

# CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

## **CESAS Meeting Summary 102 Ward Hall, Kansas State University April 30, 2009**

### **Participants**

Terrie Boguski, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State; Harmony Environmental LLC  
Ben Champion, Director of Sustainability, Geography, K-State  
Larry Erickson, CHSR, Chemical Engineering, K-State; also representing the KNRC  
Valerie Evans, College of Business Administration, K-State  
Gary Gerhard, 4-H Youth Development, K-State (via teleconference)  
Ryan Green, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State  
Wendy Griswold, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State (via teleconference)  
Curtis Kastner, Food Science Institute, Animal Science & Industry, K-State  
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State (via teleconference)  
Donna Schenck-Hamlin, Hale Library, K-State  
Lee Skabelund, Landscape Architecture/Regional and Community Planning, K-State (via teleconference)  
Noni Strand, Campus Ministry, Bethany College (via teleconference)

### **Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Remarks**

- Larry Erickson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

### **Agenda Review**

- The participants reviewed the tentative agenda and concurred on its content.

### **Technical Assistance for a Sustainable Kansas (TASK)**

- Larry Erickson briefly shared some background information with respect to the TASK initiative, noting that it provides CESAS partners and others with a cohesive framework through which to address sustainability-related outreach projects (e.g., climate change, energy, policy, etc.).
- Leveraging service-capacity and expertise in existing structures provides cooperative synergy.
- Opportunities and proposals to secure additional sources of funding are being pursued, including the NSF Decision Making Under Uncertainty Collaborative Groups (DMUU).

### **K-State Sustainability Task Force**

- Ben Champion updated the group on the work of the Task Force, which is meeting regularly, and their forthcoming report and recommendations will be issued by June 2009.
- He explained the objectives and vision of sustainability on campus and for the wider community.
- Group discussed the importance of collaboration with organizations and resources such as the CECD and ICDD, emphasizing the triple bottom line (people/social, planet/environment, prosperity/economy) as a model for decision-making.
- Curtis Kastner encouraged the various CESAS partner organizations to utilize web links and information technologies to connect expertise and share technical resources for public education/outreach.
- Noni Strand shared some of the “campus green team” efforts underway at Bethany College (e.g., recycling, operations, energy audit, community garden, etc.) and through collaboration with Jimmy Sjöblom, international sustainability expert and Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies, they plan to institutionalize sustainability into their administrative structure and work with broader Lindsborg.

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## **Dialog on Sustainability (DOS)**

- It was observed that the DOS planning/organizing committee met yesterday, April 29, 2009.
- Plans and details are being confirmed: date (July 23, 2009), location (Fiedler Auditorium), free to public.
- Program Agenda was discussed - Welcome, opening remarks (Incoming President Schulz), Task Force presentation (Ben Champion), Q&A; posters/exhibits; table dialogs (four sustainability breakout sessions: 1) leadership, 2) academics, 3) community, and 4) decision-making); Lunch; table dialogs recap; speakers/panel; break; wrap-up.
- Next DOS planning meeting scheduled, Friday, May 15, 9:30 AM, Ward 102.

## **Student Activities**

- Various activities were coordinated by students for Earth Day 2009.
- Ben Champion noted that the new student director of sustainability is Zack Pistora; CESAS plans to invite his input and participation.

## **Speakers' Bureau on Sustainability**

- Larry Erickson discussed the intent of the Speakers' Bureau to provide subject matter expertise to the public/community organizations through the CESAS network; expenses and honorarium are available.
- Noni Strand suggested Kristin Van Tassel (Eco-literature) and David Van Tassel (Land Institute).
- Gary Gerhard suggested Tony Bronleewe (Agriculture/Natural Resources).
- Additional participants/nominees are encouraged for the Speakers' Bureau, including private and public sector partners (for more information, please contact: Larry Erickson, Sheree Walsh, Wendy Griswold, or Oral Saulters at 532-6519).

## **4-H Project Update**

- Gary Gerhard indicated that administrative plans were being completed and the effective start date is April 20.
- Larry Erickson stated that the overall program would involve developing sustainability science/engineering curricula for youth.

## **NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates on Sustainability**

- Out of 80 applicants, ten undergraduate students were selected to participate in the summer program, "Earth, Wind, and Fire – Sustainable Energy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".
- The program will begin June 1, in addition to the research component and participation in the DOS, it will include CHE 670 Sustainability course/seminar on Friday mornings. If there are other students interested in enrolling in the course for credit, please contact Larry Erickson at [lerick@ksu.edu](mailto:lerick@ksu.edu) or 532-4313.

## **Fort Riley Sustainability Initiative**

- The military community will be invited to participate in the DOS, in particular the session on regional planning/partnership.
- Oral Saulters noted that CHSR will be making a presentation at the NDIA Environment, Energy & Sustainability Symposium in Denver, CO, May 4-8, 2009 which will provide a platform for information sharing, policy updates, and further discussions with military partners.
- Gary Gerhard provided contact information for Toni Bryant, K-State Coordinator of the Fort Riley Extension Military Program.

## **NSF Decision Making Under Uncertainty Proposal**

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- The multidisciplinary/collaborative effort addresses uncertainty with respect to decisions and climate-environmental changes from a research, policy, and practice perspective, next meeting, Tuesday, May 12, 8:30 AM in seaton 26.
- Anyone interested in working with this group should contact Larry Erickson and Wendy Griswold.

### **Bethany College**

- The value of having Jimmy Sjöblom on campus for an extended period, rather than a single lecture, was discussed by Noni Strand, including his consultation on a variety of innovative projects and strategic plans, thus elevating sustainability-related issues to campus and community leadership.
- This approach might be useful for K-State in the future, Larry Erickson shared thoughts on his positive past experience with bringing noted scholars to campus in lieu of filling a faculty position with a single person.
- Jimmy Sjöblom will deliver a public lecture, Monday, May 4, 2009, 7:30 PM, Bethany College, Lindquist Hall, Lindsborg, KS.  
[http://www.bethanylb.edu/contentm/gen/bethany\\_college\\_generated\\_pages/Pearson\\_Professorship\\_m1135.html](http://www.bethanylb.edu/contentm/gen/bethany_college_generated_pages/Pearson_Professorship_m1135.html)

### **Other**

- Donna Schenck-Hamlin informed the group of plans for the upcoming “Movies on the Grass” series, August 30-September 22, 2009; she explained that this effort was being expanded to explore off-campus opportunities with the larger community, including the Sunset Zoo and Fort Riley. If anyone is interested in partnering to bring films, this would be a good forum for advertising, contact her at [donnash@ksu.edu](mailto:donnash@ksu.edu) or 532-7454.
- Lee Skabelund updated participants on a couple of upcoming eco-design projects. On Saturday, May 9, he will be leading efforts with the Seaton green roof installation; and beginning on Tuesday, May 12 through Thursday, May 14, 2009, a series of rain garden projects will be taking place at the Sunset Zoo. If you want more information please contact him at [lskab@ksu.edu](mailto:lskab@ksu.edu) or 532-2431.

### **Upcoming Events**

- <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/chsr/events/>

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, May 28, 1:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

**Thank you everyone for your kind participation and support!**