

Land and Water SWATeam Meeting 12/9

Members in attendance: Mallory Mahen (Clerk), Marcus Benhof (Student), Brent Lewis (Staff), Eliana Brown (Staff), Allen Parrish (Staff), Betsy Liggett (Staff), Reid Christainson (Faculty), Ashlyn Stillwell (Co-chair), Momcilo Markus (Co-Chair), Art Schmidt (Faculty), Meredith Moore (iSEE), Ximing Cai (iSEE), Morgan White (F&S)

Members not in attendance: Aviv Zelniker (Student), Victoria Reidenbach (Student)

Agenda:

1. Begin recommendations process
2. Discuss budgets across departments
 - a. Gauge what is feasible to recommend with limited budgets and resources due to COVID

Meeting:

- Review of recommendations process
 - Recommendations are ideas to achieve iCAP goals that are submitted to the iCAP Working Group (iWG) for review on a rolling basis
 - SWATEams should aim to submit at least one recommendation each academic year
 - The iWG will either pass the recommendation along to the appropriate campus unit for implementation or ask the SWATeam for revisions
 - There is a recommendation template form available on the iCAP portal
 - This includes a description of the recommendation, anticipated costs, perceived challenges, and the appropriate campus unit to recommend the idea to
 - Link to template is located on this page:
<https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project/sustainability-working-advisory-teams-swateams>
 - SWATEams are responsible for the ideas, but not the implementation
 - For example, the Land and Water SWATeam can recommend cover crops on the South Farms to ACES, but ACES will be responsible for carrying this out
 - The iCAP portal can be utilized to view past recommendations
 - Link to Land and Water SWATeam page on the iCAP portal:
<https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/themes/land-and-water>
 - Before recommendations are submitted, each member of the team is asked to provide a comment
 - Comments strengthen the recommendation, as they allow for varied perspectives and support from the team
 - Comments can be as simple as “I support this recommendation” or a more specific and detailed statement

- Comments do not have to be positive, although it is the goal to create recommendations that are unanimously supported by the team members
- Recommendation ideas:
 - Green infrastructure
 - Past recommendations have been submitted related to green infrastructure and there is a need to increase green infrastructure across campus to meet the iCAP goal of 48 by FY 2024
 - These efforts can include the construction of more green roofs and rain gardens, planting of native plants, and other stormwater management practices
 - The team can identify specific areas on campus where these are needed and develop a recommendation to that campus unit
 - There is an ongoing inventory exploring the effectiveness of the types of green infrastructure
 - The team can use this determine what the best types of green infrastructure to recommend are
 - Educational opportunities
 - The team can develop materials for students and the Champaign-Urbana community alike to publicize current and past sustainable achievements
 - This can encourage involvement in sustainability from interested students and foster relationships with community members
 - There is an opportunity for collaboration between the Education and Engagement SWATeams on this recommendation
 - Focusing on low-cost efforts such as publication and education during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic will allow the team to make progress during this time of strained resources
- Recommendations must be mindful of limited resources available across campus due to the pandemic
 - Projects proposed by the Land and Water team are typically very technical and need large amounts of funding
 - The team should aim to avoid a recommendation immediately being rejected due to high costs
- Additional recommendation ideas can be brought to the team for discussion at any time
 - A running list of these ideas will be made available on the team's Box folder, the "Land and Water Working File"
 - A Google form titled "Recommendations Wish List" will be circulated throughout the team to submit ideas

Action items:

1. Team members can fill out the Recommendations Wish List form