

CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

CESAS Meeting Summary
1094 Fiedler Hall, Edwards Conference Room, KSU
April 3, 2008

Participants

Jennifer Anthony, Chemical Engineering, KSU
Ken Barnard, Aviation Department, KSU (via teleconference)
Laura Calwell, Friends of the Kaw (via teleconference)
Ben Champion, Geography, Student Sustainability Coalition, KSU
Larry Erickson, CHSR, Chemical Engineering, Stewardship Comm., KSU; also representing the KNRC
Ryan Green, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU
Rhonda Janke, Horticulture, Forestry, & Recreation Resources, KSU
Ruth Miller, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Wind Application Center, KSU
Becky O'Donnell, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service, KSU
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU
Jackie Spears, Center for Science Education, KSU

Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Remarks

- Larry Erickson opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.
- He noted the growing interest in sustainability related topics in Kansas, including the energy and environmental debate surrounding the proposed expansion of the Sunflower coal plant, Holcomb, KS.
- Wind energy updates were discussed by Ruth Miller, including progress with transmission lines.

Agenda Review

- The group reviewed the tentative agenda and concurred on its content

Sustainability Seminar Program (CHE 670)

- Group discussed the current procedure used by the KSU Division of Continuing Education (DCE) for electronically accessing the academic course/seminar program materials.
- Larry expressed an interest in making the video content available to a wider audience, including CESAS partners.
- The current process for completing the academic course involves watching the videos of presentations, writing a paper, and making an oral presentation.
- The course/seminar program is flexible and could be coordinated in conjunction with other academic departments/course listings and instructors to broaden student base.
- Funding to support speakers will be pursued, including partnering with other lecture series (possibilities include: X. Susan Sun and biopolymers funds, Lou Douglas Committee, etc).
- Efforts to include off-campus speakers (2-3 per year) were noted and the group brainstormed possibilities, including:
- Jeffrey Sachs (Earth Institute, Columbia University), nominated to provost as part of upcoming EPA Brownfields conference at KSU;
- Additional speakers that were suggested: Michael Shuman (Small Mart); James Hansen (NASA GISS); Michael Reynolds (Earthship Biotecture); Lynn Billman (NREL); and policy leaders with successful models that Kansas might leverage (e.g., Iowa, Minnesota, etc); other recommendations are invited.

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Earth Day Plans

- Upcoming events were noted, including:
- Friday, April 11, Water Keepers Alliance, 5:30-8:00 PM, Bass Pro, Olathe, KS.
- Wednesday, April 16, “Wind for Schools,” Ruth Douglas Miller, Associate Professor, 7:00 PM, Ackert 324. Sponsored by the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society.
- Wednesday, April 16, “Local Foods, Local Folks: Walking the Green Mile: the Future of Food in Kansas”, (Daniel Dermitzel from the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture, Rhonda Janke from Kansas State University and Kirk Cusik from the Kansas Rural Center), 7:30 PM, Little Theater, KSU Union.
- Saturday, April 19, 9AM - 2PM, “Carnival of Conservation and Culture,” KSU Manhattan All-University Open House, quad north of Hale Library, will offer green-themed happenings such as a "sort the recyclables" game, a challenge to choose the most environmentally sound products, and information on fairly traded goods.
- Saturday, April 19, Lawrence Earth Day Celebration, 11:30 AM to 4 PM, South Park, Lawrence, KS. Live music, food, children's activities, exhibits. Featuring the April Showers to Water Towers: Water Festival for Douglas County. http://www.sustainability.ku.edu/earth_month.shtml
- Monday, April 21 and Tuesday, April 22, Wichita State Student Union, variety of vehicles displayed that have been designed or converted to run on biofuels or natural gas, as well as hybrids, musicians, green vendors, natural product suppliers and more.
- Tuesday, April 22: 6:00pm, Wichita State Student Union, "Revolution Green", award-winning film on biofuels. It features Willie Nelson and his trucker friends who have converted their vehicles to used cooking oils. Follow up with a panel and audience discussion titled "Green Energy Options in Kansas," which Kansas Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson plans to take part in. <http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/wsunews/news/?nid=188>
- Tuesday, April 22, Earth Day, Salina campus activities (poster contest, speakers, etc) – agenda at: <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/events/docs/EarthDaycelebrationK-StateSalina.pdf>
- Tuesday, April 22, “Catalyst Development for Hydrogen Production Through Reforming of Sulfur-Containing Liquid Fuels,” Martin Abraham, Youngstown State University, 10:30 AM, Durland 1029; roundtable discussion on sustainability, Noon-1:30, Union 202, KSU, Manhattan campus. For reservations at the roundtable, contact Florence Sperman (fspermn@ksu.edu).
- Tuesday, April 22, “Rural Turns? The Search for New “Rurals” in Geography,” Dr. Paul Cloke, 4:00 PM, Big 12 Room, KSU, Manhattan campus, listed in *KSU Seminar News.
- Tuesday, April 22, Earth Day Lecture by Gary Nabhan, “Geography of Food Endangerment: Strategies for Renewing America's Food Traditions,” 7:00 PM, Spooner Hall, KU Campus, Lawrence.
- Sunday, April 27, Green Zone, Sterl Hall, 11:00 AM–5:00 PM, Abilene, KS.
- Tuesday, April 29, ‘11th Hour’ viewing and panel presentation: Wes Jackson and KSU experts, 7:00 PM, Forum Hall, KSU, Manhattan campus.
- Monday, April 21, Local Foods Dinner and Panel Discussion, 5:30 PM, Ecumenical Christian Ministries, 12th and Oread, Lawrence, KS.
- Tuesday April 22, “Geography of Food Endangerment: Strategies for Renewing America’s Food Traditions”: Gary Nabhan, 7:00 PM, Spooner Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
- Please send information describing event details to Sheree Walsh, smw@ksu.edu and lerick@ksu.edu for Internet posting on Seminar News site.*

*KSU Seminar News: <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/seminar.pdf>

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EPA Brownfields Sustainability Meeting at KSU, September 9-11, 2008

- Sabine Martin is helping organize conference program.
- Co-supported by City of Manhattan.
- Hoping to bring Jeffrey Sachs as keynote speaker.

Sustainability Survey by KSU Stewardship Committee

- The KSU Stewardship Committee sent out a survey to the campus community to establish a baseline of sustainability-related activities and contacts.
- Please respond to survey (for those who are interested and did not receive the survey, please contact Barbara Anderson, Bruce Snead, Larry Erickson, and/or Lee Skabelund for more information).

Student Sustainability Coalition

- Ben Champion provided an overview and background for the newly-formed organization.
- Student-led initiative in response to need for consolidated sustainability actions.
- Building on successful resolution and proposals to KSU leadership (recycling, green credits, green builders, etc).
- First meeting Sunday, April 6, 4:00 PM, Leadership House, and list serve under construction, Interested parties should send an email with the following text: sub ssc-1 , to this email address: listserv@listserv.ksu.edu.
- SSC plans to partner with CESAS and discuss future goals, expanded education options, etc.

Next Dialog on Sustainability

- Proposed working title, “Greening KSU and Kansas” or “Greening Purple Pride”, however, additional ideas are encouraged.
- It was suggested that Kansas extension and outreach professionals be engaged.
- May be possible to include Community Wind & KS presentation (Dan Nagengast was suggested).
- Tentative format is for a short one day event (with speakers, open discussions, small groups, and field trips), possible dates (July 10 or July 17).

Sustainability Speakers Bureau

- Larry provided some general ideas and guiding thoughts, noted below.
- Proposed CESAS Speakers Bureau
 1. The focus would be on sustainability and environmental stewardship.
 2. CESAS would pay travel expenses of the speakers unless another source of support is identified and used.
 3. CESAS would provide an honorarium of \$100 unless there is an alternative agreement.
 4. Requests for presentations should be made by CESAS partner organizations. Those wishing to host speakers can become CESAS partner organizations.
 5. It is expected that the presentations will be open to the public with a reasonable effort to inform the public of the meeting. Information on presentations will be added to the CESAS Internet site.
 6. It is expected that the emphasis of the program is on public education rather than advancing a political agenda.
 7. It is expected that audience size will be 10 or more for each event.
 8. CESAS partner organizations that host an event are encouraged to help support CESAS financially as they are able.
 9. CESAS will have a committee that helps to develop an effective program by finding and approving speakers, training speakers as needed, and making resources available to speakers.

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10. A Friends of CESAS organization can be created to encourage contributions to support the Speakers Bureau and the Sustainability Seminar Series.

Informal Science Education

- Recent proposals and multiple initiatives were noted (Larry and Wendy Griswold, team leaders).
- Example sponsors and partners include: Center for Engagement & Community Development, National Science Foundation, Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy, Targeted Excellence, EPSCoR, etc.
- Jackie Spears provided some contextual information for ISE with respect to the historical focus on museums/exhibits and afterschool programs, noting the ripe possibilities for creative ideas with a broad audience and informal settings.
- A separate ISE meeting is planned for April 24, 2:00 PM, Durland 1004.

Other

- Jennifer Anthony mentioned the NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program as a potential option for interdisciplinary collaboration.

KSU Seminar News

- *KSU Seminar News: <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/seminar.pdf>

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2:30 PM, 102 Ward Hall.

Thank you everyone for your kind participation and support!