**Resilience Working Advisory Team (R-WAT) Initial Meeting**

Monday, September 16, 2019

1:30pm at Room 128, F&S Oak Street Facility

*Members in attendance: Ximing Cai [XC] (iSEE); Warren Lavey [WL] (NRES & Law), Lacey Rains Lowe [LRL] (City of Champaign); Sally McConkey [SM] (Illinois State Water Survey), Lisa Merrifield [LM] (U of I Extension); Scott Tess [ST] (City of Urbana); Meredith Moore [MM] (iSEE); Morgan White [MW] (F&S).*

*Unable to attend: Joshua Lim[JL] (U of I Student Representative); Rita Morocoima-Black [RMB] (Champaign County Regional Planning Commission)*

*Notetaker: Regina Cassidy [RC] (iSEE)*

1. Introductions
2. What is our task?
3. The University has signed an agreement with Second Nature, a joint statement of presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities pledging steps toward carbon neutrality with climate resilience.
4. The University has signed a climate commitment with the cities of Urbana and Champaign; we are trying to put our joint effort into achieving common climate action adaptation to make our community as a whole more resilient
5. Our long-term goals are open-ended and adaptable to what is of interest and importance to, and within the expertise of, the committee members.
6. The committee’s goal this semester is to put forth 5-10 recommended goals for the Illinois Climate Action (iCAP) 2020 report. These goals will be toward resilience within the entire Urbana-Champaign-University of Illinois community.
7. We will ask the Village of Savoy if they wish to participate in our committee, as they are a growing contiguous component of the C-U area.
8. We will include in our objectives actions that benefit health care, businesses, and faith organizations, although these groups will not have their own representatives on the committee.
9. Our report may include mention of actions that have been put forth that we have ruled of no immediate concern or that we will not prioritize.
10. We have a list of Initial Indicators narrowed down by the members of R-WAT’s formation committee from a larger list presented by Second Nature. These are grouped in the fields of Social Equity & Governance; Health & Wellness; Ecosystem Services; Infrastructure; and Economic[s].
11. The categories presented are somewhat arbitrary and not representative of how the committee members would categorize the listed concerns.
12. There are many important and achievable goals not listed within these indicators that members may prefer to work on.
13. Next meeting, we will create our tailor-made list of initial indicators.
14. These indicators must be accompanied by measurable goals.
15. Full list of Second Nature initial indicators is available online.
16. Here are some things that are of immediate concern to committee members, and should end up on our list:
17. Pollinators.
18. 24-hour cooling centers and easily available information about the dangers of extreme heat for pregnant women.
19. Stormwater Management

i. Baseline assessment of flooding: quantity of water, and specific flood-prone locations.

a. City maintenance workers will have knowledge.

b. Both Champaign and Urbana can produce modeling.

c. U of I has no stormwater plan and does not do stormwater modeling.

ii. Nutrient problem from agricultural runoff causing hypoxia of waterways is not an issue in the urban area. However, autumn leaf debris is a major component of nutrient loading to streams from urban areas.

iv. Street-sweeping is a very cost-effective way to ameliorate contamination of surface water.

v. Rapid urbanization and more severe storms make stormwater management of immediate concern.

vi. Urbana is currently updating stormwater plans, so this would be a perfect time to cooperate on stormwater management.

vii. There is an updated Bulletin 70 with new expected rainfall totals for storms with various frequencies of occurrence, these rainfall data are used for drainage studies, stormwater management and design, and floodplain studies, but the updated information has not yet been incorporated in local stormwater ordinances.

viii. Detention basins on private land owned in common by Homeowners’ Associations (H.O.A.s) are not always maintained by the association or the homeowners. No government entity currently has any jurisdiction over these areas. H.O.A.s are becoming less popular, and some of them are selling common areas to individuals, making it these individuals’ sole responsibility and prerogative to maintain the detention basins.

D. Mapping and planting trees to mitigate heat island effect.

E. Landscaping

i. Landscaping changes throughout U of I can make our campus more welcoming and less off-putting to others, particularly Native peoples. Chancellor Jones brought this up last week.

ii. Landscaping of all three jurisdictions could have unifying themes.

F. Living-Learning Laboratory. Urbana, Champaign, and U of I could voluntarily adopt latest ecological standards required of the private sector.

G. Food Forest (as is being maintained in Normal, Illinois).

1. Emergency management, per se, is not part of our mission. However, climate change has changed the baseline to what would have previously been considered emergency levels, so the new normal now and of the future must be planned for.
2. We could use a (1/2 time?) graduate student dedicated to conducting research for this committee.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Ask if Village of Savoy wishes to participate [MW]
2. Each member will write a list of desired initiatives for next meeting
3. LRL & ST: Champaign and Urbana will produce baseline assessment of flooding: quantity of water, and specific flood-prone locations. [LRL, ST, MW?]

Meeting Adjourned 2:30

Next meeting is Monday, October 14, 2019. Location TBD.