

CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

CESAS Meeting Summary 1094 Fiedler Hall, Edwards Conference Room, KSU February 26, 2008

Participants

Ken Barnard, Aviation Department, KSU (via teleconference)
Terrie Boguski, Harmony Environmental (via teleconference)
Larry Erickson, CHSR/Chemical Engineering, KSU; also representing the KNRC
Lisa Harrington, Geography, KSU
Curtis Kastner, Food Science Institute, KSU
Justin Kastner, Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, KSU (via teleconference)
Sabine Martin, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU
Chet McLaughlin U.S. EPA Region 7, representing Blue Skyways Collaborative (via teleconference)
Ruth Miller, Electrical & Computer Engineering, KSU
Becky O'Donnell, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service, KSU
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU
Donna Shenck-Hamlin, Hale Library, KSU
Lee Skabelund, Landscape Architecture, KSU
Jackie Spears, Center for Science Education, KSU
Jim Steichen, Biological & Agricultural Engineering, KSU
Marie Steichen, Center for Engagement Community Development, KSU
Jeff Zacharakis, Educational Leadership/Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy, KSU (via teleconference)

Welcome and Introductions

Larry Erickson opened the meeting and welcomed all participants

Agenda Review

The group reviewed the tentative agenda and concurred on its content

Sustainability Seminar (CHE 670)

- Larry noted two important areas of sustainability with respect to bio-based materials and community development.
- Group discussed the possibility of offering both semester courses and intersession courses.
- The benefit of videotaping speakers/sessions, making the videos available, and then providing opportunities (including community based groups) to discuss the content with presenters was noted.
- Marie Steichen recommended CECD as a resource in terms of public discussion/interviews and utilizing the K-State Student television programming (Channel 8).
- Efforts would be multidisciplinary to enrich student learning.
- The possibility of financially sponsoring/supporting sustainability speakers at KSU via a process akin to the Landon Lecture Patrons was suggested.
- Ken Barnard commented that this would be a useful forum for addressing current events/issues of the day and informing students, examples included coal use and biofuels.
- The Center for Sustainable Energy is exploring a possible certificate program for bio-based materials.
- Curtis Kastner observed the potential public service benefit to community groups with respect to a pool of relevant presentations.

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Earth Day Plans

- Larry indicated that he had been contacted by a student at Johnson County Community College that was organizing an Earth Day debate (between wind and coal proponents) and seeking speakers.
- Events and activities (Manhattan and Salina campuses) can be sent to Larry and he will include these in the Seminar newsletter.

Brownfields Redevelopment/Sustainability

- Sabine Martin provided background information for the upcoming Brownfields/Sustainable Development conference scheduled for September 2008 at K-State, which is being organized with EPA.
- While the conference program is nearly complete, possible field trips to local sites that demonstrate sustainability initiatives were discussed (e.g., community gardens, wind farms, downtown planning, exhibits, etc.).
- The possibility of bringing a prominent keynote speaker to KSU in conjunction with the conference was submitted (e.g., Al Gore, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson, etc.).
- Lee Skabelund noted the display of student designs for Greensburg in Chang Gallery, Seaton Hall.

Sustainability Survey

- The KSU Stewardship Committee is developing a survey of the campus community to establish a baseline of sustainability-related activities (contact committee members Barbara Anderson, Bruce Snead, Larry Erickson, and/or Lee Skabelund for more information).

Announcements

- It was announced that KSU had recently become a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).
- Local and regional educational and professional opportunities in the growing field of wind energy were discussed, including Ruth Miller's EECE course and wind energy technology programs at Cloud County Community College and Manhattan Area Technical College.
- The Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education (KACEE) awards event will take place Friday, April 4, 2008, in Topeka at the Kansas History Museum (contact Laura Downey for details).
- Lisa Harrington noted that she is preparing a National Science Foundation (NSF) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) proposal relating to Rural Systems Sustainability and global climate change/renewable energy, and exploring collaboration with other Kansas universities.
- Challenges with the Greensburg initiative to utilize wind power were mentioned.
- Jackie Spears shared the planning benefit of early partnership with Science Education (K-12) in NSF-related proposal development.
- The importance of securing the support of K-State leadership in sustainability initiatives was emphasized; such as with possible membership in the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE).

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2:30 PM, 1094 Fiedler Hall, Edwards Conference Room

Thank you everyone for your kind participation and support!