

Environmental Advisory Committee

March 18th, 2011

Meeting minutes

Present:

Dave Bahr, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Dana Danielson, Laurie Desiderato, Hannah Hutchins, Rich Marsolek, Crystal Rayamajhi, and Pat Welle, Vince Vohnout

SFE Report:

Hannah provided an SFE report. No results yet for the Do it in the Dark energy savings competition between the residents halls. Electricity numbers just came in and the group will be able to notify the winning dorm soon. SFE is considering coordinating composting with the Festival of Nations event. Plans are coming together for Earth Week. Some of the events that will be scheduled for the week of April 18th are a bike ride around the lake, a movie, a celebration (buffalo burgers, etc.), and an Honor the Earth event with the AIRC.

Earth Week Panel:

Erika shared posters with the EAC regarding the Our Energy Future panel. EAC members are encouraged to spread the word about this event. Dana suggested putting the event on BSU's Facebook page.

Biomass feasibility:

Dave Bahr, BSU student Aaron Heim, and Erika will be meeting with Physical Plant and Residential Life representatives on Wednesday, March 23rd, to discuss the feasibility of a biomass facility on the north end of campus.

Solar Sanford Center project:

The BSU Student Senate voted 18 to 1 on Wednesday, March 16th, to provide \$13,000 in Green Fee money to support the solar photovoltaic project for the Sanford Center. Discussion was had regarding the Campus Sustainability Endowment which was established by EAC members a few years ago. The EAC has the authority to utilize the funds in the account. According to Pat Welle, \$400 per year can be drawn out of the account. *A motion was made by Rich Marsolek to provide \$400 to the City of Bemidji for the next five years to support the solar photovoltaic project for the Sanford Center. Laurie seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

Campus Garden:

Crystal has been working on a campus garden project with a few other BSU students. They have established a student organization called Green Harvest Garden and are in the process of having their bylaws approved. Following some research, the best location for a campus garden appears to be the Berg property (on the corner of Birch Lane and 16th Street). Discussion has taken place with the neighborhood group to see what their opinions are. The thought is to get this project started this spring/summer.

Sattgast Fountain project:

Some concerns were raised about the "books" in front of the flower bed. Erika will discuss the options with Bill Maki to relocate the books.

Climate Action Plan (CAP):

Rich, Erika, and Crystal met to break the CAP into sections. Discussion was held regarding the best way for EAC members to become familiar with this document. Everyone seems to have limited time, so the thought is to use a future EAC meeting date to begin work on coordinating. Each section needs a coordinator and participants which don't necessarily have to be EAC members. Erika will email EAC members to ask which section they would like to focus on. A brief discussion was also held regarding the date of 2050 for climate neutrality. Some thought this date was too late. Rich and Erika will be presenting the CAP to the Leadership Council on Thursday, April 21st.

Respectfully submitted,
Erika Bailey-Johnson