

Land and Water iCAP September Meeting Agenda + Notes

Meeting notes are in blue, action items are highlighted

[Meeting Link](#)

Friday October 24, 2025

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Attendees: *Natalie Reed, Bridgette Moen, Eliana Brown, Lillian Gilbert, Kathryn Phillips, Betsy Richardson, Adam Dolezal, Carmen Ugarte Diaz, Justin Vozzo*

1. Introductions (as needed)

- a. Carmen Ugarte and Betsy Richardson introduction, as she wasn't in attendance last month

2. iCAP 2025 Pathways

- a. Has not yet been issued yet as we previously thought as the iCAP approval has been delayed for the new chancellor to review
- b. Once we receive the pathways document, we will review it for our team

3. Old Business

- a. Prairie Strips
 - i. Darin Joos at the last meeting mentioned how some plantings in the prairie strips will be moving forward soon
 - ii. We are unsure if these plantings will be completed in the winter or spring but they will be moving forward
- b. Milkweed Planting
 - i. Uploaded new map to iCAP portal
 - ii. <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/milkweed-planting-update>
 - iii. Milkweed low-mow management
 - 1. It has been noted that some campus groups have been pushing back on the level of mowing in low-mow areas
 - 2. Mentioned that the low-mowing could be advertised as a replacement for prairie burns which are hard to complete
 - 3. This could help with pushback against maintenance activities
 - 4. Will try to direct people toward more information about why the mowing is occurring in these low-mow areas
- c. Gray Water Status
 - i. Katie Sperl (F&S) confirmed that a request was made to IDPH with no response.
 - ii. Student working on gathering precedents for this utilization

1. Lillian Gilbert is working on compiling information about other agencies and institutions in Illinois who would also be interested in working on a similar to implanting the use of gray water
 2. Lillian is also conducting research on the plumbing codes and information about how other areas currently use these gray water systems
 3. This research will be helpful both for us as a team who wants to implement this, but also for other agencies and institutions in Illinois which would help with potentially pushing policy through on this issue
 4. Gray water usage *has* been used in certain areas of Illinois but under special circumstances, so research could help with understanding how these certain areas got approval for this usage of gray water systems
- iii. From Morgan White: [Link to email](#)
1. Provides information about the implementation of gray water usage
- d. Rainwater Management Program Plan
- i. Portal needs to be updated – plan is complete
 - ii. [Need to make this more current on the iCAP portal, as it is already updated on the F&S website](#)
 - iii. Money was received from SSC to create this recommendation program with more information about rainwater runoff in the Champaign-Urbana campus area and how to combat these runoff issues
 - iv. [This plan is being used by different units on campus](#)
 - v. [Link to the plan on the F&S website](#)
- e. IPM Plan
- i. IPM plan is completed and accessible on the iCAP portal
 - ii. [Link to the plan](#)

5. New Business

- a. MOU requests
 - a. Many requests from students
 - b. Beekeeping club
 - i. A request for working with pollinator gardens which was accepted
 - c. University high school
 - i. A request to do a prairie pocket which is still being reviewed currently, but will most likely be executed which will be on Springfield Ave
 - d. Main quad prairie land scaping from a student group

- i. They need to figure out their scope, longevity, and their plans
 - ii. May or may not move forward with this plan but they are still figuring their planning out
 - e. Landscaping at Lincoln Ave Residence Halls
 - i. Waiting for more clarification from them on if they still want to move forward with this project
 - ii. They would like to revamp some of the landscaping here
 - f. Looking for there to be faculty or staff advisors for student groups who submit MOU requests so there is more accountability on these projects as they are being worked on. Groups are also required to check in and renew their MOU request every few years to ensure things are moving smoothly
- b. Florida Orchard Prairie (and other prairie plantings on campus)
 - a. NGRREC
 - b. Red Bison
 - c. Red Bison has the MOU for this space and it is technically under Gounds but this space needs some more attention on removing the invasive species
 - d. Bridgette has reached out to Red Bison to check in on if they are still interested in working on restoring the space, if they are not interested in it anymore, the MOU will most likely be terminated
 - e. If Red Bison is no longer interested in restoring the space, a different group could be found to work on this
 - f. Burns occur in spaces in the Arboretum which means burning could be an opportunity for this space in the Florida Orchard Prairie to help restore it and remove the invasive species
 - g. IEPA permission to open burn in other areas has been granted before and there are contacts we could use to acquire permits and permissions to burn in this space (Safety & Compliance Bill Walsh can help with IEPA permit approval)
 - h. Need to see how interested Red Bison is in still working on this space before moving forward on other plans towards management and restoration
- c. Green stormwater infrastructure controls on campus
 - a. F&S Brent Lewis (past landscape architect) was updating an Excel spreadsheet as needed with new campus GI locations
 - b. He was also working with someone in F&S FIR (Justin Pinnell?) to hopefully get the green infrastructure locations mapped on GIS/ARC Reader; could be used for the iCAP portal and to demonstrate where these locations are
 - c. Who is updating the list of locations now so information can still be maintained?
 - d. This could be a good way of demonstrating some of the good things that we are doing on campus for green infrastructure

- e. This could also be a project to demonstrate these locations in ArcGIS, along with the metadata to explain more about what each location means
- f. This could be data to share with faculty and students on things such as permeable pavement on campus

6. Upcoming Events

1. Red Oak Rain Garden Halloween event
 1. Illuminating Art in Nature
 2. October 30, 4:30 – 9:00 PM
 3. [More event information here](#)

Next steps/assigned tasks