and groups are currently providing service and TASK may provide an opportunity to connect these initiatives and thereby enhance synergy.
- The concept of providing a TASK Question and Answer (Q&A) service was proposed.
- Group was generally supportive and noted some of the existing technical assistance hotlines available to communities and businesses (e.g., Extension, Pollution Prevention Institute, etc).
- Other community based activities were discussed (such as the Speakers' Bureau).
- Because of the beneficial public education focus, the group agreed to explore the opportunity, points of contact, and funding further.

K-State Sustainability Task Force

- Ben Champion shared an update on the group's structure and efforts.
- The task force has approximately 35 members from across the university community.
- Four different working groups - representing areas of Curriculum, Operations, Research, and Extension/Outreach - are developing an outline of short- and long-term goals/recommendations that will be compiled into a report for K-State leadership.
- Based on conversations with the Incoming K-State President Kirk Schulz, Ben is leading preparation of a white paper with ideas for administrative structures and strategic plans (road map approach).
- Group discussed various ideas and needs, including green procurement and purchasing requirements.

Update on Student Activities

- Rebecca Spexarth provided an overview of various student-led initiatives.
- Ecolympics is underway with the Greek houses this year (as a pilot) with the closing ceremony at Sunset Zoo on April 4; eventually will be a campus wide program.
- SGA has approved the Student Director of Sustainability as a permanent position.

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- Other activities/updates included: students just returned from the Rocky Mountain Summit in Boulder, CO; coordination with student orientation to incorporate environmental issues; SEA plans for Green Festivals/Expos; and sustainability issues were addressed in the Student Body Presidential elections.
- Engineers Without Borders (EWB-KSU) is planning a trip to India over spring break to assist with sustainable development projects.

Earth Day (April 22, 2009)

- Ideas and plans for Earth Day 2009 were briefly discussed.
- It was noted that KU has lots of activities scheduled, including a parade (contact Jeff Severin for more info jseverin@ku.edu).
- Group agreed to consider further thoughts and potential speakers for events; and to include this as an agenda item for various student organization and community group meetings.

Speakers on Sustainability Topics

- Valerie Carroll has proposed bringing international activist-advocate-intellectual Vandana Shiva to campus; Shireen Roshanravan provided further details about Dr. Shiva's work and funding options to facilitate her potential visit.
- CESAS members unanimously agreed to provide a letter of support and contribute funding (\$500) to support bringing Vandana Shiva.
- Other lecture series endowments and diversity organizations will be contacted for support.
- Gary Gerhard suggested Simran Sethi, KU School of Journalism, as a potential speaker for upcoming events.
- Potential speakers for student organizations were discussed; both practicing professionals (e.g., Ken Barnard "galaxy gamble/climate change", Ben Champion "campus sustainability/food systems", Ruth Miller "wind/solar energy", Oral Saulters "technology development/environmental analysis", etc.) and student peers were suggested.
- Larry Erickson recommended the CHSR sustainability seminar series, available on Google Video as a resource for students and the general public <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/chsr/events/che670/200808/>.

4-H Project Update

- In response to an USDA RFP, faculty members from various K-State Departments (including Gary Gerhard, Wendy Griswold, and Larry Erickson) submitted a proposal that was accepted to develop an engineering/sustainability curriculum that targets middle and high-school students.
- The curriculum will involve innovative concepts for designing and problem-solving.
- Meetings to address program details and schedules will take place next week.

NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates on Sustainability

- Nine undergraduate students will be selected to participate in this unique ten week summer program, "Earth, Wind, and Fire – Sustainable Energy for the 21st Century".
- With a multidisciplinary focus, the group will participate in research activities, Dialogue on Sustainability, and make presentations locally and nationally; collaboration with the 4-H team is possible.
- Students are encouraged to apply <http://www.che.ksu.edu/reu/index.htm>.

Fort Riley Sustainability Initiative

- Oral Saulters updated the group on sustainability efforts being led by the Army Environmental Command and Fort Riley; Ben Champion noted the positive work taking place at Fort Lewis.

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- Based on strategic goals and action plans in the areas of: 1) Land/Air Space Management, 2) Infrastructure, 3) Human Capital, and 4) Logistics, K-State - through the CHSR and Director of Sustainability - is exploring ways to support the Army; additional meetings are scheduled the week of March 23.

Greenhouse Gas Initiative

- Larry Erickson noted that the CHSR is working cooperatively with the Pollution Prevention Institute to explore opportunities with GHG inventories and public education.
- Current plans include a sustainability seminar focused on carbon and ecological footprints with Terrie Boguski sharing some practical tools and approaches.
- Blase Leven indicated that several organizations are providing information with respect to the new economic stimulus “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act” and energy/environmental aspects.
- Ben Champion stated that the Kansas Board of Regents has identified resource use and efficiency as a reporting/seamlessness priority.
- State budget constraints may present opportunities for a carbon inventory and paradigm shifts in terms of behavioral changes in the near term and eventual capital improvements; training and energy conservation activities could lead to improvements and cost savings (as reported by Oklahoma State University).

Center for Hazardous Substance Research (CHSR) 20th Anniversary

- Activities to celebrate the milestone and accomplishments will coincide with the summer Dialog on Sustainability; a planning meeting is scheduled for next week.

Other

- Ken Barnard discussed his involvement with the Clean Energy Project’s Take Charge competition involving six communities and energy providers, he inquired about the availability of an Infrared Camera (Blase Leven will follow-up).
- Lee Skabelund noted that plans were underway for the green roof design for Seaton Hall; he and Stacy Hutchinson are also evaluating options for solar photovoltaic panels.
- Wendy Griswold will be collaborating with Barbara Anderson and Melody LeHew to incorporate transformative learning into student value change models.
- The minutes of prior meetings may be found on the Internet at www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/sustainability

Upcoming Events

- **Kansas River Valley Foods**, local foods meet and greet, March 2, 2009, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Douglas County Extension Center, Lawrence, KS <http://www.kansasrivervalley.com/> or contact Rhonda Janke rrjanke@ksu.edu.
- **EPA Sustainable Communities Training Conference**, March 9-11, 2009, Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas, TX <http://www.epa.gov/sustainable/skylines/>

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 1:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

Thank you everyone for your kind participation and support!