

# CESAS

Consortium for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

## **CESAS Meeting Summary**

**102 Ward Hall, KSU**

**September 18, 2008**

### **Participants**

Cynthia Annett, Friends of the Kaw

Ken Barnard, Aviation Department, KSU (via teleconference)

Laura Calwell, Friends of the Kaw

Valerie Carroll, Women's Studies, KSU

Larry Erickson, CHSR, Chemical Engineering, Stewardship Comm., KSU; also representing the KNRC

Gary Gerhard, 4-H Youth Development, KSU

Wendy Griswold, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, KSU (via teleconference)

Rhonda Janke, Horticulture, Forestry, & Recreation Resources, KSU

Blase Leven, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, 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

Jim Steichen, Biological & Agricultural Engineering, NILMT, KSU

Marie Steichen, Center for Engagement & Community Development, KSU (via teleconference)

Mike Steinke, Wind Energy Consulting & Contracting (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.

### **KSU Sustainability**

- Larry Erickson briefly shared an overview, noting that planning continues for the January 23, 2009 "Leading Kansas in Sustainability" conference, K-State Union <http://sustainability.k-state.edu/conferences/leadingkansas/>
- A call for presentations was recently issued and several CESAS partners plan to submit abstracts. Generally, the conference program will include a morning session featuring internal K-State activities and afternoon tracks addressing broader Kansas challenges.
- K-State Stewardship Subcommittee met earlier on Tuesday, September 18, and is working to advance sustainability and may form a task force.

### **PEW Charitable Trust Initiative**

- CESAS partners are working on preliminary ideas (public education for sustainability) and crafting a white paper for proposal, led by Wendy Griswold.
- Proposed topics and activities include: climate change, public education, workshops, seminars, grants, community development, public policy, etc.
- The next working group meeting will be Thursday, September 25, 9:00 AM, Ward 102.
- Valerie Carroll and Ken Barnard expressed an interest in participating.

### **Student Sustainability Activities**

- Various activities are planned, including recycling at football games. Cynthia Annett and Laura Calwell suggested students explore partnership with the Bridging the Gap organization to leverage experience with large events <http://www.bridgingthegap.org/index.php>

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- Ken Barnard noted that some of his Salina-area students were interested in collaborating on an engineering research project; groups like Engineers Without Borders and Emerging Green Builders were recommended as potential groups to contact.

### Targeted Excellence Pre-proposals

- Targeted Excellence request for proposals for 2008-2009 is posted on the KSU Provost's website.
- Groups can request up to \$1 million over one-to-four years.
- Details can be found at <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/planning/targetexc/2009/proposals.htm>.
- Lisa Harrington plans to resubmit the "Program in Rural Systems Sustainability" proposal.
- Ronaldo Maghirang has developed an agriculture and air quality proposal.
- Ruth Miller proposed the idea of developing a program focused on wind energy to support robust activities involving the wind turbine donated by Westar Energy to K-State. Group brainstormed ideas and opportunities, including: science-technology learning tool, land use planning, community education, and important social justice dimensions. The investment could be used to support job creation in Kansas and may fit with the PEW proposal.
- Preproposals are due Monday, September 29, 2008.
- The success of the Wind Energy Exhibit featured at the Kansas State Fair and supported by several companies, citizen groups, and government leaders, including Gov. Sebelius, was discussed.

### 4-H Initiative

- Gary Gerhard updated the group on a broad based proposal to create an innovative 4-H curriculum, "engineering for sustainability" for middle and high-school students. The comprehensive effort will also include socioeconomic and life-skill enhancement elements.
- Laura Calwell noted that Friends of the Kaw recently received an EPA grant for environmental/water education for children and Cynthia Annett mentioned an environmental justice proposal examining water impacts and coal plants.
- The importance of water and energy related impacts to river resources was discussed and Ruth Miller noted an NREL recent webinar on electricity and water in the Arkansas River valley [http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica/filter\\_detail.asp?itemid=1957](http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica/filter_detail.asp?itemid=1957)

### Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

- Larry Erickson noted the upcoming AASHE conference in Raleigh, NC, November 9-11, 2008 <http://www.aashe.org/index.php>
- K-State recently joined the organization and some members of the Stewardship Subcommittee plan to attend. AASHE was instrumental in getting the Higher Education Sustainability Act (HESA) passed by Congress.
- Financial appropriations in support of HESA, including grants to universities, will facilitate campus collaborations and partnerships.

### Sustainability Seminar

- Rhonda Janke shared information with respect to visiting scholar Isidor Wallimann and his upcoming presentation, *Beyond Global Warming: Downscaling Industrial Society and Its Challenges*, Thursday, September 25, 4:00 PM, Throckmorton 1021
- Rhonda and Isidor will be co-instructing an intersession course at K-State, January 2-13, 2009 based on his book, *On the Edge of Scarcity: Environment, Resources, Population, Sustainability, and Conflict*.
- Larry Erickson provided the schedule of events/presentations for CHE 670 Sustainability Seminar, Thursday evenings, 7:00 PM, Rathbone 1052; see <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/CHSR/sustainability>

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## Speakers' Bureau on Sustainability

- Speakers covering a range of sustainability related topics are needed for presentations to various educational and civic groups, expenses may be partially covered by CESAS.
- The group discussed ways to make video presentations available to the public, and multimedia internet resources such as YouTube and iTunes U were recommended, Cynthia Annett noted that this was a powerful and growing medium by which to share seminars and knowledge.
- Brandon Utech will explore possibilities and requirements for membership/utilization.
- A request will be circulated to CESAS members seeking recommendations for speakers and topics (Wendy Griswold and Oral Saulters will coordinate with Larry Erickson).

## Other

- As part of the All University Campaign "Unity and Pride", the K-State Foundation account for CESAS is I24260, which supports program activities [www.found.ksu.edu/unityandpride](http://www.found.ksu.edu/unityandpride)
- **Movies on the Grass**, Sundays, 8:00 PM, Free films open to the public, Coffman Commons in front of Hale Library <http://www.k-state.edu/moviesonthegrass/> contact Donna Shenck-Hamlin for details.
  - **9/21 Darwin's Nightmare** - a natural disaster over international trade and unintended impacts of introduced species.
- Group discussed invasive species and sustainability as a future program focus.
- **Kansas Wind and Renewable Energy Conference** September 23-24, 2008, Topeka, Kansas, for further information see: [http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/kwrec\\_08/index.htm](http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/kwrec_08/index.htm)
- **2008 Prairie Festival, "Restoration and Conservation"** September 26-28, 2008, Salina, Kansas (contact Ken Warren for details). Register at: <http://www.landinstitute.org>
- **North American Association for Environmental Education 2008 Conference** October 15-18, 2008, Wichita, Kansas <http://www.naaee.org/> contact Gary Gerhard for more information.
- The "**Leading Kansas in Sustainability, The Role of K-State**" conference is scheduled for January 23, 2009, K-State Student Union, Manhattan <http://sustainability.k-state.edu/conferences/leadingkansas/> (contact Ben Champion for further information).

## Next Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 1:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

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