



CESAS Meeting Summary
102 Ward Hall, Kansas State University
February 23, 2010

Participants

Ben Champion, Director of Sustainability, Department of Geography, K-State
Larry Erickson, CHSR, Chemical Engineering, K-State; also representing the KNRC
Ryan Green, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Wendy Griswold, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State (via teleconference)
Blase Leven, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Irma O'Dell, School of Leadership Studies, K-State (via teleconference)
Oral Saulters, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, K-State
Lee Skabelund, Landscape Architecture/Regional and Community Planning (via teleconference)
Noni Strand, Campus Ministry, Bethany College (via teleconference)

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): Carbon Sequestration Education & Ecoliteracy

- Larry Erickson updated the group on the initiative to address public education with respect to geologic carbon sequestration, partners include Mike Moore and Marty Dubois; efforts are moving forward and development of a white paper is planned.
- Wendy Griswold shared thoughts on the ecoliteracy project, including opportunities and proposals with Lawrence parks and recreation; it was noted that unfortunately, the Women in Science and Engineering Program (WESP) learning community led Kimberly Douglas-Mankin did not have enough student interest to support sustainability book roundtables.

Update on K-State Sustainability Task Force Activities: Sustainability Education

- Group discussed the proposed idea of developing a graduate level certificate program in sustainability education which would build on other related efforts already underway (e.g., Bio-based materials, NRES, REU, etc).
- In addition to science and engineering aspects, Wendy Griswold suggested that the certificate content include social science dimensions, which involves various disciplines and perspectives (e.g., economics, policy, women's studies, social work, anthropology, history, etc).
- Ben Champion noted that the effort would be a good fit with the interdisciplinary objectives of the Leadership Studies program; Irma O'Dell added that while the Leadership Studies program is designed for undergraduate students, in an academic minor degree format, graduate students could benefit from the exposure to the courses and projects.
- In terms of existing ecological and sustainability-based graduate and certificate programs, Noni Strand recommended the Earth Literacy Masters and Certificate programs at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, which she is attending, as useful examples
http://www.smwc.edu/academics/departments/graduate_studies/earth_literacy/index.php.

AAAS Annual Meeting Forum for Sustainability Science Programs



- Larry Erickson recently attended the AAAS Annual Meeting, Forum for Sustainability Science Programs (Core Competencies) in San Diego, CA, February 18, 2010; the focus of the forum was on core content/learning outcomes based on survey results, literature findings, and workshops, examples include systems thinking, anticipatory, normative, strategic, and interpersonal competencies, opportunities to frame and define relevant issues were discussed, for more details please see <http://sustainabilityscience.org/content.html?contentid=2774>.
- To date, there are over 30 university and college programs with graduate and certificate programs on sustainability; Larry Erickson noted that the forum was international in scope and participation and he explained his approach to problem solving via “optimal sloppiness” for accuracy in decision making.

Speakers’ Bureau and Speakers on Sustainability Topics, Earth Day Plans

- Ben Champion noted that the K-State student groups were developing plans for Earth Day activities and would likely be connecting with CESAS as part of this effort; he also noted that Lawrence would be hosting a variety of activities including a parade.
- Noni Strand discussed activities and interactive workshops that Bethany College in collaboration with the City of Lindsborg, KS would be leading.
- Group discussed interactive programs, community demonstrations, and class projects involving composting, recycling, rain barrels, rain gardens, etc. and the importance of water conservation; Lee Skabelund suggested coordinating with Joe Myers and K-State Grounds office.
- Additional ideas and suggestions for Earth Day activities are encouraged (more to come).

4-H Project Update and Related Opportunities

- This STEM education project focusing on curriculum development for middle school students continues to make positive progress.

New USDA Grant “Biobased Products and Bioenergy” , Related Sun Grant for new sustainability course at K-State

- Multi-university partners will be meeting March 1-2, 2010, at Oklahoma State University to share updates and plans for the graduate certificate; John Schlup is working on the Sun Grant Initiative for online courses (Biorenewable Resources & Sustainability).

K-State Greenhouse Gases Inventory

- A team of multidisciplinary professionals from CHSR, PPI, EH&S, Harmony Environmental, Director of Sustainability, etc., are gathering information and compiling data to quantify emissions as part of inventory development; next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 1:30 PM, Ward 102 (teleconference option available, contact Larry Erickson for details).

AMI and WIND Center of Excellence

- The K-State Advance Manufacturing Institute (AMI) has been designated as the nation's first Great Lakes WIND Network Center of Excellence (wind energy equipment manufacturers and supply chain expertise); information requests can be sent to Brad Kramer, BradleyK@k-state.edu and Jeff Tucker, jtucker@amisuccess.com; Kansas Wind Energy Supply Chain Survey, coordinated by AMI and partners, were recently released by the Kansas Department of Commerce, this will serve as a guide and resource directory <http://www.kansaswindindustry.com/2009%20Kansas%20Wind%20Industry%20Supply%20Chain%20Survey%20-%20Summary.pdf>



Develop a Friends of CESAS program

- Group discussed ideas and opportunities for financial contributions, listserv, and sustainability collaboration in concert with the Director of Sustainability; both in terms of campus activities and beyond, with the growing network in follow-up to the January 2010 Sustainability conference.
- This effort will facilitate enhanced communications, event sharing, and partnership for CESAS and interested individuals.

Draft CESAS Annual Report is Available

- The 2009 CESAS Annual Report is available for review on the website.

See Important Upcoming Events at

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

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 3:30 PM Central, Ward 102.

Thank you everyone for your kind participation and support!