

# CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

## **CESAS Meeting Summary 102 Ward Hall, Kansas State University April 2, 2009**

### **Participants**

Ken Barnard, Aviation Department, K-State (via teleconference)  
Tammy Clem, Technology Group Solutions, LLC (via teleconference)  
Barry Dicker, Decent Energy, Inc. (via teleconference)  
Larry Erickson, CHSR, Chemical Engineering, K-State; also representing the KNRC  
Valerie Evans, College of Business Administration, K-State  
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 (via teleconference)  
Lisa Harrington, Department of Geography, K-State  
Ruth Miller, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Wind Applications Center, K-State  
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State  
Lee Skabelund, Landscape Architecture/Regional and Community Planning, K-State (via teleconference)

### **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)**

- Many separate TASK-related activities are underway with respect to technical outreach and public education that assist communities and small businesses.
- Efforts to connect these activities and find sources of funding are being explored, including the NSF Decision Making Under Uncertainty Collaborative Groups (DMUU); a group meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2009, 9:00 AM, Ward 102, with teleconference options. The meeting will focus on the RFP (research for understanding decision making for climate change and long-term environmental risks, due July 14, 2009) and possible approaches and partnerships.
- Concepts of providing a TASK Question and Answer (Q&A) service via internet and listserv were briefly mentioned.
- Group may develop a white paper in the near future to support initiatives.
- Tammy Clem noted that <http://stimuluswatch.org/> is a useful resource for citizens to track stimulus funds and contribute to discussion of particular projects (voting on need, description, and comments); examples include water, streets/roads, and community development block grant programs in Kansas.

### **K-State Sustainability Task Force**

- Ruth Miller noted that she is on the Task Force.
- Based on discussions with Ben Champion, Larry Erickson shared an update on the working groups and remarked that the formal report is expected in June 2009.
- Group discussed positive support of Incoming K-State President Kirk Schulz and his wife, Noel Schulz, Electrical & Computer Engineering, who has interest/expertise in renewable-sustainable energy.

### **Dialog on Sustainability (DOS)**

- It was observed that the DOS planning/organizing committee met yesterday, April 1, 2009.

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- Tentative plans include: date (July 23, 2009), location (Fiedler Auditorium), opening (Incoming President Schulz), program agenda items (Task Force – four subject areas), table dialogs, topical speakers (decision-making process/public education, climate change, KS coal plants, renewable energy, posters/exhibits, NSF REU, etc.), and recap.
- Ruth Miller indicated that she and Anil Pahwa will be making a presentation with respect to sustainability and engineering education at Carnegie Mellon University the week before the DOS.

### **Earth Day (April 22, 2009)**

- Various scheduled events for April and Earth Day 2009 were briefly discussed.
- A list of news, conferences, and upcoming activities taking place on campus and other communities is included at <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/events/>

### **Speakers' Bureau**

- Wendy Griswold updated the group and remarked that the current speakers and topics will soon be included on the CESAS website.
- Additional participants/nominees are encouraged for the Speakers' Bureau, including private and public sector partners.

### **4-H Project Update**

- Gary Gerhard indicated that plans were underway for the curricula development, including orientation and content working group meetings.
- Various aspects of the program (e.g., schedules, content/concept maps, deliverables, etc.) and contracting actions for phase one are being managed by the leadership team (start date - March 2009 and end date – November 2010).

### **NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates on Sustainability**

- Out of 80 applicants, nine undergraduate students are being selected to participate in the summer program, "Earth, Wind, and Fire – Sustainable Energy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".
- Larry Erickson also noted that K-State was awarded an NSF IGERT program for sustainable energy (Mary Rezac will be leading).

### **Fort Riley Sustainability Initiative**

- Oral Saulters recently participated in the EPA Sustainable Communities Training Conference in Dallas, TX which included a session on partnering with the military.
- Action plans are being developed by the Army Environmental Command and Fort Riley; Ben Champion and Oral Saulters will work to keep the group updated on opportunities for collaboration.
- Gary Gerhard suggested that contact be made with Toni Bryant, K-State Coordinator of the Fort Riley Extension Military Program.

### **Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

- Larry Erickson and Ryan Green noted that the federal government was moving forward with proposed regulations/draft legislation for emissions reporting.
- Suggestions were made for K-State to assist with public education and unbiased/science informed public policy; CHSR/CESAS will be hosting a GHG intersession course/seminar in January 2010.

### **Center for Hazardous Substance Research (CHSR) 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

- In March 1989, the Kansas Board of Regents approved formation of the CHSR; accordingly, anniversary events include a luncheon and other activities to celebrate the milestone and myriad accomplishments/collaborators.

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## **Other**

- Barry Dicker (Decent Energy) discussed the various projects his company is involved with, including training and integrating renewable energy products and construction.
- Tammy Clem (TGS) invited the group to an upcoming greening information technology seminar that her company is hosting, April 23, KU Edwards Campus, Overland Park, KS.
- Valerie Evans will be teaching a course on business and sustainability (MGMT 497), during the summer intersession (May 2009), exploring corporate social responsibility among other topics.
- Lee Skabelund noted that progress was being made on the green roof design for Seaton Hall; he will also be hosting tours of the rain garden at the International Student Center during the K-State Open House (April 18).
- Ruth Miller stated that the Kansas Rural Center will be leading a seminar for small colleges on the topic of wind and other renewable energy in early May 2009.
- Among other sustainability activities, Bethany College is hosting a series of events, for details see the CHSR website (below).

## **Upcoming Events**

- <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/chsr/events/>

## **Next Meeting**

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

**Thank you everyone for your kind participation and support!**