



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

May 1st, 2020

Project: Land Addition to Vermilion River Observatory

Dear Mx. Brian Allan:

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), I would like to thank you for considering the funds raised by the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (ISEE) that your project receives **\$35,000** in grant funding.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

1. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Program Coordinator by May of 2022.
2. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester, in the method requested, until the project is completed.
3. The Contact Person will be individually responsible for all official communication and the execution of this agreement.
4. The CFOP provided for this award shall strictly be used for the money awarded in this proposal.
5. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC. These requests must be submitted in a formal letter to the Chair and Coordinator.
6. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
7. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
8. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project should acknowledge SSC funding.
9. Any signage involving the project or events surrounding this project should include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project. Projects must coordinate with SSC to ensure promotion appropriately highlights the SSC's contributions to the project.

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the SSC, at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu. You will be notified when the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

SSC Signatories

Joseph Edwards

Joseph Edwards, Chair
Student Sustainability Committee

Jonah Messinger

Jonah Messinger, Treasurer
Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

Brian Allan

Brian Allan
Applicant

iSEE Signatory

Evan H DeLucia

Dr. Evan DeLucia, Director
Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment

Student Affairs Signatory

Dr. Danita M. B. Young

Dr. Danita Brown Young
Division of Student Affairs



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Project Information

Project: Land Addition to Vermilion River Observatory

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$35,000

Receiving Campus Unit: Illinois Natural History Survey-Prairie Research Institute

Unit Financial Contact: Alan Dudley

E-mail: adudley@illinois.edu

Project Description:

The University Committee on Natural Areas proposes to purchase one or more parcels of land adjacent to the Vermilion River Observatory (VRO, see attached map). The VRO is a 500 acre property owned by the University of Illinois situated five miles southeast of Danville, Illinois. For over 50 years, it has been utilized for teaching and research in the astronomical, biological, ecological, and other sciences. The owner of the adjacent land has expressed desire to sell the property by the end of calendar year 2020. They own approximately 219.4 acres in three parcels (93.1, 95.3, 31 acres) to the south and west of the VRO. They have not listed the property with a real estate agent at this time. Purchase of the whole property is desirable, but the project team thinks it most feasible to pursue one parcel (93.1 acres). Purchase of adjacent property would extend University-owned property to the Vermilion River. This would greatly enhance teaching and research opportunities for University of Illinois students in aquatic ecology as well as creating opportunities in land restoration and carbon sequestration.

- With this project, we hope to add land to the VRO that connects the current University property to the Vermilion River. With this, we will add valuable space for natural areas conservation as well as teaching and research opportunities.
- Money needs to be raised for purchase price and closing costs. Purchase price is unknown at this time. An appraisal has been ordered to provide a benchmark for negotiations.
- The successful purchase of one or more parcels of land adjacent to the VRO is an indicator of success.
- Another indicator of success will be student involvement in the process of managing the newly acquired property. We will solicit student volunteers and researchers to design an ecological restoration project focusing on former agricultural land on the purchased property. Students will participate in all aspects of this project, including developing and enacting a restoration plan.
- An additional benefit of the restoration plan will be a measurable (or calculated) increase in carbon sequestration on University-owned land.

This proposal directly funds:

1. Land Appraisal and Purchase