

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
December 2nd, 2011
2pm

Attendance:

Dave Bahr, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Tim Brockman, Dana Danielson, Laurie Desiderato, Seth Duncan, Rich Marsolek, Lisa Lawrence, Nancy Haugan, Dylan Sievers, Dave Souba, Lacie Noehring

Guests: Derek Faith, Brandon VanTassel

Topics Discussed:

- Biomass Feasibility Study
 - Administration will be sent an email with the following statement from the EAC: “The Environmental Advisory Committee supports and encourages a biomass feasibility study at Bemidji State University.”
- Bottled Water Discussion
 - Universities across the nation are working on banning the sale of bottled water on their campus. So far, there are nine campuses, and two of them are in Minnesota (St. Bens and Macalester). Last Spring in Dr. Desiderado’s psychology class, a group of students and T. A. Crystal Rayamajhi started working on bringing the ban to BSU. They educated students, did research projects, and many other avenues to reach the goal of banning bottled water on campus. A copy of their final report for the class is attached in the email and it’s titled “Bottled H2O Final Paper.”
 - Starting the fall of 2011, Students for the Environment decided to continue the project. SFE met with some People and the Environment groups and a member from Student Senate, Kari Cooper, and we discussed what the next steps should be to continue the project.
 - A group in P&E worked on getting five new water filling stations and were successful in getting two installed in Bridgeman, one in Sattgast, one in Linden Lounge, and one in the Rec Center.
 - SFE worked on getting more students, faculty, and staff’s opinion on the issue. We received some comments, positive and negative. The majority of responses said that bottled water is nice for convenience. By establishing more filling stations and have reusable bottles available would help make tap water convenient, too.
 - In early November, SFE CORE, some students from P&E, and Kari from Student Senate met with Mary Ward (VP Student Affairs) and Mary Jo Chirpich (Admissions). Both were in support of the project, although Mary Ward brought up the idea that we should wait because of the tobacco and student health

assurance policies still being put in place. Including another policy might cause students to be more upset than they would have been otherwise.

- So we decided to wait on working on the policy and instead focus on education. Hannah Hutchins and Emily Johnson met with Dr. Desiderado and she provided ideas on how we can educate students from a psychology perspective. All three of us came up with the idea of not focusing so much on bottled water and putting more of the focus on tap water and the benefits of that.
- That is where we are at right now in regards to this project. Some students in the Sustainability Office are working on hanging up a water bottled display on campus, moving it from building to building. The display shows how many bottles BSU goes through in one week. The psychology class from Spring 2011 started this idea, and we are continuing it.
- Some other ideas that the Sustainability Office and SFE has is putting together a water panel during Earth Week, creating new tap water signs, and implementing more filling stations so there is one in every building.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Hutchins