

## DU Sustainability Council

### Meeting Minutes

*June 4, 2009 – DuPont Room, Mary Reed Building*

*Present: Lyndsay Agans, Gary Alexander, Jeff Bemelen, Jon Bortles, Matthew Bosquez, Christy Cerrone, David Ciepley, Fred Cheever, Ethan Crawford, Tay Dunklee, George Gevargis, Erin Hough, Tiffany Hutchings, Tom McGee, Bruce Hutton, Mike Keables, Gregg Kvistad, Becky Powell, Buddy Knox, Mary Jean O'Malley, Linda Kosten, Chris MacMillan, Samara Rasmussen, Mark Rodgers, Chase Squires, Zoe Turrill, Ben Waldman, Meredith Ward.*

*Next meeting: Thursday, July 2, 8:30 – 10 a.m., DuPont Room, Mary Reed Building.*

Fred Cheever called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

#### **I. Introductions, Minutes and Meeting Schedule – Fred Cheever**

Fred welcomed the newly-elected members of the Sustainability Council:

- Lyndsay Agans – faculty
- Fred Cheever – faculty (re-elected)
- Christy Cerrone – staff
- Tom McGee – staff
- Ethan Crawford – staff
- Samara Rasmussen – staff
- Jon Bortles – student
- Tay Dunklee – student
- George Gevargis – student

Fred reminded everyone that membership doesn't really matter and everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The other attendees introduced themselves.

Fred said that the minutes had not been distributed so they will be approved at the next meeting.

Several student members are graduating, including Mary Jean O'Malley, Zoe Turrill, and Julie Sutor. Matt Bosquez said there were a number of very qualified student applicants for the Council. He said he would distribute their applications and encouraged committees to invite them to participate.

Fred thanked the outgoing students for all of their hard work and progress over the past several years.

Fred said the meeting schedule was on the back of the agenda that was distributed today. Several upcoming meetings will be held at the Law School. The schedule is (all meetings from 8:30 – 10 a.m.):

- July 2 – DuPont Room
- August 6 – College of Law, Room 412
- September 3 – College of Law, Room 412
- October 1, DuPont Room
- November 5 – College of Law, Room 412
- December 3 – DuPont Room

## **II. The Sustainability Plan – Lyndsay Agans**

Lyndsay said that the Plan needs some updates – permaculture, bike share program and the sustainability tour. Fred said the Plan is going through the approval process. He explained the Plan and the process to new members. Linda said the Board of Trustees will be considering the Plan on Friday, June 5 and she didn't anticipate any difficulties. Fred said once the plan is approved, there are many initiatives that need to be implemented.

Linda asked how the Plan will be updated. Lyndsay said it is a document by which to measure progress and we will need to have some assessment. Fred said it is an organic document that doesn't have a lot of specific deadlines except for the carbon neutrality date. Therefore, the Council has a lot of discretion to flesh it out.

## **III. Election of Officers – Fred Cheever**

Fred explained that the Council has two officers – the Chair and the Webmaster. He is stepping down as chair.

Fred made a motion, seconded by Mary Jean O'Malley, to nominate Ethan Crawford as the webmaster. Nominations were closed and there was no discussion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Fred said he is stepping down as the chair. He asked if anyone was interested in serving and Lyndsay Agans raised her hand. Mike Keables made a motion, seconded by Mark Rodgers, to nominate Lyndsay as chair. Nominations were closed. Fred commented on Lyndsay's contributions as the writer of the Plan. There was no further discussion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **IV. Sustainability Website – Ethan Crawford**

Ethan reported that the new website is designed. The new address is: [www.ctl.du.edu/green](http://www.ctl.du.edu/green). He asked everyone to review it and send him any feedback. He will allow one week and then it will go live. He requested that committees and students report their work to him. Fred said anyone is welcome to help Ethan with the website. Linda suggested that there be information about green purchasing on the site. Zoe suggested a link to the AUSA site. Fred commented that we will need lots of links, such as to Sightlines (which is on the Facilities website).

There was discussion about whether to invite Jay Perlman from Sightlines to make a report to the Council. Tom said he may be coming to town later in the summer. It was agreed to explore a visit if it didn't cost anything. Linda suggested using lecture capture software to record a report from Jay and stream it on the website.

## **V. The Campus Gardens Report – David Ciepley, Ben Waldman, Mark Rodgers, Becky Powell**

David Ciepley reported on the permaculture project around Cherrington. There will be three large sections. There are some challenges with the site but several advantages, including being located on the campus tour path, capturing runoff from the new pavilion, and the contractor being onsite to help with the grading and preparation. They are working on tree locations. Erin Hough will be working over the summer and is getting training in permaculture.

Mark Rodgers added that the garden south of Cherrington will be a showpiece of native plants. People need to realize it will take many years for the garden to mature and thrive. He explained the purpose of the two additions to Cherrington. The ground-breaking for the garden is August 7.

Becky Powell provided an update on the campus self-guided sustainability tour. She said the campus base map needs to be updated first. She expects to have a draft tour that can be used during orientation in the fall. Mark added that the tour will be tied into the arboretum tour. The new arborist should be onboard this fall and needs to have a look at it.

Mark also said that we need to look at replacing trash receptacles around campus with recycling bins. Jeff said we have an opportunity to do a better job collecting trash outside. Interior trash volume has dropped dramatically. In fact, the custodial crews are, in many cases, throwing away more trash liners than trash. He said there could be a campaign to get occupants to consolidate trash into one receptacle per area.

Zoe Turrill and Ben Waldman commented on the grand opening of the community garden on May 30. She said it was very good and is only just the beginning. Ben said there is lots of work to do and volunteers are welcome.

#### **VI. Bike Library – Zoe Turrill, Mary Jean O’Malley**

Zoe said that the bike library has been approved by Risk Management and will begin in the fall with 20 bikes. Bikes can be checked out from certain residence halls for limited periods of time at no cost. Denver will launch the bigger program next Earth Day. Zoe said she and MJ have graduated and Tay Dunklee will take over the coordination of the program.

Linda said that Zoe and MJ were recognized by Mayor Hickenlooper.

#### **VII. Committee Reports**

Fred asked that committees describe their plans for the coming year.

##### ***Reduce/Reuse/Recycle Committee – Mary Jean O’Malley***

Mary Jean said that Sonia Wilk will be the new chair of AUSA. Erin Hough will probably be the AUSA representative next year. Carry over projects will include:

- Bike program
- Composting – They are still trying to make this project a reality. Sodexo is supportive, as is Facilities and Alpine but it hasn’t come to fruition. Tay, Sonja and Erin will continue to work to make it happen. Jeff said it isn’t a facilities issue because they do not deal with kitchen waste. It will need to be “owned” by Sodexo. Linda said the Food Service committee should take on the project. There is a meeting on June 9. She will ask Neil Krauss to add it to the agenda. Jeff suggested starting with a small pilot program. MJ said the idea was to start in Halls.
- Outdoor recycling
- Eco cups
- Recycle Mania

MJ said new projects will be determined by the committee members going forward.

### ***Transportation – Buddy Knox***

Buddy said that the committee is working with Transportation Solutions and DU to apply for two grants. One would address congestion mitigation by reducing commute trips with single occupant cars. The other grant is to install solar panels on the Evans garage. It is too expensive to cover the entire roof so they will probably scale it down to provide enough power to charge electric cars and melt snow onto flowerbeds. The project will be run through the Architect's Office.

### ***Outreach – Tiffany Hutchings***

Tiffany said the committee is still discussing its role. They have discussed having each member attend another committee's meetings or having each committee do its own outreach. The existing committee is small and doesn't have marketing expertise. The goals next year are:

- Get the word out on the Strategic Plan
- Publicize other initiatives

Fred suggested the committee have an initiative to raise awareness of the plan. Chase said that DU communications has worked directly on publicizing initiatives, such as the bike share program and the sustainability minor. He said that DU is more externally than internally focused.

Zoe commented that educational campaigns are the best outreach we can do – changing people's everyday habits. The eco cups are a good example of that effort. She suggested the committee get help from marketing students and Bruce said there are always plenty of options for student projects.

Linda suggested that Ethan and Chase be added to the outreach committee and they agreed.

### ***Facilities – Tom McGee***

Tom said he has identified a number of energy conservation measures on which to focus:

- Demand control ventilation – to reduce emissions through installation of CO2 sensors, starting in Magness and Joy Burns Ice Arenas.
- Optimize setback scheduling – especially in event venues.
- Reduce lighting consumption through use of time clocks and sensors while still retaining security lighting. Custodial Services has already rearranged the work shift to cut down on lighting.
- Variable frequency drives – upgrade and replace, plus get rebate dollars
- Lighting upgrades – Hamilton Gym has been retrofitted and is achieving a bigger benefit than anticipated. Other areas will be Davis Auditorium and Sturm common areas. Tom said they are looking at motion sensors in restrooms and day lighting sensors around building perimeters.
- Building retrofitting commissioning – They are working on the Central Plant and the evaporative cooling function. They have achieved \$290,000 savings in six months.
- Upgrade controls
- Lab Hood improvements
- Kitchen hood ventilation upgrades – Starting this summer in Driscoll and Nelson, also Nelson, Towers, Ritchie and Driscoll North. They need to replace motors in order to accommodate new controls.
- Peak shaving – There is an agreement with Interknock on load shedding in 3-4 buildings initially. The UTS building is a good place to start. The building will drop off the grid and use its backup natural gas generator. Excel will purchase carbon offsets for the use of natural gas and also pay \$29,000.

Fred asked how energy savings are tracked. Tom said primarily by utility bills but they are looking at being able to track in real time. There are companies, such as North Right in Minneapolis who have technology to do so. He said the company has offered to do a live demonstration of the system.

Fred said we need to generate media coverage on all of the initiatives we are undertaking. He said that it is good to have student representatives on the Facilities Committee so that they can educate others. Christy Cerrone will also be coordinating education and campaigns in the residence halls.

Gregg asked if Facilities will be raising temperature setpoints this summer, similar to what the State is doing. Jeff said they are trying to keep the plant offline as much as possible and are experimenting with incremental temperature increases in the larger buildings. Tom said the setpoint is 74 degrees now so 76 degrees would not be that much. Gregg said it is important to do an educational campaign so people understand why we are doing this.

Fred suggested some sort of energy saving suggestion box be available. Jeff said people can send suggestions to Facilities and they can put that capability on the website.

#### ***Research and Curriculum – Mike Keables***

Mike distributed information about the sustainability minor. It has been approved by the Undergraduate Council and will start next fall. There are already 20 students signed up for the first class being taught by Lisa Dale. He said they will be marketing the minor and he anticipates that it will be popular.

The goals for next year include:

- Sustainability curriculum at the graduate level. Bruce will be working on that.
- Research – sponsor a forum to bring faculty together to discuss common threads and grant possibilities.

#### ***Best Practices – Becky Powell***

Becky said that the role of the committee may shift now that the plan is done. They have been serving as a data clearinghouse, advisory to the plan. Going forward they may help with fleshing out the plan.

Goals for next year include:

- Assessment – metrics for tracking progress against the Plan
- Green purchasing – already underway

### **VIII. Other Business**

Gregg Kvistad recognized the valuable leadership that Fred Cheever gave the sustainability efforts at the University over the past several years. The Sustainability Council gave Fred a round of applause and thanked him for his service.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.