**December 9, 2020**

*Attendees: Anna Carlson, Bonnie O’Neal, Jordan Lutz, Thomas Dirth, Ana Lopez-Aguilera, Andrew Miller, Brian Hiller, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Madeline Turnquist, Carl Isaacson, Maria Eastman, Baozhong Tian, Alex Goehring*

**CAP rewrite and Resiliency Planning**

Review of resilience listening sessions held Tuesday and Thursday of last week

Attendance: Tues. (8 @ 9:30) (8 @ 3:00); Thurs (13 @ Noon) (10 @ 5:00) = 39 total (not counting facilitators or conversation moderators)

Wide variety of participants, around 12-15 per session.

Remember: opportunity to provide feedback and images (.jpgs, etc.) to the three questions we asked during the sessions.

Asked what people love about Bemidji, where they have seen examples of resilience, and where we could build more resilience.

Madeline asked what issues came up that stood out – There was a participant who raised a question of how to use existing building spaces and offices to address our houseless population.

We intentionally framed the conversation more broadly than simply environmental aspects of resilience – topics such as homelessness and the community were also explored.

Next steps: collecting notes from conversation moderators and analyzing themes in NVIVO

**Students for the Environment (SFE) update**

Encouraging attendance at Zoom-based movie night hosted by Post-Landfill Action Network – Monday, December 7th at 5:00pm

*Merchants of Cool*, a Frontline report on the creators and marketers of popular culture

This was the wrap up of this semester’s activities

SFE will work on SAFAC process and activity planning.

Bonnie and Katelyn will be with us through the Spring semester.

Erika asked about where they post information about the events. - The events are posting on Beaver Link as well as send out emails on the events. Anna asked if events could be posted on the campus calendar – Yes they can and will be in the future.

**MnDOT Clean Transportation Grant Update**

$25,000-$500,000 20% match

Three 2022 Ford e-Transit utility vans

BSU sent a Letter of Interest (LOI) on Monday.

Rosanne Erickson, Ricky Richter and Paul Eckhoff contributed ideas and information. Hope would be to transition utility vans to electric transit vans. Proposed to switch three transit vehicles to electric. Will hear on December 21st if we can move forward with submitting a formal application.

How can we support a fully electric OR a plug-in hybrid OR a hybrid for our staff, faculty and students to use for official business.

Madeline asked if these vehicles will be more geared toward people working in the physical plant among others. They should be replacing some vehicles used by employees in those fields.

People that may receive the vans- Housing and Residential Life, Physical Plant, (?)

Where would the 20% match come from? - From a conversation with Karen and Travis, Jordan thinks it would most likely come from facilities – but we didn’t get to that level of detail.

This conversation was had last year concerning having vehicles for business usage with the BSU logo. We were using NTC’s 2009 Prius- we think they may want to have that car back.

Alex asked if the environmental cost of a new electric car was less than keeping the old vehicles on the road. We are unsure of a solid answer, but the idea is to take these next three cars and ensure that they’re electric. This is to gear the university toward electric cars. These cars will be the next three on the list to be replaced, and the plan to replace them with electric is more beneficial in the long run.

Thomas indicated support for any new vehicles to be electric moving into the future.

Jordan will hear more by December 21st and will be in touch.

**Approach to campus landscaping (see pictures in folder: *2020-12-9 Meeting Pictures* )**

Several members of the campus community are concerned about recent cutting and clearing along the shoreline buffer on Wednesday and Thursday,

Dec. 2nd & 3rd. We hope to discuss with Rich Moen and the Grounds crew a unified approach to managing, as opposed to removing, the buffer zone.

BSU represents one of the most developed areas around the perimeter of the lake – our paved, impervious surfaces cause substantial runoff challenges.

Origins of the shoreline buffer date back to 1995 (?) when hundreds of feet of shoreline, from Diamond Point Park to the Sanford Center, was collaboratively restored.

The intentional effort to improve the “front door” of campus along the lake walk has been commendable, yet the removal of the buffer does not align.

Our actions directly negatively impact the quality of what we value – it is possible to love the lake to death if our expression of love is to provide sightlines and direct pedestrian access to the water’s edge.

Facilities has not been represented during recent EAC meetings, which prevents us from proactive consideration of major projects. Travis Barnes currently fills the non-voting Facilities position but can appoint a proxy. At the least, should we strive for quarterly updates? We are not seeking a rubber stamp, but the ability to intentionally consider consequences.

Call for an opportunity to discuss the situation and determine how we can do better in the future. Include:

Questions to ask:

Who was involved in making this decision?

Who should be involved in similar decisions moving forward? Andy Bartlett (OCM), Nina Johnson (HMU), Academic Affairs representative, Aquatic Biology faculty member(s), etc.

There were some comments about “seeing the lake” and “junk trees”. Erika responded with bufferzone needs and the fact we intentionally installed this vegetation in early in 2000’s

Erika sent a message to Rich Moen and Travis Barnes – got a response that they were only trimming dead plants – however images indicated that way more was being removed than dead vegetation. Carl asked if we have proposed to have sustainablitiy language written into the groundskeeper descriptions/plans. There is a document written with sustainable language written in for them, but there was a director(?) of the groundskeepers that has since left that was aware of this language.

Madeline had mentioned that there were trees six inches in diameter that were cut down along the shoreline.

Brian shared his concerns about the songbird habitats and the lake washing up towards the concrete.

Students use the different parts of this buffer zone to study, and many animals are losing habitat due to this clearing.

Will this be brought up in future campus forums?

In writing, there are regulations for what can be removed from the buffer zone.

Thomas asked how far BSU’s property falls. Does it reach towards the lake, and do they have say in what happens in that buffer zone? Is this choice for pure aesthetics?

Anna suggests meeting with administrators (Facilities, OCM, Admissions, HMU, …) to discuss a productive and substantive way forward, during which we share the variety of arguments for which this decision was very ill-advised.

There are ideas of taking a “multi-pronged”, organized approach to this argument.

Andrew suggests seeking input from Student Senate.

Individuals are encouraged to consider asking the President’s Cabinet about the recent clearing during the Campus Forum on Thursday, Dec. 10

Who helped restore the shoreline along BSU? Soil and Water Conservation District,

1.) liability – GBAJPB Zoning Ordinance section 908 B.1 & B.2

2.) modeling proper care for lakeshore

3.) commitment to sustainability

a.) replant to prior state of buffer

b.) establish measures to prevent future instances (ie. fac-staff announcement one week in advance, etc.)

c.) establish legitimately collaborative approach to campus landscaping between Grounds, Biology Dept., Sust. Office, etc.

**Meeting adjourned @ approx. 2:40pm**

**Begin Progress Report data gathering from last Strategic Plan for Sustainability**

Review progress metrics thus far and identify partners to assist in further assessing progress

***Did not discuss this topic.***

**New meeting time for spring semester**

Watch for a Doodle poll from co-conveners

***Did not discuss this topic.***

**Other Topics:**

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 23rd @ 1:00pm - *Do we want to meet to continue conversation on any topic?*

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Quorum (“…a majority of voting member positions which are filled.”)

Dan Alosso

Baozhong Tian

Thomas Dirth

Ana Lopez-Aguilera

Lorial Roballo

Alex Goehring

David DeSario

Katelyn Rinicker

George McConnell

Madeline Turnquist

Maria Eastman

Brian Udenberg

**Minutes from November 10, 2020**

*Attendees:* Jordan Lutz, Anna Carlson, Bonnie O’Neal, Lorial Roballo\*, Thomas Dirth\*, Andrew Miller, Maria Eastman\*, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Dana Danielson,

**Students for the Environment (SFE) update**

Movie screening was hosted by students from another University. Regarding the plastic and fossil fuel industry and the push to make recycling a focus and “feel-good” environmental solution without addressing the root of the problem.

If anyone has any ideas about interesting

**CAP rewrite and Resiliency Planning**

Please [RSVP for Zoom feedback sessions](https://www.bemidjistate.edu/offices/sustainability/bemidji-resiliency-planning/listening-sessions/)!

*Tuesday, Dec 1st – 9:30-10:30am; 3:00-4:00pm; 7:00-8:00pm*

*Thursday, Dec. 3rd – Noon-1:00pm; 5:00-6:00pm*

Help us spread the word – students, colleagues, family members, etc. We are currently leveraging the following means:

We’ve e-mailed local congregations, which will hopefully share with their communities in the coming weeks;

ISD #31 is exploring how home-room teachers can encourage students to engage their parents/families in the process;

We are posting regularly to social media;

What else can we do?

Include language encouraging family/friend engagement about the topic over the holiday weekend -

Rotary Club – Joe Czapiewski President

Indivisible Bemidji (Jean Christiensen or

Coordinator of Women’s March (Mattea Elhard)

March For Life (talk to Nina Johnson?)

Downtown Business Alliance (Annie Butler-Ricks & Carl Johnson)

On-campus Bargaining Unit Leadership (request to send via Bemidji area list-servs)

Parent Teacher Organizations throughout ISD #31

Individuals: Bill Batchelder, Dave Hengel, Kay Mack’s successor (Thomas Barry), Mychal Stittsworth

Bemidji Brewing Co. – signage w/ QR code in the bathroom?

**Organics recycling (composting) efforts on campus**

Chris Haley and Julie Brown are both aware and tentatively on-board to expand organic waste diversion IF Lakeside resumes operation in 2021.

GMW’s are AFCSME employees - follow-up with Maria Eastman for communication via the bargaining unit

As able, we should seek to establish composting opportunity within residence halls

Paul Kivi’s course – cost/benefit analysis of savings from organics diversion to justify additional cost of compostable dishware and utensils

Could run trial for organics diversion in the Library (? – Maria Eastman) – perhaps a single location near the sole-entry

How can we work to change habits and encourage intentional food choice behavior to build back better post-COVID?

**Other Topics:**

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 25th @ 1:00pm

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Quorum (“…a majority of voting member positions which are filled.”)

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Brian Udenberg

Twelve (12) voting positions are currently filled - quorum is set at seven (7) voting members.

**Minutes from October 28, 2020**

*Attendees:* Jordan Lutz, Anna Carlson, Lorial Roballo, Thomas Dirth, Madeline Turnquist, Dana Danielson, Alex Goehring, George McConnell, David DeSario, Erika Bailey-Johnson

**AASHE Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education**

Feedback thus far?  Access to recordings remains until Nov. 22nd, but participants must be registered by Sunday, Nov. 1st

* Anna had her students from 4 different classes (118 students total!) engaging in a variety of sessions and keynotes.  A few key take aways she heard from the reflections were –
* experiential opportunities for freshman at University of California Irvine who came to campus for a 3 day retreat prior to Fall Semester introducing students to sustainable living and what the university is doing with regards for sustainability.  They even had a sustainability project manager that worked for university housing. This is similar to a conversation she’s heard in the CSS about a Place Based experiential retreat for students regarding similar issues.  Something to consider?
* Importance of including social justice and inclusion into sustainability work
* Anna listened to the recording of Robin Wall-Kimmerer’s keynote and was REMARKABLY impressed with the whole thing! Erika’s introduction was beautiful and powerful as well as the conversation that followed the presentation.  The critical importance of integrating different ways of knowing and honoring Indigenous Knowledge and culture…. so many relevant themes to our Sustainability work at BSU.  Please tune into this and other content as you are able!

MinnState’s contract process limited the institutional benefit (ie. advertising).  How can we address this issue to enable future opportunities?

* Start the contract approval process as soon as possible.
* Use MinnState’s internal contract forms, if possible.
* Insurance Liability as an issue? $200,000 for an online conference?
* Ron Beckstrom should look over contracts ahead of time.
* Timing is tricky with confirmation with funding from Academic Affairs– then to move forward with contract – not much more we could have done
* Share historical documentation of the process from the Minneapolis AASHE conference & feedback from the University of Minnesota with administration – request Emergency Procedure for Short-Notice Contract Ratification
* Anna, Jordan and Erika will follow up with Dana regarding the contract number and vendor number to see where this got hung up and consider if/how the EAC wants to be involved in communicating with administration about this issue.

**CAP rewrite and Resiliency Planning**

Only a couple EAC members have submitted [feedback via online form](https://www.bemidjistate.edu/offices/sustainability/bemidji-resiliency-planning/) and/or [RSVP’d for Zoom feedback sessions](https://www.bemidjistate.edu/offices/sustainability/bemidji-resiliency-planning/listening-sessions/).  Please do either or both soon.

* Please spread the word – students, colleagues, family members, etc.

This planning effort relates to the Strategic Plan for Sustainability.  The [last plan](https://www.bemidjistate.edu/offices/sustainability/wp-content/uploads/sites/59/2015/06/Sustainability-Plan-Framework-TO-SHARE.pdf) expires in 2021, so the Sustainability Office will start conversation soon.

* Ensuring we intentionally incorporate stakeholder groups, especially in welcoming a new CDO to campus.  Sustainability is bigger than recycling, energy, and waste reduction – it must include equity building, race relations, and building social cohesion.
* Anna will give the presentation that was given to the President’s Cabinet at our next meeting to outline our past processes and outcomes.
* Erika would like clarification on the role of the EAC and the Sustainability Office in this next process.  Where do the planning responsibilities lie – who should be involved – etc.  Anna remembered using the EAC as the body through which we jumpstarted creating subcommittees – perhaps we should consider having a planning committee made up of representatives from EAC, Sustainability Office, Administration etc?

**Proposed edits to the EAC by-laws**

Review comments made thus far.

* Seek input from President Hensrud regarding the prospect of altering the name of the EAC to reflect our current work under the Climate Commitment
* Postpone vote on proposed edits until feedback about a broader shift to the EAC’s by-laws and commission is received from Pr. Hensrud
* When a vote does occur, it will be on the whole document as “proposed amendments” as opposed to individual amendments.

**Students for the Environment (SFE) update**

Recap of member meeting held Tuesday, Oct. 27th.

[*Plastic Wars*](https://pbs.org/video/plastic-wars-preview-yv83og/) movie screening 5:00pm Wednesday, Oct. 28th- [follow this link](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrdO6urz8tGdYGbk8CBK_0sc7ZPl9O2KNW?fbclid=IwAR12jPAHNHMJ9RdWAbfGlcu6Cqexw85QvioYuW_GDtUqqPnguSg5noPwbYM&mc_cid=f0924d8f2c&mc_eid=5544bac772) to register for the documentary screening.

Discussion led by Bonnie and Katelyn to follow (~7:00pm) via Zoom – [follow this link](https://minnstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpfuGrrj8tHdDZAByS_pI8rcw0LZthr2OT?_x_zm_rtaid=ByfMU2x7Q-yF3xKy8lisMg.1603718228593.89d0e5313090928cd5c619b37f983b1f&_x_zm_rhtaid=730) to register for discussion session.

Article: [How Big Oil Misled the Public Into Believing Plastic Would Be Recycled](https://www.npr.org/2020/09/11/897692090/how-big-oil-misled-the-public-into-believing-plastic-would-be-recycled)

Article: [Reuters Reporter on the Rise of Single-use Plastic During the Pandemic](https://www.npr.org/2020/10/12/923066232/reuters-reporter-on-the-rise-of-single-use-plastic-during-the-pandemic)

**Organics recycling (composting) efforts on campus**

Since its inception (Jan. 2020), our current arrangement has diverted 4.8 tons of pre- and post-consumer food waste from Walnut Hall.

Lakeside reopening in a limited capacity may provide a unique opportunity to expand efforts during a time of lower volume.

How can the EAC support this expansion effort?

**Other Topics:**

* Shift first meeting in November to Tuesday, Nov. 10th at 1:00pm (Veteran’s Day observed Wednesday, Nov. 11th)

**Minutes from October 14, 2020**

Attendees: Jordan Lutz, Anna Carlson\*, Alex Goehring\*, Lorial Roballo\*, Dan Allosso\*, David DeSario\*, Madeline Turnquist\*, Maria Eastman\*, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Carl Isaacson, Andrew Miller, Dana Danielson, Thomas Dirth\*, Bonnie O’Neal\*

(\*Voting members)

**Introductions**

**Introduction to EAC Teams site**

**AASHE Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education** Has everyone [registered](https://www.cvent.com/events/global-conference-on-sustainability-in-higher-education/registration-7bf7c38a865c45cda33a78e0aaa2ea0b.aspx?fqp=true)?

[*Building Campus-Community Relationships and Resilience*](https://ww4.aievolution.com/ash2001/index.cfm?do=ev.viewEv&ev=2829) *– BSU perspective*

[*Collaborating for Resilience: The Power of Campus-Community Conversations*](https://ww4.aievolution.com/ash2001/index.cfm?do=ev.viewEv&ev=2679)

[*Opportunity in Disruption: Strategic Sustainability Planning During and Post COVID-19*](https://ww4.aievolution.com/ash2001/index.cfm?do=ev.viewEv&ev=3055)

[*Beyond the Ivory Walls: Community Based Sustainable Solutions for Building Local Resilience*](https://ww4.aievolution.com/ash2001/index.cfm?do=ev.viewEv&ev=2690)

We have 30 days of access to conference material. We are not sure about the ability to extend at this point. Jordan will reach out to the conference committee to see if we can extend access into the Spring semester.

Note that all presentation times are in Eastern time on the website.

Make sure you are registered – and you get a

Oct. 20th Erika will be co-presenting with Augsberg at 11:30am about the Wellness Model for Sustainability created at BSU

Oct 22th There will be a Niizhoo presentation at 11:20am – These will be semi-live with prerecorded sessions with live Q&A

Thursday October 22nd 9am Robin Wall Kimmerer Keynote – Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science integration

Thank Academic Affairs for contributing to all university access as well as Student Green Fee - SAFAC

**CAP rewrite and Resiliency Planning update**

On demand session at AASHE as well as our new Resilience Planning webpage on the BSU website.

BSU has been a Carbon Commitment Signatory since 2008 – Added a Resiliency component in 2019 – now a Climate Commitment Signatory

We are now working with a consultant with Precipitate named Elizabeth Turner. We are in the process of getting input from campus and community members about resilience in the broader Bemidji Community. We now have a [webform hosted on the Sustainability Webpage](https://www.bemidjistate.edu/offices/sustainability/commitments/bemidji-resiliency-planning/) –Planning and Commitments –Bemidji Resilience Planning. There are 5 zoom sessions scheduled in December to also gather feedback from folks in the community.

We would like members of the EAC to start RSVP’ing to the sessions as well as offering feedback in the form and helping us see if they are working properly.

**Students for the Environment (SFE) update**

[*Plastic Wars*](https://pbs.org/video/plastic-wars-preview-yv83og/) movie screening 5:00pm Wednesday, Oct. 28th

There will also be time afterwards for discussion.

Article: [How Big Oil Misled the Public Into Believing Plastic Would Be Recycled](https://www.npr.org/2020/09/11/897692090/how-big-oil-misled-the-public-into-believing-plastic-would-be-recycled)

Article: [Reuters Reporter on the Rise of Single-use Plastic During the Pandemic](https://www.npr.org/2020/10/12/923066232/reuters-reporter-on-the-rise-of-single-use-plastic-during-the-pandemic)

**Vote: student convener Bonnie O’Neal elected by quorum**

**Vote: non-student convener Anna Carlson elected by quorum**

**Discussion of proposed edits to the EAC by-laws**

Clarification of language pertaining to the number of voting and non-voting members (conveners are non-voting members)

Status of food service vendor representative as a voting member – This could be a different appointment per the food service vendor

Status of Northwest Technical College representative as a voting member - This could be a different appointment per NTC

Use Teams chat function to look over proposed edits to by-laws and we will revisit at our next meeting.

**Other Topics:**

Next Meeting – Does 2:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month work for everyone? (Wednesday, November 11th @ 2:00pm)

The co-conveners will put out some alternative meeting times that work for the three of us and we’ll send out a Doodle.