

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes for March 9, 2006

Present: David Bahr, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Kyle Crocker, Ryan Hilmer, Lois J. Jenkins, Wendy Larson, Rich Marsolek, Jessica Schaum, Jon Utley, Patrick Welle

Erika Bailey-Johnson, Co-Chair, convening

1. Discussion of the **Diamond Point Park** community meeting taking place tonight. Some suggestions for issues to be brought up:
 - Move the BSU boathouse closer to the boundary between BSU and the park to promote collaboration with city boat launching (DNR);
 - Shoreland reclamation/plantings -- lake levels projected to be lower in the future (up to 2 ft. lower) because dam use is changing (Army Corps of Engineers);
 - Campus planting -- coordination with master gardener;
 - Electronic suggestion form for community input is at www.ci.bemidji.mn.us -- click on Diamond Point Park link in left-hand column.
2. Pat brought in colored proofs of the **Tailwinds banner and poster designs** that Tessa had given him to share with us. The only suggestion was to indicate that the Sept. 2005 date at the bottom is the date of initiation.
3. Rich reported that he has just submitted our **National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology membership** materials.
4. EAC next meets on Thursday, March 23, which will be a **special two-hour goal implementation meeting**, from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, North Conference Room. Bill Maki and Jeanne Edevold Larson (from the Center for Research & Innovation) will assist us with goal implementation, specifically tying our goals to the Talloires Declaration.

Of the ten tenets of Talloires, the EAC has decided to focus on #s 2 and 5, which are

2) Create an Institutional Culture of Sustainability

5) Practice Institutional Ecology

For details on these and the other tenets, go to

http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires_td.html.

A discussion ensued to determine what goals to bring forward. Pat made the point that even though Bill Maki mentioned that our goals should have measurable outcomes, an obsession with measurement can escalate into an institutional pathology and that our objectives therefore should not necessarily be driven by what can be measured. Rather, our values can be formed around education and viewpoints such as the Precautionary Principle ("When harm is likely, you take protective action, even when the science is still

uncertain." Carolyn Raffensperger of the Science and Environmental Health Network) and the Seventh Generation principle ("In our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations." from the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy). Rich also added that even if we can't always change attitudes or the institutional culture, we may be able to change behavior, primarily through policy changes, which requires strong leadership and modeling behavior at the top. We have grounds for holding the administration accountable, in light of President Quistgaard's Signature Theme of fostering Environmental Stewardship.

The **goals/issues** that we will be bringing to the March 23 meeting are as follows:

- Focus on **values and behavior**
- Reestablish a **Service Learning Coordinator** at BSU
- Work toward including a community service component in **People and the Environment** courses
- Establish a **Campus Sustainability Coordinator**
- Determine our progress toward compliance with the **Kyoto Accords**, e.g., through measuring our greenhouse gas emissions since 1990 (Steve Monson?), encouraging Bemidji participation in the national mayors' Climate-Control Pact (perhaps Tessa could meet with Mayor Lehmann)
- Mandate that **hybrid vehicles** be the first choice in fleet replacements
- Increase and standardize the **recycled content** of paper (and other supplies) purchased by BSU Stores
- Promote **green building design** and indoor air quality, through contractor oversight, consistent information to general maintenance workers, and possible pursuit of grants
- Explore **transportation alternatives**
- Expand **native planting/**reforestation efforts and monitor pesticide use
- **Solid waste reduction and recycling**

5. Also mark your calendars for the day after the above meeting, Friday, March 24, 11:00 am - 12:00 noon, Ozawindib Room -- Bill Hanson, MnSCU consultant, will explain the **MnSCU building design process**. This information should prove invaluable for our goal of promoting green building design. Rich particularly has worked very hard to arrange for Bill to meet at a time that is good for EAC members, so if at all possible,