

Land and Water Sustainability Working Advisory Team Meeting

February 26th 2020

9 am NSRC 358

Members in attendance: Art Schmidt (Co-Chair), Rabin Bhattarai (Faculty), Brent Lewis (Staff), Eliana Brown (Staff), Allen Parrish (Staff), James Ellis (Staff), Bruce Branham (Faculty), Mallory Mahen (Clerk)

Members not attending: Reid Christianson (Co-Chair), Ella Liskiewicz (Student), Vikram Sudhan Muthuvel (Student), Claire Samojedny (Student)

Agenda:

1. Clarify recommendation format
2. Discuss Land and Water Objectives and form recommendations
3. Discuss student input and from recommendations
4. Delegate recommendations

Meeting:

1. Recommendation format
 - a. Follow template, specific project idea, recommend to appropriate entity on campus
2. (1) Implement Resilient Landscape Strategies recommendations by FY24
 - a. Brent and James are primarily responsible for this
 - b. Strategies to respond to climate change including rainwater recycling/harvesting and examination of levels of service on un/manicured spaces across campus and F&S grounds
 - c. The team will examine this document and develop recommendations from it
 - d. Team will keep pushing this objective
3. (3) Establish a soil monitoring initiative on south farms in summer 2021 and continually monitor soil quality. Analyze soil in 20 areas per year.
 - a. These sites could potentially be near existing stream quality sites
 - i. Airport road, old church road
 - b. Testing phosphorus, pH, nitrate- a standard soil test
 - c. Every year is excessive because soil does not change that quickly, so every 3-4 years is more feasible
 - d. Some of this is already being done, must share information, and need coordination
 - e. Art will develop a recommendation to have a common website for all land-use and water data for students and faculty to access
 - f. Identify a person willing to do this in conjunction with the land managers
 - i. Someone in NRES/ crop science, current soils person is over-loaded
 - ii. Their responsibility would be record keeping, monitoring, and publicizing the data, does not need soils training necessarily
4. (6) Increase # of trees on campus by 20% by FY24
 - a. Conduct tree canopy analysis- possible student project
 - i. Brent will make this recommendation

- ii. Can find where the priority areas are, will give Brent backing to ask for funding to complete objective
 - b. Can use LiDAR, compare with 2016 data, students can help
- 5. Demonstration gardens update- Eliana
 - a. Potential for demonstration gardens in arboretum
 - i. There are a lot of stakeholders in arboretum
 - ii. Brent can bring it up to his committees
 - b. Want to have live demonstration gardens with native plants and appropriate ground cover to use as example for those planting native plants
 - c. What is the kind of information that is needed for this?
 - d. Need a long-term plan for everyone to get behind
- 6. Student suggestion- increase use of rain barrels
 - a. Difficult for institutional scale buildings
- 7. Student suggestion- phase out use of sprinklers
 - a. Do not use many sprinklers/irrigation systems as it is
 - i. Should educate on this more
 - b. Possible recommendation to update sprinkler system to a more modern version that uses atmospheric data- a highly integrated sophisticated system
 - i. Already have pricing to have this replaced but it is too expensive currently
 - ii. Recommendation that this should be prioritized and funded
- 8. Student suggestion- research use of water and target high-use buildings
 - a. We have this data already- but what do we do with it?
 - b. Investigate the specific sources that are causing water use to be so high in these buildings
- 9. Student suggestion- various ways to utilize rooftops
 - a. Vegetable rooftop gardens- team does not support this
 - i. Not efficient, safety concerns
 - b. Solar panels- minimal support from team
 - i. Solar farms are a more efficient use of space
 - ii. It takes engineering restructuring
 - iii. Team would rather see solar on parking deck rooftops
 - c. Make existing green roofs pollinator friendly- team supports this
 - d. Inventory potential new locations for green roofs- team supports this
 - i. Brent will work on turning this into a recommendation
 - 1. Could tie into rainwater fee and project that Eric and Sophie are working on

Action Items:

1. Have recommendation forms to specifically discuss in next meeting
2. Read Resilient Landscape Strategy document

Meeting adjourned 10:14 am