

# CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

## **CESAS Meeting Summary 102 Ward Hall, Kansas State University June 25, 2009**

### **Participants**

Ken Barnard, Aviation, K-State Salina (via teleconference)  
Ben Champion, Director of Sustainability, Geography, K-State  
Larry Erickson, CHSR, Chemical Engineering, K-State; also representing the KNRC  
Gary Gerhard, 4-H Youth Development, K-State (via teleconference)  
Ryan Green, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State  
Blase Leven, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State  
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State (via teleconference)  
Donna Schenck-Hamlin, Hale Library, 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 noted that there was continued interest in this initiative with several different groups carrying out existing projects; new sources of funding are being investigated including those under agenda items #5 (Kansas NSF EPSCoR Phase VI) and #10 (NSF Decision Making Under Uncertainty Proposal).
- Donna Schenck-Hamlin discussed the library reorganization (building, space, collections, etc.) and “green library” movement and sustainability considerations (e-journals, electricity, paper printing, etc.).

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

- Ben Champion updated the group, stating that the rough draft of the report was completed and members had provided review comments; an upcoming meeting of the Task Force and K-State Leadership is scheduled to discuss scope, guidance, and address comments in order to finalize the report; it was observed that there would be evaluation of the report’s role (in light of limited financial resources) including working within existing resources (compliance/stewardship) and/or a vision for growth/change with additional resources.
- The final report will likely be completed before the Dialog on Sustainability.
- Donna Schenck-Hamlin indicated that the K-State Libraries were working on organizational transformation (vertical and horizontal matrix) with an emphasis on robust IT and collaborations, she also noted projects with local public libraries such as the Konza educational program with Council Grove, KS (sustainable outreach collection); Gary Gerhard suggested potential cooperation with 4-H to cultivate youth/adult partnerships.

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

- Oral Saulters noted that overall plans for the July 23, 2009 event were progressing well, with positive response on co-sponsorship and participation, including those invited subject matter experts for the concurrent breakout sessions on sustainability in: Leadership, Academics, Community, and Decision-Making; facilitators from ICDD have been confirmed and scribes/note takers are being selected; all of

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this will be updated in the draft program and website; Sheree Walsh [smw@ksu.edu](mailto:smw@ksu.edu) is coordinating logistics.

- Next meeting of the DOS planning team is scheduled for July 7, 2009, 10:30 AM, Ward 102.

## **Kansas NSF EPSCoR Phase VI**

- Larry Erickson stated that plans were underway for implementation in several sustainability subject areas (sustainable energy, climate change, carbon sequestration/mitigation, social science, agriculture, land use, etc.) at partner institutions (KU, K-State, WSU, and KTEC).
- Judy Wu at KU is one of the PIs and she has been invited to the DOS; overall, the NSF EPSCoR will be good for Kansas and the larger region in many positive ways.
- Larry Erickson will attend the follow-up meeting at KU in Lawrence, KS and keep the CESAS partners posted on developments.

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

- It was observed that Paul Anastas, Director of Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale University has been nominated by President Obama for EPA ORD.
- Meeting participants were encouraged to share any requests from communities and other groups that might be interested in speakers on sustainability-related topics.

## **4-H Project Update**

- Gary Gerhard indicated that weekly meetings were ongoing and specialists in engineering design, sustainability/energy, evaluation, and web/graphic design were all making great progress.

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

- Larry Erickson and Keith Hohn are leading this innovative program and are planning to host a "Science Café" related to sustainability in cooperation with Sigma Xi on Tuesday, July 30, 2009; this event will provide an opportunity for public dialog on key topics (more details to come).
- Donna Schenck-Hamlin suggested possible facilitation at the Science Café to foster interaction.
- Ben Champion and Larry Erickson are working on a project involving solar panels in parking lot designs with plug-in stations for electric automobiles which includes social and economic values.

## **Fort Riley Sustainability Initiative**

- Oral Saulters discussed partnership with military groups, including Fort Riley PAIO, ITAM, Extension, and AEC CREO and their interest in regional collaboration with planning, supply chains, and reducing greenhouse gases/carbon footprints.
- Donna Schenck-Hamlin recommended using the online resource <http://www.k-state.edu/takepart/> developed by K-State Libraries which provides information for engaging the K-State/Fort Riley Community on opportunities of mutual interest (e.g., activities, calendar of events, videos, etc.).
- Group discussed initiatives such as bicycle paths and joint rides such as the "soldiers' ride" in the Flint Hills region, group will follow-up with Jim Westerhouse Fort Riley MWR <http://www.rileymwr.com/>; Ben Champion noted Manhattan committee regional planning efforts; and Ken Barnard suggested KDOT funding opportunities.
- Subsequently, Ken Barnard contacted Becky Pepper KDOT State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and she provided information with respect to the Transportation Enhancement program (pedestrian and bicycle facilities category) [http://www.ksdot.org/burProgProjMgmt/Local/TEwebpg5-2-07/TEwebpgNEWRev5-2-07\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.ksdot.org/burProgProjMgmt/Local/TEwebpg5-2-07/TEwebpgNEWRev5-2-07_files/frame.htm) which looks like a great opportunity for public-private partnership toward an important sustainability goal (more to come).

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

- Larry Erickson observed that components of the proposal are coming together, including plans for social science research, tool development, climate change/environmental aspects, and public dissemination; the need for useful long-term forecasting/predictive tools to assist agriculture and other stakeholders was discussed.
- Next meeting for the NSF DMUU group will be June 29, 3:30 PM, Ward 102.

## **Other**

- Ken Barnard shared information with respect to an upcoming sustainability-related event in Salina, KS - Coronado Area Council, Westar Energy, and the Climate and Energy Project are sponsoring the Eco-Camp, July 16-18, 2009 <http://www.coronadoscout.org/Events/2009ecocamp>
- Donna Schenck-Hamlin inquired about “Dirt! The Movie” <http://www.dirtthemovie.org/> which features many prominent scientists, activists, educators, and practitioners and possibly bringing it to K-State (Movies on the Grass and/or UPC Movie) as a theme for sustainability.
- Ken Barnard suggested another eco-themed movie, “The Age of Stupid” <http://www.ageofstupid.net/>
- Larry Erickson noted that Friends of the K-State Libraries may be a potential partner for funding <http://www.lib.k-state.edu/friends/index.html>.

## **Upcoming Events**

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

## **Next Meeting**

Thursday, July 30, 1:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

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