

Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting April 13th, 2012
Ozawindib – 10am

Attendance:

David Bahr, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Tim Brockman, Dana Danielson, Laurie Desiderato, Cynthia Floyd, Hannah Hutchins, Jonathan Lembrick,

Guests:

Brett Cease, Wendy Larson, Robyn Schulke, John Utley

Updates:

1. Students for the Environment
 - a. The Do It in the Dark Party happened Wednesday April 11th in Maple Hall Lobby and it was successful!
 - b. We had elections for the 2012-2013 academic year; Congratulations to:
 - i. Alexandra Miller = President
 - ii. Tom LaLond = Vice President
 - iii. Joseph Glatt = Secretary
 - iv. Julie Bruns = Treasurer
 - c. Earth Week starts next week! Look at the attached PDF to see what events you can make it to!
2. Sustainability Office
 - a. Thanks to all of the students who put work into the Do It in the Dark Competition! It was a lot of work and was a successful event
 - b. The Sustainability Office workers did a great job at the Student Scholarship & Creative Achievement Day presentation! Also, thanks to Laurie Desiderato for being a wonderful facilitator!
 - c. Lots of advertising going on for Earth Week (Bemidji Pioneer, BuyLine, and Paul Bunyan Broadcasting stations) so keep your eyes open and your eyes alert! Help spread the word, especially regarding the electronic waste collection event on Tuesday, April 24th, from 1:00 to 6:00 at Paul Bunyan Park.
 - d. Old High School property idea
 - i. Foundation owns
 - ii. Looks like there is movement on coming up with a design, so Erika and a few others are going to meet with President Hanson on Friday, April 20th, to bring forward a few other ideas.

Old Business:

1. Solar Transpired Air is approved by the EAC – letter will be sent to Bill Maki

New Business:

1. CAP Progress Report – Due January 2013. EAC is responsible for the CAP, so let's start thinking about our progress towards carbon neutrality.

2. Pesticide and Herbicide Use on Campus discussion: Wendy Larson and Robyn Schulke provided a lot of background info on the pesticides that are used on spiders. An email from Richard Marsolek was also shared since he was unable to attend the meeting.
- Here is a summary from Wendy: “I had originally contacted Rich Marsolek in August 2005, who said he had nothing to do with which pesticides were used, that I would need to talk with Jeff Sande, which I did. He told me that Demand CS was being used and that it was environmentally friendly. I did some research and found this to be not exactly the case (for example, at least one chemical is extremely toxic to fish and aquatic environments). I emailed my concerns to Jeff Sande and Bill Maki, with suggestions (including good ones from Robyn) that included they check with other institutions and public schools in looking for alternatives, and at least require more selective spraying and public notification beforehand (Demand CS can cause contact dermatitis). Bill Maki said that options would be looked into, but I never heard back anything further, and as of July 2007, Demand CS was still be used, and still rather indiscriminately without public notice.”
 - Here is a summary from Rich Marsolek that was shared at the meeting: “...I'm not a proponent of most chemical pesticides in general and I don't think we need to use it. But I think the argument needs to be made based on our general environmental stewardship goals and the image we want to have. Claiming hazards that aren't supported by the science and field experience will be counterproductive. I also suggest a list of potential alternatives that are more environmentally acceptable be offered in the argument. Maybe the green fee could support a student project to do a literature search for effective biological controls.”
 - Robyn stated that she has told the spider sprayers to avoid the Library, after consulting with the rest of the Library staff. She noted that they were spraying bikes and door handles.
 - Erika asked Jeff Sande the current situation and stated that Midwest Pest Control has been the company used to spray for the spiders for the past several years and that TruGreen and ProTurf are the two companies that usually do the herbicide and fertilizer for the lawns.
 - EAC members decided to research what other campuses are doing about pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Several members will report back at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Hutchins and Erika Bailey-Johnson