Wednesday, 27 October, 2017, 3:00 pm

401 ACES Library

**SWATeam ALUFS Meeting Minutes**

Present: Reid Christianson, Brent Lewis, Adriana Noboa, Colleen Williams

I. Water Quality

A. Access to water quality data from mid to late ‘90’s; action item: look at trends over time

B. Data at Curtis Road (two miles north of ALUFS point of interest for nitrogen runoff) and Airport Road, could

interpolate to find benchmark nitrogen runoff value

1. 2.7 mg/L nitrate in water at Airport Road, about 43,000 kg/yr: iCAP goal is to reduce nitrates by 50

percent.

2. 8.6 mg/L in a ditch directly south of the Dairy Farm

II. Land Use Map

A. Displays Acres designated to various uses over time

B. Grass/pasture decreased, developed increased

C. Corn and Soy relatively stable over time

D. Action: estimate pounds nitrogen per acre for each type of land use to use for general conservation practice

implementation needs to meet the iCAP nitrate reduction goal

III. Watershed Map

A. Might be good idea to find out how land use within each department has changed over time

1. Ex: if a department reduces corn/soy and increases pasture, an inherent reduction in nitrate runoff

may occur

2. Consideration to ask farm managers for a general sense of which best management practices are used

3. a possible source of nitrogen is the dairy farm (about 6,000 kg/yr)

a. Vet Med water runs off toward the dairy farm, then further south

b. The Campus Master Plan suggests the dairy farm will be moved, which would eliminate this as

a source of nitrogen

4. Suggestion to recommend moving up timeline for relocation, if nitrate runoff would indeed decrease

5. Action: revive a recommendation from spring of 2017 on conservation practices across the South

Farm, have it added to Recommendations Box folder

6. Equine will move to where Dairy is now; the area could be designed ahead of time to reduce the

impact of runoff from Vet Med

IV. Dining

A. A survey was done among other universities asking what methods they use to reduce food waste. Results include containers for leftovers, some methods that may not work for U of I; the results from this survey will put on Box if and when they become available

B. Information from Living Lab event: awareness of food waste makes students concerned about food waste

C. Action: Have students input ideas on reducing food waste instead of dining implementing ideas whose results

vary, depending on university culture

1. One idea might be to highlight the Land Use goals and tie a vegetarian option to these goals on

some days

V. Land Use, Parking, Water, Potential Topics for Joint Meeting

A. Permeable pavers are best for lots because they can be taken out easily and let water pass through.

1. Parking lots near some ACES buildings were supposed to be redone, but the person pushing the

project to get it done left.

B. Water storage on campus

1. Three underground storage tanks for water running off of pavement, slow release, clean rainwater,

but campus does not use the water. Would be good idea to use for chiller plants, which use large

volumes

2. Dorner Pond

3. Beyond these locations, campus does not do much to promote infiltration

C. U of I pays for Stormwater delivered from campus to Urbana and receive credits for green infrastructure by

the MS4 program, although the infrastructure is not reported.

1. The person who was going to be in charge of reporting infrastructure for credits is no longer at the

University.

D. Parking Lots

1. Not enough trees at some of the lots: ex. Plan to replace ash trees killed by ash borer never was

carried out

2. Trees are important for making the campus pedestrian-friendly: aesthetics, heat island reduction,

attract people, carbon sequestration as well

3. Question: what caused the decision to be made to have a separate solar farm instead of having panels

over paved surfaces?

a. less expensive to have in one place

b. Lots should be accessible to machines: asphalt pavers, and snowplows. Other parts of the

country, like Arizona, which have had success with solar above paved surfaces, do not have

some of these concerns

c. Stalls that stand on the pavement could shift in season changes

d. Solar panels are in the Master Plan, and if LEDs were used, not as many would be needed.

e. Might add more panels along railroad