

Present:

Larry Erickson, ChE, KNRC, and CHSR  
Rachel Myslivy, Climate + Energy Project (WEALTH program)  
Lee Skabelund, KSU LARCP  
Ellen Urton, K-State Libraries

1. Review of the agenda
  - Approved
2. Dialog on Sustainability Saturday, July 21, 2018 (Larry Erickson)
  - The date has been finalized.
  - Tentative title, “Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Improving Air Quality: Two Global Challenges”
  - The main concept centers around urban air quality in Kansas City and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality as two important sustainability initiatives
3. Workshop on Civic Engagement (Rachel Myslivy)\*
  - At the last WEALTH partner’s meeting there was a conversation about logistics for an in-person event and it was decided that the best method for reaching a wide audience would be to offer an online workshop via facebook.
  - Live stream events in January and March would enable WEALTH to offer more content, empower focus on individual partners, and broaden the reach of the program, taking advantage of sharing options via social media.
  - With this inaugural year, there is some flexibility for innovation with the potential to plan an in person even to follow a virtual workshop at a later date. May need for another partner organization to take the lead on an in-person event but be supported by WEALTH.
  - Larry: idea to connect with Paul Johnson with regards to the legislative session. Rachel: Yes, we have reached out to Paul. It is challenging to get more thorough explanations of bills to help with the distribution of summaries for the sake of policy outreach and they are also thinking about how to incorporate a civic engagement piece.
  - This is still in the planning phase and will be discussed further at the December 14<sup>th</sup> WEALTH meeting.
4. Sustainable Communities: Climate + Energy Project, WEALTH Program (Rachel Myslivy)
  - WEALTH Program and WEALTH Day at the Capitol
    - The tentative date is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (a Thursday) which suits WEALTH best for a full day of advocacy; will announce once final confirmation is secured
    - There are new fees for hosting an event at the capitol (last year \$25; this year closer to \$400; the additional charge was a surprise) – will be thinking about sponsorship
  - Lutherans Restoring Creation, February 17, 2018 event at Camp Tomah Shinga
  - Kansas Sierra Club Statewide conference at Baker University Wetlands Discovery Center, March 24, 2018
5. Solar Powered Charge Station Project (Larry Erickson)
  - Nothing significantly new, but the infrastructure for electric vehicles seems to be moving forward. It appears to have a new record sale of more than 1 million plug in vehicles sold world wide; sales in China are the most significant; electronic busses are in development and an electric taxi cab company is located in England
  - There are a number of companies participating in movements to convert to electric transportation

6. Sustainability Seminars: NRES Seminars (Lee Skabelund)
  - Lee Skabelund held a Green Roof Event with 35-40 people in attendance
  - Rory O'Connor, a PhD student from Biology, spoke on the connections between providing ecosystem services in urban settings and the importance of urban areas supporting conservation areas
  - Pam Blackmore presented photos of butterfly studies from Konza Prairie, Warner Park and the green roof
  - Plans are under way for a new experimental green roof research on the roof of Seaton Hall; they have been implemented and right now the weather station is being designed; will put in the soil moisture and temperature sensors; will begin to yield data next year
  - Lee talks about the green roof as part of his planting design studio and he has 3 graduate students working with the green roof as well
  - Limited storm water management opportunities on Memorial Stadium due to the steep slope; rain gardens can make a more significant difference with regards to storm water management (as well as innovations such as the rain garden at the International Student Center in close proximity to the building); as well as addressing the grey infrastructure (rain barrels connected to down spouts, etc.)
  - Thank you to CESAS for contributing to refreshments
7. Ecoliteracy Book Club (Larry Erickson)
  - We keep finding new books related to some of these different projects; nothing new on our radars at present
8. January Intersession Event – Phytotechnology with Biomass Production (Larry Erickson)
  - We are getting increased interest from Europe. Moritz Wagner will present about the GRACE Project from the University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart, Germany) and Marta Pogrzeba from the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas (Katowice, Poland) to present on the restoration of contaminated soil and groundwater in industrial areas
  - Second week in January on January 9, 10, & 11, 2018
9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 3:30 in Durland Hall, Room 2036

\* Resources on communicating with legislators and staff

- League of Women Voters/Kansas <http://lwvk.org/communication-tips>
- Sierra Club/Iowa [https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/iowa-chapter/political/From\\_Candidate\\_to\\_Elected\\_Official.pdf](https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/iowa-chapter/political/From_Candidate_to_Elected_Official.pdf) - communicating with legislators and the public
- Sierra Club/San Francisco Bay <https://sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/blog/2017/03/so-you-re-fired-now-what> - advice for graduate students connecting with environmental issues
- American College of Surgeons <https://www.facs.org/advocacy/state/resources/developing-a-strategy> - from "Gathering Your Resources" to "Participating in Lobby Days"
- The Guardian - <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/jan/12/effective-advocacy-101-how-to-bring-about-change-in-five-steps> Succinct advice on advocacy
- Bolder Advocacy <https://www.bolderadvocacy.org/tools-for-effective-advocacy> In-depth tools for nonprofits to organize and evaluate advocacy efforts.