



**CESAS Meeting Summary**  
**102 Ward Hall, Kansas State University**  
**November 24, 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  
Deborah Grubbe, Institute for Sustainability, AIChE (via teleconference)  
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  
Donna Schenck-Hamlin, K-State Libraries  
Darlene Schuster, Institute for Sustainability, AIChE (via teleconference)  
Lee Skabelund, Landscape Architecture/Regional and Community Planning (via teleconference)

**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.

**Technical Assistance for a Sustainable Kansas (TASK) and EPA Proposal**

- Group discussed the ecoliteracy proposal (led by Wendy Griswold and Jackie Spears), which includes book club approach and collaboration with CESAS Speakers' Bureau, that will be expanded in response to the EPA Environmental Education (EE) RFP; another EE proposal led by PPI (David Carter) is being developed and will involve partnership with CESAS and CHSR.

**Update on K-State Sustainability Task Force Activities**

- Ben Champion informed the group that recommendations from the task force report are being presented to K-State leadership and various departments/groups on campus; one of the objectives is to explore ways to incorporate key information into strategic plans; an excerpt of the Task Force report is available for review at [http://static.ome.ksu.edu/sustainability.k-state.edu/attachments/KSU\\_Sustainability\\_Task\\_Force\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://static.ome.ksu.edu/sustainability.k-state.edu/attachments/KSU_Sustainability_Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf).

**2010 K-State Sustainability Conference: Kansas Advancing Sustainability in Higher Education.**

- Larry Erickson and Ben Champion indicated that a second call for posters was being developed and panel discussions on key topics (e.g., green buildings, communities, climate, food, energy, policy, etc.) were being planned, <http://sustainability.k-state.edu/conferences/2010/>
- CESAS is a co-sponsor for the conference and will have exhibit space and two free registrations available.

**Kansas NSF EPSCoR Phase VI**

- Meetings regarding implementation plans for sustainability-related research projects and various aspects are underway; anyone interested in more information should contact Larry Erickson.

**Speakers' Bureau and Speakers on Sustainability Topics**



- Donna Schenck-Hamlin suggested that regional library contacts (e.g., Carol Barta, Manhattan Public Library; Susan Moyer, Junction City Public Library) and interlibrary loan programs be utilized for academic/public partnership with the Speakers' Bureau and the ecoliteracy proposal; leveraging traveling library materials, as used for the Konza Prairie educational project, may be feasible.
- Irma O'Dell expressed interest in connecting the Speakers' Bureau with the School of Leadership Studies.

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

- This USDA project is well underway, including preparation of sustainability science-engineering materials and curricula for youth; additional sources of funding will be explored to cover costs and initiatives.

#### **New USDA Grant "Biobased Products and Bioenergy"**

- Larry Erickson noted that partners (K-State, South Dakota State, Oklahoma State, and the University of Arkansas) are conducting monthly teleconferences and cooperating in the design of courses and flexible programs for the graduate certificate.
- As part of the Sun Grant Initiative (DOT funded), John Schlup is developing two new online courses – Biorenewable Resources and Engineering Sustainability.
- Ben Champion stated concern that the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) secondary major program was losing participation and financial support from various colleges, including engineering, despite the importance of such interdisciplinary educational frameworks; Larry Erickson commented that he is a strong supporter and advocate of the NRES program.

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

- The latest event schedule and plans were discussed; the dynamic conference and course will involve experts from academia, government, and the private sector; registration details are available at <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/sustainability-ghg/>
- CESAS will sponsor two participants (Donna Schneck-Hamlin and Lee Skabelund were nominated), other candidates, including any community representatives and teachers, will be considered.

#### **Fort Riley Sustainability Initiative**

- Based on a recent meeting with the Fort Riley Sustainability Director (Craig Phillips), Ben Champion informed the group of the current commitment from military leaders to sustainability principles, including an initiative focused on community gardening; Deborah Grubbe suggested that the DoD environmental awards be referenced to reinforce the importance of sustainability-related efforts to military installations and operations; Donna Schneck-Hamlin updated the group on potential collaboration with respect to a biking infrastructure project; and Oral Saulters provided details on the Army Compatibility Use Buffer (ACUB) grant program to enhance ecological conservation, being administered by Fort Riley in concert with the Kansas Land Trust, <http://www.klt.org/projects.htm>

#### **Dialog with AIChE Institute for Sustainability (IfS) on Continuing Education for Chemical Engineers**

- Deborah Grubbe gave an overview of the IfS initiative on credentialing and continuing education for its membership, including crafting a "book of knowledge" to assist efforts in an approach somewhat similar to the Professional Engineer (P.E.) licensing process; Darlene Schuster elaborated with information on the target audience and the need for developing effective sustainability content; ideas involving benchmarking, indices, practice, etc. for certificate and academic approaches in a



range of applications (e.g., wind turbine blades, solar chemistry, battery-storage technologies) were discussed.

- Ben Champion noted the importance of psychological, social, and behavioral aspects in defining/sharing the need and vision for sustainability.
- Deborah Grubbe and Darlene Schuster explained the scope and objectives of various IfS efforts, including focuses on multidisciplinary, international, cross-industrial, and youth components.

**See Important Upcoming Events at**

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

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, December 22, 3:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

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