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

Tuesday, November 26, 2019 in NSRC room 358 at 1:00

*Members in attendance: Ximing Cai [XC] (iSEE); Dennis Donaldson [DD] (Village of Savoy); Sally McConkey [SM] (Illinois State Water Survey); Meredith Moore [MM] (iSEE); Scott Tess [ST] (City of Urbana).*

*Attending by phone: Warren Lavey [WL] (NRES & Law); Morgan White [MW] (F&S)*

*Not attending: Joshua Lim [JL] (U of I Student Representative); Lisa Merrifield [LM] (Extension); Rita Morocoima-Black [RMB] (Champaign County Regional Planning Commission); Lacey Raines Lowe [LRL] (City of Champaign)*

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

**PART I – Discussion of 2020 iCAP Objectives**

1. Objective 1: **Develop an urban biodiversity master plan and implementation working group…**
2. Alter wording to, “Develop an urban biodiversity master plan **that considers future climate conditions** and an implementation working group…
3. This plan is mostly about plants, but it may include insect pollinators or predators. Savoy is interested in the Monarch Pledge.
4. A campus master plan will cost $100,000 to $250,000 dollars. This cost includes climate projection and stakeholder input. We will not be able to tap faculty experts for this.
5. MW will ask Brent Lewis about his contacts.
6. How do we operationalize this plan once we have it?
7. Cost of implementing the plan may be $1.5 million. How will we pay for this?
8. It is possible to partially implement the plan for less money.
9. Another possibility is developing a guide to biodiversity planning. We can perform a literature review.
10. There are publicly available lists by Illinois county of indigenous plants. Are there lists of indigenous birds as well?
11. Are native species more important than species likely to survive climate change?
12. All of these entities separately have plans for biodiversity and native plantings. What is special about this Objective is the cooperation between the municipalities and the University tying everything together through culture and policies.
13. If each entity pledges a certain percentage of funding, we can all look for grants to gather the funds.
14. Objective 2: **Assess metro area resilience and actively address related environmental justice issues.**
15. What makes these items cohesive? Split into two objectives:
16. “Assess metro area resilience” (and incorporate items a-e)
17. Perhaps a faculty member-grad student team could be assigned to this.
18. Is there a foundation to fund this?

AND

1. “Actively address related environmental justice issues (and incorporate item f)
2. We can involve Parkland College in this particular Objective.
3. F&S training is outsourced except for some leadership training.
4. F&S has a Diversity Summer Intern Program.
5. Chancellor’s office has trades program deal with local high schools.
6. Workforce is applicable to resilience because we will need workers to implement resilience measures.
7. Can this be combined with a large research grant for training and research center – federal funds?
8. WL will take next step on these objectives by clarifying, stating the tasks involved, and coming up with a cost estimate.
9. Objective 3: **Design and identify funding mechanisms for program that connects test sites to U of I scholars…**
10. Change wording to, **“Develop plans and assist campus and community in projects…”** This will only work if the University hires a staff person to build these connections and act as a go-between.
11. This committee should evolve to an advisory panel for the coordination of projects between the four cooperating entities lead by the new University staff person. Urbana and Savoy, particularly, are short-staffed, and they need more fully developed plans lead by the University or Champaign in order to be on board. They are simply spread too thin to participate otherwise.
12. Objective 4: **Engage community members in climate action…**
13. Change wording of items d-f to read, “…**develop plans or explore potential to**” instead of **implement, de-centralize, identify, and retrofit**.” These are more properly the domain of a working advisory team.
14. Objective 5: **Coordinate rainwater management plans for entire urbanized areas.**
15. Change to: **“Consistent with the biodiversity plan objective, coordinate rainwater management plans for entire urbanized areas.”**
16. This is very workable for the cities, as they are already working with developers, however, it would require a culture change for the MS4 working group.
17. A University-hired area resilience coordinator would solidify the cooperation between campus and Champaign, Urbana, and Savoy.
18. We need an Associate Provost or Associate Chancellor to work closely with the cities in order to act on our Objectives.
19. Agreement with, but no comments on, Objective 6: **Support Vision Zero as a county-wide goal for safe and sustainable transportation.**
20. Question of approvals for cities implementing these Objectives. ST says Urbana planners have leeway in deciding how to spend allocated funds. Only if there were to be a brand new category or a significant shift in spending would it have to be approved. Approval levels differ with different projects, from public works manager, city administrator to mayor, or committee-of-the-whole to city council. DD says approvals must be obtained from Savoy Mayor Joan Dykstra.

ACTION ITEMS

1. MW will ask Brent Lewis about his contacts re: Urban Biodiversity Master Plan.
2. WL will take next step for Objective 2 by clarifying, stating the tasks involved, and coming up with a cost estimate.
3. LRL – Inform the committee about the approval process in Champaign.
4. LM (?) and RC (?) will revise iCAP Objectives to include changes decided upon at this meeting and afterward.
5. Meeting Adjourned 2:30

Next meeting is in December, time and location TBD.