

CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

CESAS Meeting Summary

102 Ward Hall, KSU

August 19, 2008

Participants

Melissa Baer, U.S. EPA Region 7 (via teleconference)
Ken Barnard, Aviation Department, KSU (via teleconference)
Michael Bell, SGA Director of Sustainability, KSU
Ben Champion, Director of Sustainability, Geography, KSU
Larry Erickson, CHSR, Chemical Engineering, Stewardship Comm., KSU; also representing the KNRC
Rose Fredkin, CABEM Technologies
Gary Gerhard, 4-H Youth Development, KSU
Ryan Green, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU
Wendy Griswold, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU (via teleconference)
Blase Leven, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU
Sabine Martin, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU
Chet McLaughlin, U.S. EPA Region 7, representing Blue Skyways Collaborative (via teleconference)
Becky O'Donnell, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service, KSU
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU
Donna Shenck-Hamlin, Hale Library, KSU
Jim Steichen, Biological & Agricultural Engineering, NILMT, KSU
Mike Steinke, Wind Energy Consulting & Contracting (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.

Higher Education Sustainability Act (HESA)

- Ben Champion and Larry Erickson briefly shared perspectives and noted that K-State would continue to monitor HESA developments and prepare for upcoming grant process and appropriations.
- Title 8 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HR 4137) includes Part U on sustainability in higher education. Grants to universities that are between \$250,000 and \$2,000,000 are authorized for the development of sustainability programs. There is a 20% matching requirement. Collaboration with business, government, and non-profit organizations is encouraged. The concept of integrating campus operations with multidisciplinary educational programs is included. The Act also calls for a summit meeting of higher education sustainability leaders and experts.

PEW Charitable Trust Initiatives

- CESAS partners are working on preliminary ideas (public education for sustainability) and crafting a white paper for proposal.
- Heartland Foundation (St. Joseph, MO, Judy Sabbert) recently joined the working group.
- Chet McLaughlin, Larry Erickson, and Wendy Griswold discussed particular thoughts and transformational learning via the Technical Outreach Services to Communities/Technical Assistance to Brownfields as a model for educating and empowering citizens-communities in decision-making and capacity building.

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- Wendy Griswold is leading efforts on the draft white paper and the group will follow-up on Chet's previous recommendation to contact Eileen Claussen, Pew Trust leader on climate, and invite her participation as a speaker in the January 2009 K-State conference.

Targeted Excellence Preproposals

- Targeted Excellence request for proposals for 2008-2009 is posted on the KSU Provost's website.
- Groups can request up to \$1 million over one-to-four years.
- Details can be found at <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/planning/targetexc/2009/proposals.htm>.
- Lisa Harrington plans to resubmit the Rural Systems Sustainability proposal.
- Other ideas and suggestions are encouraged.

Student Sustainability Campaign & Conference

- Michael Bell provided an update on plans and goals.
- The "Students for Education and Empowerment of Living Green (SEE Green) Campaign" is now available on the web, the recently launched website is <http://seegreencampaign.com/index.html> and includes sign-up information and a calendar of sustainability-related events.
- A group meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 26, 5:00 PM in the Union State Room.
- Gary Gerhard and Ben Champion discussed the K-State activities and related larger national efforts.

Sustainability Courses this Semester

- Larry Erickson noted that a variety of classes in various departments are being offered during the Fall 2008 semester.
- Examples include: Larry Erickson (*Sustainability Seminar*, CHE), Ben Champion (*Sustainability Science*, GEOG), Rhonda Janke (*Organic Farming Systems*, HORT), Ruth Miller (*Wind Engineering*, EECE), and several others, such as those in Human Ecology/Interior Design, some of which are listed in the interdisciplinary Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences secondary major program.
- For the *Sustainability Seminar*, CHE 670, which will take place on Thursday evenings, 7:00 PM, Rathbone 1052, open to the public as seating allows, the initial schedule includes:
 - August 28 - History of Sustainability, Chet McLaughlin, U.S. EPA Region 7;
 - September 4 - Sustainability and K-State, Ben Champion, KSU; September 11,
 - Wind Energy, Mike Steinke, Wind Energy Consulting and Contracting;
 - September 18 - The 2008 Inventory of the Kansas River, Laura Calwell and Cynthia Annett, Friends of the Kaw; and
 - September 25 - Water and Sustainability in Kansas, Jim Steichen, KSU.

Upcoming Events

- Sabine Martine shared information on the upcoming **From Brown to Green: Sustainable Redevelopment of Contaminated Properties Workshop** September 9 - 11, 2008, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Register at: <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/brown-to-green/>
 - Event will feature hands-on activities, design charrettes, field visits, and a free public forum.
- **The Sustainability of Biofuels Production and Processing in the Central Plains** September 15 - 16, 2008, K-State Alumni Center, KSU, Manhattan (contact Bill Hargrove for information). Register at: <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/bioenergy>
- **Kansas Wind and Renewable Energy Conference** September 23-24, 2008, Topeka, Kansas, for further information see: http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/kwrec_08/index.htm
- **2008 Prairie Festival, "Restoration and Conservation"** September 26-28, 2008, Salina, Kansas (contact Ken Warren for details). Register at: <http://www.landinstitute.org>

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- **North American Association for Environmental Education 2008 Conference** October 15-18, 2008, Wichita, Kansas <http://www.naaee.org/> contact Gary Gerhard for more information.
- The **“Leading Kansas in Sustainability, The Role of K-State”** conference is scheduled for January 23, 2009, K-State Student Union, Manhattan (contact Ben Champion for further information).
- **Movies on the Grass**, Sundays, 8:00 PM, Free films open to the public, Coffman Commons in front of Hale Library <http://www.k-state.edu/moviesonthegrass/> contact Donna Shenck-Hamlin for details.
 - **8/24 Hacking Democracy** - election year film investigating voting machines
 - **9/7 I Know I'm Not Alone** - peace in the Middle-East?
 - **9/14 King Corn** - a humorous look at the growth and consumption of corn
 - **9/24 Darwin's Nightmare** - a natural disaster over international trade

Other

- Special thanks to all for making the **2008 Dialog on Sustainability**, July 17, a successful event! Summary and follow-up information can be viewed on the CHSR website: <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/chsr/sustainability/meetings/2008DOS.html>
- Larry Erickson and Keith Hohn, along with CESAS partners, are completing an NSF Proposal to integrate sustainability into a K-State wide research experience for undergraduates (REU), “Earth, Wind, and Fire: Sustainable Energy for the 21st Century”.
- Group discussed student skill set development and employment opportunities, noting the overwhelming response to the advertisement for student assistant to the K-State Sustainability Director, areas of specialty might include: carbon footprints, sustainable energy, and community development, which can help with summer internships.
- Mike Steinke noted that three interns will be hired for Summer 2009 to support his organization’s office (assisting solar and wind projects) in Jacksonville, FL (more to come in future CESAS meetings).
- Chet McLaughlin reminded the group of the wonderful opportunities provided through the K-State Pollution Prevention Institute/Engineering Extension/EPA Internship Programs (contact David Carter for additional information).

Next Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 2:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

Thank you everyone for your kind participation and support!