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

Monday, December 16, 2019 in F&S room 1810 at 1:30

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

*Not attending: Joshua Lim [JL] (U of I Student Representative); Rita Morocoima-Black [RMB] (Champaign County Regional Planning Commission)*

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

1. **Discussion of approval process for the Municipalities to adopt and work on Objectives**
2. The Champaign City Manager approves a draft of Objectives or passes them along to the City Council. The Council can approve having a staff member work on the Objectives, or it can choose to go through a formal process to approve the Objectives
3. The City of Urbana can have a Mayoral Proclamation, a study session, or formal approval process
4. The Village of Savoy will normally have a study session and pass along to the Board
5. City Representatives agree that a resolution is better than an ordinance for the Objectives because it doesn’t have to be set down as law
6. LRL and ST will talk to the respective City Managers about the Resilience Working Advisory Team’s work and the best way to have our recommendations acted upon
7. City Managers meet regularly with U of I Administration, including Mohamed Atalla [MA], Executive Director of F&S. These meetings are excellent opportunities to discuss work on the Resilience Team’s Objectives. MW will ask MA to bring the draft of the Team’s Objectives to his next meeting with the City Managers.
8. The iCAP 2020 will be presented to the Chancellor in September 2020. City representatives are requested to have the approvals worked out with their administrations before then.
9. **LRL reports that the City of Champaign is reviving its *Keep Champaign Beautiful* campaign: *Beautify, Recycle & Reduce, and Prevent Litter*.**
10. **Possible Funding Resources for Objectives**
11. LRL reports that (building supply company) Lowe’s funds green community projects with grants of $20,000. Champaign’s Prosperity Gardens was a recent awardee.
12. LM reports that the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) will be resuming soon
13. LM will have a grant for Watershed Planning class work on a master plan
14. SSC at iSEE awards grants
15. U of I awards Living-Learning grants
16. **Biodiversity Plan**
17. WL is in communication with Jeffrey Brawn [JB] of NRES and Mary Pat McGuire [MPM] of LA and will meet with Carle Hospital’s Chief Quality Officer and Healthy Beginnings representatives later this week.
18. It is important that the committee gather all existing area biodiversity plans and data so as not to duplicate or contradict or inappropriately seek funding for a new master plan or gather data already available in digestible form
19. Responsible party for creating the biodiversity plan may be a class in NRES or GEOG, but this work can only be done on behalf of the University. (However, the information may be shared.) XC has a contact in GEOG who may be interested, but he will wait to contact him until WL has spoken with JB and MPM.
20. Champaign, Urbana, and Savoy all have data on city trees.
21. Estimated costs for master plan and implementation are misleading because all four entities are already spending money on landscaping, so this money would not be a new appropriation but diverted from existing applications.
22. The most important and feasible contributions of the municipalities will be staff time toward translating the plan into regulations that will have to be followed by developers. Then the majority of the cost will actually be borne by developers.
23. Ordinances, regulations, and model policies are effective in implementing new procedures in municipalities.
24. LRL reports that current regulations of sustainable design exist in Champaign. The City has not run into problems with developers following such regulations. As one example, Carle is very cooperative in complying with landscaping regulations and curb-cut regulations and has even taken the initiative to plant more sustainably in its Carle at the Fields complex. The landscaping company Carle normally uses is BrownWoods & Associates.
25. The municipalities have the authority to impose zoning fines on developers who do not follow regulations on plantings. Currently the fine in Champaign is $750/day.
26. The City of Champaign Complete Streets Policy has been powerful in changing the way capital improvement projects are funded.
27. **XC recommends categorizing Objectives as follows:**
28. What can the four entities do together?
29. What U of I resources are needed to carry out the Objectives?
30. What opportunities do the municipalities present for U of I students to test out ideas?
31. **The Objectives, as written, are very U of I-focused and action-focused. However, the Resilience Working Advisory Team is *advisory*, and is, therefore, not empowered, budgeted, or staffed to carry out any actions. The committee should consequently be conscious of the verbage used in the Objectives**:
32. For our preamble to the Objectives, we need to include: “We think these recommendations are feasible.”
33. Instead of “implement,” we should write “form a consensus.”
34. We need to insert the word “collaborate” into the Objectives and add more language about municipalities providing staff support.
35. **Changes for Objective 1:**
36. Remove estimated costs
37. For 1g, change the word “develop” to “support”
38. Move “vulnerability assessment” phrase to 2D
39. **Changes for Objective 2:**
40. Omit “but work separately”
41. Change the word “principles” to “metrics/resilience goals/best practices”
42. Add “look for three common assessment tools to compare and choose” (for vulnerability assessment)
43. **The Team did not closely examine the other Objectives at this meeting. Objective 1 is currently agreed to be of primary importance now.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. WL will meet with JB and MPM about their departments’ participation in iCAP 2020
2. WL will meet with Carle representatives to ask about their resilience plan.
3. XC will meet with GEOG about their department’s participation in iCAP 2020
4. RC will track Objectives changes discussed at this meeting and send to full committee for input.
5. MW will ask MA to bring the draft of the Team’s Objectives to his next meeting with the City Managers.
6. Meeting Adjourned 2:30

Next meeting is in January, time and location TBD.