

# CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

## **CESAS Meeting Summary 102 Ward Hall, Kansas State University May 28, 2009**

### **Participants**

Barry Dicker, Decent Energy, Inc. (via teleconference)  
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  
Becky O'Donnell, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services, K-State  
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State

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

- Larry Erickson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

### **Review of the Agenda**

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

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

- Larry Erickson briefly mentioned that several initiatives were underway and funding sources were being actively explored.

### **Update on K-State Sustainability Task Force Activities**

- It was noted that the Task Force report was expected soon (June 2009) with more details to come.

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

- Plans for a dynamic and engaging public event are underway: date (July 23, 2009), location (Fiedler Auditorium), free to public, invitations and call for posters/exhibits/course descriptions will be sent soon; planning committee will meet tomorrow, Friday, May 29, 2009, 8:30 AM, Ward 102 .
- Co-sponsorship options were generally discussed: Gold (\$500+); Silver (\$250-\$500); Bronze (\$100-\$250); motion was made for CESAS to be a \$500 gold sponsor and was unanimously approved.

### **Kansas NSF EPSCoR Phase VI**

- PIs were notified that the proposal ranked high enough to be funded.
- Various sustainability-related activities are included in the proposed program, including sustainable energy, climate change, carbon sequestration and mitigation, social science, agriculture, land use, etc.
- With approximately \$20M in total funding, this joint collaborative effort (KU, K-State, WSU, and KTEC) will provide many positive opportunities and benefits for research, education, and outreach.
- Larry Erickson agreed to share proposal summary/abstract information with CESAS partners, as available.

### **Speakers' Bureau and Speakers on Sustainability Topics**

- Barry Dicker noted some of the subjects that he would be interested in presenting to the public (e.g., green jobs, energy policy, national security, technology development and commercialization, etc.); he further suggested that Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) <http://www.e2.org> and its partner NRDC may be interested in supporting the Bureau; follow-up will be coordinated with Wendy Griswold.

### **4-H Project Update**

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- Gary Gerhard updated the group on activities, including the recent meeting with trainers and the next meeting of the planning team (next Tuesday, June 2, 1:30 PM).

## **NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) on Sustainability and CHE 670 Sustainability Seminar**

- One of the projects that will be developed involves utilization of solar panels in parking lot designs with plug-in stations for electric automobiles; Barry Dicker expressed interest in supporting the student projects and informed the group of the solar beta system planned for use on campus with Ruth Miller and Todd Gabbard.

## **Fort Riley Sustainability Initiative**

- Oral Saulters stated that he had been in contact with Toni Bryant (K-State/Fort Riley Extension) and Chris Otto (ITAM), inviting them to participate in the DOS; Ryan Green noted their possible role with the “Sustainability in the Larger Community – A Regional Planning/Partnership Approach” session; plans for a Fort Riley site visit were suggested.

## **NSF Decision Making Under Uncertainty (DMUU) Proposal**

- Progress is being made on the proposal; emphasis will include the decision-making process in agriculture involving multidisciplinary research aspects to address uncertainty such as global climate change in prairie (Kansas) and savannah (African) ecosystems.
- Possible nexus with the NSF EPSCoR VI will be investigated.

## **Other**

- Barry Dicker (Decent Energy) discussed the various efforts being led by his team, including energy efficiency and cost-effective projects which support U.S. manufacturers.
- Valerie Evans noted that there was still a need for solid general education and awareness with respect to sustainability as evidenced in her business sustainability course.
- Becky O’Donnell shared her thoughts in terms of economic gardening and possibilities for small businesses and local communities (existing resources) rather than outside big box solutions; upcoming conference in South Dakota <http://econ-gardening2009.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>

## **Upcoming Events**

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

## **Next Meeting**

Thursday, June 25, 1:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

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