

## Land and Water iCAP March meeting Agenda + Notes

\*\*\*Meeting notes are in blue; action items are highlighted\*\*\*

Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

9:00 am – 10:00 am; Teams meeting

[Meeting Recording Link](#)

**Attendees:** *Natalie Reed, Jonathon Mosely, Eliana Brown, Sheri Glowinski, Ryan Welch, Darin Joos, Carmen Ugarte, Adam Dolezal, Colleen Ruther, Betsy Richardson, Miriam Keep*

### **1) Introduction to new member Ryan Welch**

- a. Helping replace Brent's role while his position is still being filled
- b. Introductions from the rest of the team to Ryan

### **2) Prairie Strips**

- a. Updates and status on prairie strip location and planting
- b. Darin spoke with NRCS habitat lead to find out if we are eligible for any sort of payment from USDA but we are not because any ground owned by UIUC is not eligible for federal payment for enrolling in CRP programs
- c. Still trying to put these into an area that is not a normal crop area, so we don't lose too much income from our already existing crops
  - i. Looking for areas that are *not* crops
  - ii. Want to plant the seeds in an area but this may be a tough challenge
- d. The goal is to establish something this spring in a few chosen areas
- e. Still working on exact seed selection, but hopefully this project will start this spring at a smaller scale
- f. This project does not qualify for funding at a federal level
  - i. Do we find funding from another source such as SSC?
  - ii. Looking for funding in outside resources not at a federal level since federal funding seems not very possible to attain for the prairie strips
  - iii. Animal Sciences may be able to use some of their funding for this project
    - 1. This is still being looked at

### **3) Gray Water Information**

- a. Katie Sperl who has background in dealing with gray water usage was unable to attend today's meeting, but it seems like this project will not go far
  - i. Katie is very adamant that this is not something approved with the Illinois plumbing code and it is very hard to change the campus policy for implementing gray water usage without changing the Illinois plumbing code first
  - ii. Not currently allowed in Illinois unless you get a variance approved but it is very difficult for this type of project to be approved, and it may not be possible to attain this goal on campus because of the legal limitations

- iii. We may have to change our iCAP objective since this may not be legally possible to accomplish
- iv. In the iCAP objectives Brent wrote before he left, he wrote that our goal was to reach out to other universities and institutions to advocate for a change to the plumbing code to allow for the implementation of gray water usage
- v. There is a rainwater management plan Eliana has been working to get together to be
  - 1. They will be scheduling a virtual forum to talk about this plan and Elaia will share the date of this forum once she has details about the date and time around March and April
  - 2. If we want to get updates on the campus green infrastructure and rainwater management plan, it may be good to reach out to Morgan White
- b. Letter to Illinois Department of Public Health asking for a modification to the plumbing code for gray water usage and non-potable water systems
  - i. Katie received approval from her boss to send a letter to IDPH to request changes to the plumbing code to allow for safe usage of non-potable water

#### **4) Rain Garden Rumble – Eliana Brown**

- a. The Red Oak Rain Garden is hosting their annual plant bracket competition
- b. There is an award if you guess the plants correctly throughout the spring
- c. This deadline for the plant bracket is March 17<sup>th</sup> and the games start officially the day after
- d. [Link to the bracket sign up](#)
- e. Anyone is welcome to play

#### **5) Arbor Day and Green Globes – Miriam Keep**

- a. The Campus Tree Committee is planning a tree planning event for Arbor Day on April 25<sup>th</sup>
- b. This could be an opportunity for students to help plan some sort of interactive activity at a table during the event, and to also share information about the iCAP
- c. Past activities included “tree-via”, a tree related trivia game or other tree related activities
  - i. Looking to plant a tree near the ACES library and have a ceremony to affirm our commitment to planting trees on our campus
  - ii. There was a tree-via activity with a trivia wheel students used the past few years
  - iii. This could be a good activity for the students to participate in for the Land and Water Team
- d. Green Globes
  - i. An event happening in April in the CIF as a ceremony for other sustainability related RSOs to win awards based on their commitment to sustainability and participation in sustainability on campus

- ii. Meant to recognize RSOs
- iii. The second portion of the event last year had a portion about the next iCAP and students really liked having the opportunity to interact directly with the iCAP and learn about it directly
- iv. Usually, we have a student or someone from the team present at the event to represent their iCAP team
- v. This could be a good opportunity for people to teach students about the iCAP
- vi. Anyone is welcome to attend to represent the Land and Water team and learn about what the other iCAP teams are working on

**6) Milkweed Planting Map – [link to pdf map](#)**

- a. Jonathon was able to acquire a map of where the milkweed plants were planted on campus and where they are located
- b. Ryan was able to share with us the Milkweed planting map that Brent had dropped off and left behind
- c. The seed was planted before winter break in December or January, so the seeds had the cold exposure before the winter, and they were planted before the very cold stretch in January
- d. Between all these locations they put out about 10-15 pounds of milkweed seeds
- e. Brent left behind about 5 pounds of seeds for the bee committee, but this isn't included on the map because Ryan is unsure about where they planted this seed
- f. Interest in uploading a map of where the milkweed plants and seeds are located for the iCAP25 suggestions
  - i. Miriam will add this map to the portal once she receives it
- g. Milkweed species – split between different locations
  - i. Common milkweed seed (25 pound bag of seed that was planted)
  - ii. Orange butterfly weed (100 planted)
  - iii. Swamp milk weed (100 planted)
  - iv. Eastern rural weed (100 planted)

**7) Bee Committee**

- a. Any updates on the status and progress of this committee?
  - i. Morgan is the chair of this committee, and they are working to gain a bee certification for the university

**8) SSC Applications**

- a. The step 1 funding SSC applications for projects are due March 23
- b. Do any of our projects need funding that the SSC could provide?
- c. Due this month so for those who lead different students or different projects, the deadline is quickly approaching
- d. In order to have an eligible application, teams are required to present at an SSC working group meeting to get recommendations on their application

- i. It is best to go to the most related working group to the application, but any working group can be attended if needed

**9) New Business**

- a. Are there any new topics or updates any wants to discuss?