

Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of 9 Feb 2006

Present: Will Backe, David Bahr, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Ryan Hilmer, Wendy Larson, Rich Marsolek, Jessica Schaum, Patrick Welle, Kyle Crocker

Wendy Larson and Erika Bailey-Johnson, Co-Chairs, convening

1. Erika noted that the PowerPoint presentation from last meeting concerning the Minnesota's Energy Future forum at the Northern Inn on 11/15/05 is available in case anyone would like to use the web links it contains.
2. The Campus Sustainability CD was discussed. Kyle indicated that Bill Maki is studying the CD and will discuss it at the next EAC meeting. Other thoughts related to the CD were expressed:
 - The University of Victoria implements strategies for Smart Growth.
 - The University of Iowa features biomass utilization.
 - British Columbia utilizes numerous broad strategies for campus sustainability.
 - Rich noted that there are many sustainability-related conferences that we really ought to attend and take notes to report back to EAC.
 - Kyle pointed out that the impact of the examples of other schools brought out in the CD should be expressed to BSU administration, as we seem to be somewhat behind in the campus sustainability movement.
 - Erika noted that BSU wields considerable purchasing power and that this should be used to influence vendors and other businesses to whatever degree possible to encourage environmental sustainability on their part. Wendy responded that BSU lacks policy on several supply and reclamation issues; e.g., copier paper.
3. Erika shared the book "Green Investment – Green Return" published by the National Wildlife Federation with the committee. It contains many good ideas for things campuses could be doing to promote sustainability. It is available for anyone to examine.
4. Rich reported that dining services research was continuing. Progress report is due in to National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program in May. We have yet to register for the NWF Campus Ecology program, but intend to within the next few weeks. Dining services, building design, and energy were chosen previously as our areas of focus for the program.
5. Recycling issues were discussed. Two big blue recycling dumpsters have been purchased, but they are losing money. Ryan said we want to increase that number to five so that residents/custodians don't have to carry recyclables so far to a cannister. The City is getting prices on cannisters. Grant or cost-share funding is needed. Ryan asked if any committee members knew of funding sources. Kyle suggested that the purchaser of recyclable materials may want to cost-share.

Ryan noted that we are a significant participant in the local recyclables supply. Erika said there are lots of grants out there that should be looked into.

6. Erika, Wendy, and Tessa met with Dave Klink of Environmental Defense and discussed climate change. Environmental Defense wants to organize a coalition of diverse groups mobilized to act on climate change issues. Dave would like EAC to sign the Minnesota Natural Legacy Campaign petition supporting climate change legislation. Rich pointed out that EAC may not have signing authority. Kyle thought it would be something to run with if the Students for the Environment get behind it. Wendy mentioned that such universities as St. Johns, St. Thomas, Concordia, and Minnesota Moorhead are on board with coalitions of this sort.
7. Erika listed some upcoming conferences: one today in Detroit Lakes; one in Brainerd on Thurs., Feb. 16; U Max at St Benedict and St Joseph May 16 – 18. Lois Jenkins contacted Concordia Language Villages and received an invitation for EAC to visit their Bio-Haus any time.
8. Erika called Jeff Sande about landscaping BSU's campus with native plants. Jeff gave EAC permission to plant the large bed between HMU and Sattgast.
9. Bill Maki will talk to EAC at the next meeting about setting goals. Specific areas in which goals are set at Penn State were cited. Erika will e-mail Penn State's list to EAC members.
10. Earth Week: Patrick Welle announced a meeting about the Red River Project for infrastructure on Thursday from 7 pm to 9 pm in Crying Wolf. This meeting is coordinated with Bob Shimek and the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN). Kyle recommended that EAC do what it can to establish a bond with IEN.

Patrick noted that President Quistgaard has indicated that Earth Week will get major support at BSU. Earth Day is Sat., the 22nd.
11. Next meeting: we are to have goals in mind to discuss with Bill Maki. Kyle suggested we focus on three central goals
12. Our next meeting will be Feb. 23, 2006.

Respectfully submitted
David Bahr