Monday, 2 October, 2017, 3:00 pm

309 ACES Library

**SWATeam ALUFS Meeting Minutes**

Present: Bruce Branham, Ximing Cai, Reid Christianson, Joseph Edwards, Thurman Etchison, Morgan White, Colleen Williams

I. Objective: GHG Emissions

A. Main barrier to communication with faculty is scheduling conflicts

1. Possible solutions: have members of team meet with faculty as subgroups or individually

2. Possible faculty to contact: Wendy Yang, Mark David, Madhu Khanna, Evan DeLucia, Michelle Wander

B. Idea: other part of consultation group should be faculty or staff who manage university farms

1. Question: Is there a connection in management between Animal Science and Crop Science- answer is

believed to be no

C. Green Energy

1. A biomass boiler has replaced propane for greenhouse heating.

2. Sean Reeder of Capital Program suggested more trees along the Embarras River.

3. Plantings are part of Objective 4, as listed on poster draft (sequestration objective).

D. There was previously an estimation of emissions based on number of cows on the farms, which changes

often. Next step would be to calculate agricultural emissions based on more consistent data.

II. Objective: Sustainable Landscapes

A. URL for campus Tree Care Plan:

https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/files/project/1279/2015\_IllinoisTreeCampus.pdf

B. Next steps: define U of I’s Integrated Pest Management, continue with Tree Survey

1. Brent Lewis has the survey high on his list of priorities.

III. Objective:

A. Point: The carbon footprint from food isn’t a comparably large part of the campus footprint. Growing locally

also takes energy.

1. Counterpoint: Procuring food locally increases resilience to climate change.

B. Food Deserts

1. Champaign Market takes place at a location designated as a food desert for people with limited

Transportation/access to fresh produce.( https://thelandconnection.org/market)

2. Toronto has a farmers’ market that takes place during more days of the week. A location like Chicago

would be suitable for something of that nature.

C. Increasing local food procurement involves infrastructure changes.

1. Current percentage for dining is around 30%.

2. Morgan White spoke in recent years with Michael Ollinger, under Dawn Aubrey in Dining Services,

learning that one barrier is the procurement cycle: University Dining makes decisions on ordering

food about a month ahead of time, which is not enough for the food to be grown locally.

3. Suggestion: Food Science has a processing lab. It may be possible to form a partnership with farmers

to use it to process their harvest. Similar facilities used to exist, but much of the work in food

processing takes place in California.

a. Need to find out which faculty member/s is/are working with the processor.

4. University Dining normally calls Illinois Central Produce to get what they need quickly. A similar

collection of local food producers would be needed to fit demand.

D. Suggestions for 2020 iCAP

1. Maintain 30% local food procurement

2. Question on whether the objective should still include outside vendors, as conversation has not been

a priority so far

3. Question: Should we include food waste in the objective?

a. Including it would involve figuring out how to have guests throw less food out.

IV. Objective: Carbon Sequestration

A. Still need 20 more acres, not counting what was converted to agroforestry before the iCAP

1. Question: Would we be able to have energy crops expanded?-That would contribute to less natural

gas use.

2. Question: Would green roofs play a role in sequestration?- The plants on roofs are meant to hold

water and do not have a lot of biomass.

a. Green roofs would, however, contribute to lower energy use in buildings.

3. Ximing Cai will check with Tim Mies to see which plantings are new.

B. Potential for planting next to the Embarras River, but need calculations on how much space is available

C. Tree Inventory: does not include sequestration besides trees

1. Suggestion to map out current sustainable plantings

a. Could have a student work with John Martin to find and record locations of plantings, then

use GIS to make an accurate map

V. Objective: Agricultural Runoff

A. Runoff is mainly because of tile drainage. To counter loss, denitrification (done properly) or cover crops are

needed.

B. Action Item: to check with faculty to see who has been studying the South Farm and ask for their data if they

have what might be useful

C. Suggestion to add mitigation wetlands: would this count also as agroforestry?

1. Could use GIS on the South Farm and see if anything could be converted to wetland

2. May be beneficial to have several smaller plots versus one large wetland

3. Could be a student project

VI. Objective: Incorporate ALUFS into Campus Master Plan

A. The Master Plan does include some information on land use- for example, the goal of zero net growth- but

overall, how to further incorporate is unclear.