



CESAS Meeting Summary
102 Ward Hall, Kansas State University
August 27, 2009

Participants

Ken Barnard, Aviation Department, K-State (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 (via teleconference)
Ryan Green, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Wendy Griswold, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Irma O'Dell, School of Leadership Studies, K-State
Becky O'Donnell, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services, K-State
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State

Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Remarks

- Larry Erickson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Review of the Agenda

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

4-H Project Update

- Gary Gerhard provided an update on the engineering for sustainability program - administrative requirements have been completed, while work on other program aspects such as graphic design, concept maps, lesson formatting, and evaluation are underway.
- PIs with other 4-H programs (water – UC Davis; entomology – Purdue; butterfly wings – U of FL; citizen scientists – U of MN and Iowa St. Univ) are developing innovative curricula.

Technical Assistance for a Sustainable Kansas (TASK)

- Larry Erickson noted that various TASK efforts across campus are ongoing and evolving; opportunities for additional funding are being investigated.

Update on K-State Sustainability Task Force Activities

- Ben Champion provided an update prior to the meeting indicating that the Task Force report was nearing completion.
- Plans are progressing for the 2010 K-State Sustainability Conference: Kansas Advancing Sustainability in Higher Education, January 29-30.
- Group discussed the Sierra Club ecological ranking of schools and also the recent Manhattan Mercury article describing the low academic ranking of state universities in Kansas and possible solutions.
- The K-State Sustainability website was officially launched in August, please visit and bookmark the site as a favorite <http://sustainability.k-state.edu>.

Kansas NSF EPSCoR Phase VI

- Larry Erickson observed that the PI (Kristin Bowman-James) at KU was awaiting the official documents from the NSF (more to come as details are confirmed).



Speakers' Bureau and Speakers on Sustainability Topics

- Subject matter experts continue to join the list of available speakers; Larry Erickson has been working to coordinate speakers for various organizations and events.
- CESAS partners are encouraged to share any requests from communities and other groups that might be interested in speakers on sustainability-related topics.

New USDA Grant "Biobased Products and Bioenergy"

- Several partner organizations and universities, including international representatives (including Carlos Vaca-Garcia), are working to address academic and research priorities through this funded initiative; follow-up meetings are scheduled for September 24-25, 2009. Please see the upcoming events link for details.

January 2010 Intersession "Greenhouse Gases, Carbon Taxes and Trading, and Carbon Sequestration"

- The planning committee which includes CHSR, PPI, KDHE, and EPA is crafting the program format, schedule, and speakers for the three day event (January 6-8, 2010) taking place on campus.
- In addition to speakers on key scientific and policy topics, the program will include practical tools and methods for calculating GHG emissions and carbon footprints, as well as evening sessions (free and open) for the general public.
- During discussions, Wendy Griswold and Ken Barnard made suggestions and provided useful input in terms of potential interactive activities.
- Larry Erickson recommended including a speaker to address the latest state of the science in climate forecasting and predictive modeling.
- Group brainstormed the utility of having policy and sustainability models that provide outcomes and feedback based on various inputs and scenarios (e.g., energy prices, carbon taxes, etc.) which could assist public decision-making.

Fort Riley Sustainability Initiative

- Oral Saulters briefed the group on conversations with Craig Phillips and various sustainability related initiatives taking place at Fort Riley, including transportation and energy (greening the installation fleet with efforts such as electric vehicles and biofuels infrastructure); waste reduction (residential demolition and recovery of construction materials in partnership with Habitat for Humanity); and new building standards (LEED process and related contractor challenges).

NSF Decision Making Under Uncertainty Proposal

- Larry Erickson noted that the DMUU multidisciplinary proposal was consistent with President Obama's and congressional efforts to provide assistance to Africa with agricultural development; coordination will be made with the K-State leadership/governmental liaison team to explore potential interest and opportunities.
- Group discussed need for better predictive methods and practices to assist the changing dynamics in the Kansas agricultural sector (e.g., weather patterns, temperatures, precipitation, water quantity/quality, crop selection, pests, etc).

Announcements and Other Activities

- Movies on the Grass schedule is now available and includes films which address relevant, timely, and many sustainability-related issues and ideas (contact Becky O'Donnell for details bodonnell@k-state.edu).



Sunday nights at 8 p.m.

Aug 30th "The Visitor" on lawn at Hale Library

Sept. 6th "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" at the Douglass Community Center Park, 10th & Yuma

Sept. 13th "Garbage Warrior" on lawn at Hale Library

Sept. 18 & Sept. 19 - "Playing for Change -- at Triangle Park, Bluemont Ave & Manhattan Ave

Sept. 20th "The Tiger Next Door" - at Sunset Zoo, 2333 Oak Street

Here is the link:

<http://www.k-state.edu/moviesonthegrass/>

Sept. 25-27, Prairie Festival 2009, <http://222.landinstitute.org>

Also, the movie "Dirt!" will be shown sometime in October (more to come).

See Important Upcoming Events at

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

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 3:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

Thank you everyone for your kind participation and support!