

Joint task force meeting 01

Date: 04/07/2017

Venue: Conference room 204, NSRC, UIUC

Participants:

1. Jim Angel
2. Scott Tess
3. Molly Woloszyn
4. Rita Black
5. Marilyn O'Hara Ruiz
6. Madhu Khanna
7. Morgan Johnston
8. Lacey Rains
9. Paolo Gardoni
10. Holly Rosencranz
11. Warren Lavey

Summary of discussion:

- 1) Greetings and presentation by Madhu Khanna
- 2) At the end of the presentation members of the task force were requested to suggest additional members for it and if there were any other suggestions:
  - a. Lacey Rains suggested to organize the future meetings around the meetings conducted by the Sustainability Practitioners' group which is hosted by the RPC.
  - b. Holly Rosencranz suggested to add Dr. Japhia Ramkumar from McKinley health center
  - c. Scott Tess suggested adding someone from utilities, perhaps Steve Wyttman
  - d. Several members talked about adding Dr. Timothy S. Meneely in the task force
  - e. Jim Angel talked about adding members from organizations like CDC, Illinois/Champaign department of public health
  - f. Warren Lavey talked about adding members from the school district, probably school nurses as they have been observing increased cases of illness among children.
  - g. Paolo Gardoni suggested to add an Urban Planner to the group and suggested contacting Professor Robert Olshansky as his work is related to the goal of the task force. He also mentioned adding more academics in the group to have a balanced discussion among professionals and academics. Ms. Johnston mentioned the city has a good planning and infrastructure team and a good communication with the campus. Campus has a large pool of resources as well. Building a bridge between these two worlds is one of the objectives of the Second Nature behind proposing such a task force.

- h. Several members suggested to add members from the business community (eg. Busey, credit Union, Presence), Parkland College and park districts, Illinois extension (Community development team), Farm Bureau, FEMA/IEMA. Insurance providers also work with risks involved due to climate change, so they can be potential member as well (eg. State Farm).

3) Discussion about the work on climate change by the organizations:

- a. Jim Angel talked about the climate change impacts in the county. He discussed increased precipitation and increase in heavy rain events have been observed. This leads to increased river/urban flooding events and huge financial losses. He mentioned a study reported 2-billion-dollar loss in 10 years due to urban flooding in the area. Cities have made progress to increase drainage capacities but it is still an issue. Backed up sewer water poses public health risk and such events create harshest impact on the low-income communities. There are also mental health issues which arise from stress due to financial loss from such events, which are not discussed usually.

Temperature is not the biggest concern presently but there are notable changes. Winters have been milder which has both pros and cons. One of the concerns with milder short winter is the impact on trees due to early planting season. By midcentury, temperature will become a major concern.

Extreme events like tornedos are difficult to analyze and model due to their very localized nature and lack of proper data. A trend of big increase is seen in the numbers of weaker tornado events but not much change in the numbers of strong tornado events. Tornado season is considered now as the whole year.

- b. Molly Woloszyn talked about one of the concerns due to short winter is the lack of preparation among the students to withstand sudden harsh winter days/season. So, communicating about the nature of mid-west winter might be necessary. She mentioned that to handle extreme weather events during winter, city does not require to staff up. Tools (like snow trucks) are not dedicated and convertibles and extreme events are handled by overtime of the existing staff pool. several members pointed out the issue arose during winter 2014 when melting salts became unavailable throughout the whole area. She also mentioned city's works to develop retention area (like the boneyard creek) which also caters to lots of other issues besides improving storm water drainage.
- c. Marilyn Ruiz talked about public health issues like vector borne diseases are on the rise (eg. ticks, mosquito borne diseases etc.). She mentioned in China community based action and campaign worked to combat such disease and such efforts should be useful here as well to improve condition at local scale.
- d. Holly Rosencranz talked about climate justice issues. For example, working class people suffer from heat exhaustion and heat strokes due to their long working hours and physical nature of work. Ground level ozone and heat can lead to cardiovascular diseases. An increase in pollen and related allergies are also on the rise.
- e. Scott Tess mentioned Urbana has program to reimburse cost to the homeowners who install green infrastructure, but the program is not used as expected. Perhaps more

communication is necessary or the City can use the fund themselves to install green infrastructure city wide.

- f. Rita Black talked about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was updated in 2015 and RPC is currently attempting to acquire funding to prepare a completely new plan. She also talked about the difficulty to implement these plans. She mentioned two more plans which have been prepared by the RPC (the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP): Sustainable Choices 2040 and the Regional Water Supply Framework)
- 4) Discussion about defining boundary:  
It was mostly suggested to define the boundary within the Champaign county. Areas like Chicago are of a different nature and other surrounding counties can follow the examples and research done here due to the similar nature of the problems from climate change. It will be manageable to keep the boundary as the county only. It was also suggested to define the boundary smaller than the county and confine it to Champaign-Urbana-Savoy area to take advantage of available data and models prepared by different organizations.
- 5) Next steps:

For next steps the task force discussed about adding new members from suggested pool and possible smaller sub-grouping. Members also discussed about issue based meetings where external resource persons can be invited to share knowledge. It was also suggested by Paolo Gardoni to circulate small bio for the members of the task force.

Professor Khanna mentioned possible period for next two meetings of the task force will be in early Fall (August/September 2017) and Winter (November/December 2017).

With this the meeting was concluded.

Attachments:

- 1) Short bio of the members
- 2) PDF of the presentation

**Short Bio of task force members:**

Member	Bio	Contact	Photo
<p>Dr. Jim Angel, State Climatologist</p>	<p>Dr. Jim Angel has been the Illinois State Climatologist since 1997 and began work at the Illinois State Water Survey in 1984. He has a broad interest in all things related to weather and climate, including droughts, floods, winter storms, heat waves, tornadoes, and long-term climate change (past, present, and future). He has worked on a number of research projects looking at drought, extreme rainfall events, Great Lakes storms, 19th and 20th century climate change, potential future climate change, as well as the impacts of weather and climate extremes.</p> <p>Besides research, he works with a wide range of users and stakeholders, including students, teachers, homeowners, engineers, other scientists, farmers, as well as federal, state, and local officials on issues related to climate. He maintains this website, a blog, and twitter feed for addressing a wide variety of climate topics as they pertain to Illinois.</p>	<p>jimangel@illinois.edu</p>	
<p>Scott Tess, City of Urbana, Environmental Sustainability Manager</p>		<p>srtes@urbanaillinois .us</p>	

<p>Molly Woloszyn, UI Extension Climate Specialist</p>	<p>Molly Woloszyn is Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant’s climate specialist. She has a joint position with the Illinois State Water Survey and IISG, which offers the opportunity to pair Sea Grant extension expertise with the survey’s climate science. Molly is located at the Midwest Regional Climate Center in Champaign, IL.</p> <p>Molly received a B.S. from Northern Illinois University meteorology program. While she was a student, Molly participated in an internship with the water survey during which she essentially served as a service climatologist for a summer. She went on to earn a Master’s degree at Colorado State University and has been teaching at community colleges for the last few years.</p>	<p>mollyw@illinois.edu</p>	
<p>Rita Morocoima-Black, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission</p>		<p>rmorocoi@co.champaign.il.us</p>	

<p>Marilyn O'Hara Ruiz, Clinical Associate Professor, Pathobiology and Director, GISSA - the Lab for Geographic Information Science and Spatial Epidemiology</p>	<p>Research Interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do processes measured at different temporal and spatial scale affect the behavior of ecological systems?</li> <li>• The spatial and contextual aspects of health and illness from a One Health perspective: combining human, animal, and ecosystem health.</li> <li>• Development of spatial visualizations, models and methods to develop risk maps and early warning systems for vector-borne disease transmission.</li> <li>• The effect of urban and regional policy decisions and structures on patterns of the built environment, vegetation and habitat potential and their relationship with public health outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>moruiz@illinois.edu</p>	
<p>Madhu Khanna, iSEE, ABE faculty</p>	<p>Professor Khanna has worked on diverse topics ranging from technology adoption and agro-environmental policy analysis, voluntary approaches to environmental protection and the land use, market and greenhouse gas implications of biofuels. Her work on technology adoption seeks to provide a rationale for the often-observed low rates of adoption of efficiency-enhancing technologies and shows the importance of considering heterogeneous producer characteristics, risks, uncertainty and market failures that distort prices while analyzing the incentives to adopt these technologies.</p> <p>She also examines the design of conservation payments to induce the adoption of improved land management practices to reduce non-point pollution from agriculture and enhance soil carbon sequestration.</p> <p>Her research also examines the effectiveness of environmental information disclosure policies and voluntary pollution control programs in achieving environmental protection.</p>	<p>khanna1@illinois.edu</p>	

<p>Morgan Johnston, F&amp;S Sustainability</p>	<p>Morgan B. Johnston is an Associate Director of Facilities &amp; Services (F&amp;S) and the Director of Sustainability at F&amp;S. In 2008, she took on the role of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Coordinator, an inherently sustainability-related effort, reducing single-occupancy vehicles on campus. A year later she got her first taste of overall campus sustainability efforts when she was asked to contribute to conversations about what transportation goals should be included in the 2010 Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP). After that document was signed, Morgan began implementing the F&amp;S-related campus sustainability solutions outlined therein. Among the solutions she implemented, Morgan is most proud of the Campus Bike Center. Beginning as a collaboration between the University of Illinois and The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign to increase ridership, the Campus Bike Center is now a multifunctional educational resource for those who want to learn about the bicycling world in Champaign-Urbana and how to perform basic bike maintenance. Today, Morgan serves as the primary liaison between iSEE and F&amp;S.</p>	<p>mbjohnst@illinois.edu</p>	
<p>Lacey Rains, City of Champaign, Sustainability Planner</p>	<p>Areas of Focus: comprehensive planning, sustainability planning, Historic Preservation Commission, census, neighborhood wellness</p>	<p>lacey.rains@champaignil.gov</p>	

<p>Paolo Gardoni, CEE faculty, UIUC</p>	<p>Paolo Gardoni is a Professor and Excellence Faculty Scholar in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is the Director of the MAE Center which focuses on the creating of a Multi-hazard Approach to Engineering, and the Associate Director of the NIST-funded Center of Excellence for Risk-based Community Resilience Planning. Dr. Gardoni is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the international journal Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure. He is a member of a number of national and international committees and associations that focus on risk and reliability analysis, specifically, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Civil Engineering Risk and Reliability Association (CERRA). Dr. Gardoni's research interests include sustainable and resilient infrastructure; reliability, risk and life cycle analysis; decision making under uncertainty; earthquake engineering; performance assessment of deteriorating systems; ethical, social, and legal dimensions of risk; policies for natural hazard mitigation and disaster recovery; and engineering ethics. He is the author of over 100 refereed journal papers and 3 edited volumes. Most of the publications are the result of research activities conducted in 31 funded research projects for over \$26 million in research funding from multiple national and international agencies including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Qatar National Research Funds (QNRF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Army Corp of Engineers.</p>	<p>gardoni@illinois.edu</p>	
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<p>Holly Rosencranz, College of Medicine, faculty</p>	<p>Dr. Holly Rosencranz is an internist in Urbana, Illinois and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Carle Foundation Hospital and Provena Covenant Medical Center. She received her medical degree from University of Illinois College of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years. She is one of 49 doctors at Carle Foundation Hospital and one of 19 at Provena Covenant Medical Center who specialize in Internal Medicine. She is also a Clinical Assistant Professor at the College of Medicine at U of I</p>	<p>harosen@illinois.edu</p>	
<p>Warren Lavey</p>	<p>Warren Lavey is Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, U of I. He also holds professional positions at numerous organizations like Senior Fellow, Environmental Law and Policy Center (Chicago) Senior Regulatory Counsel, American Clean Skies Foundation (Washington, DC) Retired Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &amp; Flom LLP (global law firm) External Advisory Committee, Illinois Sustainable Technologies Center External Advisory Committee, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health.</p>	<p>lavey@illinois.edu</p>	