

WSU Sustainability & the Environment Committee

Meeting Minutes

DATE, TIME, & LOCATION: Monday, September 11, 2017, 9:00-10:00 p.m., Lighty 403

ATTENDEES: Jason Sampson, Dan Costello, Dan Maher, Rick Finch, Brian Shuffield, Amanda Stahl, Amy Whiteman, Trevor Alkire, Nick Prante, Patrick Robichaud, Richard Partain, Gabby Rodriguez, Ryan Lazo, Jonathan Stahl, Julie Padowski, Jan Boll, Gene Patterson, Adam Koerner, Karen Weathermon

1. Call to Order – Jason Sampson
2. Introductions – Jason Sampson
Jason had voting member and guests introduce themselves.
3. Green Fund project proposal from Renewable Energy Organization – Jake Halela
Jake Halela from the WSU Renewable Energy Organization was asking for \$2,111.37 to purchase, install, and provide education outreach for a solar panel display. The club is hoping to gain design and installation experience while having the display promote student involvement and learning. The SEC will ask Facilities Services to review proposal to determine potential site locations and provide a conceptual estimate of the project. This project will be further discussed at the next meeting using the information gathered.
4. Green Fund project and signage updates – Jason Sampson
Jason provided status of four projects which saw progress during the summer.
 - The Magpie Forest project was completed prior to the end of the Spring 2017 semester. The group did not spend their entire allotment. The group will be asked to do a brief presentation to the committee.
 - The water bottle refill stations were installed by the CUE auditorium and the third floor of Todd Hall. The project did not cost as much as anticipated and let over funds will be placed back into general funds.
 - The greenhouse project paid for the blueprints in order to get a more accurate cost estimate. However, the project is temporarily on hold because of state budget delays. Once the state funding has been allocated the project will be evaluated to determine status.
 - Environmental Sustainability Alliance provided a proposed sign to the Facilities Services signage committee. The committee approved the sign design, but are provided guidance on how signs must be attached. Once everything is agreed upon signs will be placed by all green fund projects.
5. Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) update – Dan Costello
Dan, the WSU representative for PBAC, provided a summary of the status of committee, current regional water use, and alternatives being proposed by PBAC to stabilize the aquifer at its current levels.

6. Energy and water conservation committees – Dan Costello
Dan is hoping to establish energy and water conservation committees made up of campus stakeholders. These quarterly meetings would help provide guidance and suggestions to Facilities Services as WSU looks for ways to minimize environmental impact by becoming more efficient.

7. Food recovery program – Adam Koerner
Dining Services created a plan for food recover in the fall of 2016 to help provide food securities to Whitman County via the Community Action Center (CAC) and Center for Civic Engagement (CCE). The plan was approved by the university, health department and county. The plan was implemented in the spring of 2017. Based on the success of the trials run the program was officially implemented and the CCE hired an individual to complete weekly collections. Athletics is using the program for the football games.

8. Open Discussion
Karen Weathermon
Indicated the Common Reading book, Ready Player One, had a sustainability theme and wanted to include electronic waste as one of the discussion.

Julia Padowski
Julia is helping to make the Water Club an official Registered Student Organization.

Rick Finch
Rick discussed the Urban Death Project research project and the interest in including Green houses in the compost program.

Nick Prante
The Student Recreation Center installed a monitor focused on sustainability and sent out a shipment of cell phones and batteries for recycling.

Ryan Lazo
Ryan reiterated the food recovery program and mentioned 893 pounds of lentil chili had been recovered.

Jonathan Stahl
The Green Bike system is being updated and are hoping to have a new system in place by spring 2018. There is a Leave No Trace, Outdoor Festival being held at the Snake River by the Outdoor Recreation Center on September 23.

***NEXT MEETING: To be October 9, 2017
9:00-10:00 Public Safety Building Training Room***