

HMSC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes: August 17, 2010

Members Present: Randy Walker, Jay Peterson, Maryann Bozza, Judy Mullen, Tom Wainwright, Todd Cross, Melissa Murphy, Curt Whitmire.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 7, 10:30am-noon, Barry Fisher Room, Guin Library;
Agenda - Tom and Minutes - Melissa

Upcoming Brownbags:

August 20: Garrett Bush from Airrow Heating Sheet Metal LLC on Heat Pumps – Maryann

September 10: Sam Angima from OSU Extension, Growing vegetables in our coastal climate - Candace

October: Matt Spanger on the Yaquina Bay Estuary Plan (not confirmed) - Maryann

November: John Eveland from Gathering Together Farms (not confirmed) - Todd

Minutes

1. **Review action items:** All were otherwise on the agenda; this item skipped.

2. **Updates on projects:**

- **Rain Catchment (Randy):** Randy described the design for the proposed rainwater collection system for the library and/or education wing. The primary purpose is to educate and inspire students participating in field classes at HMSC by providing captured rain water for washing boots and equipment behind the ed wing. The system would be composed of a collection tank (up to 5000 gallons, above or below ground), a solar panel (210 Watts, 12 volt) to power the pressure-tank pump, along with piping, solar panel power regulator, and electronic pump controller. Issues discussed were: location and visibility for solar panel and collection tank. The Committee generally favored having the tank above ground (or partially buried?) and visible from the ed wing labs to maximize interest and educational opportunities. Appearance of the tank could be improved with murals (student-created?) and a nice interpretive sign. Total estimated cost would be \$1200-\$1500 dollars, said Randy.
- **Brownbags:** September is scheduled, October and November potential speakers not yet confirmed (see above). Potential future speakers include Conrad Brown (PAE) to speak on integrating campus-wide sustainable energy systems (suggested by Randy), and Bob Costanza (Portland State) to describe the PSU Center for Sustainable Processes and Practices (suggested by Tom, but this would be several months away, maybe spring term).
- **Earth Tub (Todd):** Todd spoke with Bob Llewellyn at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. They will be getting one Earth Tub from the Oregon Zoo in Portland as soon as they can arrange transportation and installation. The primary use will be for food waste from the Aquarium food service; they will not consider HMSC sharing the tub until they find out what their own use is relative to capacity. Randy offered to drive to Portland to pick up the tub and several committee

members felt that might improve our chances in getting access to the tub by the Aquarium.

- Bike Shelter (Sharon): No report.
- Solar Panels (Maryanne): No report.
- Corvallis bus plan (Todd): Nothing new is known about the planned bus route to Corvallis, but Todd provided information on 'Valley Van Pool' which is a private company that organizes van pools among cities. To get service to/from Newport, at least 7 people would need to express interest on the company's web site, and then work out a common schedule. With a minimum of 7 people, the cost estimate is ~\$150 per individual per month, but cost goes down as more people join the pool.

3. **Website development** (Candace): No report.

4. **AASHE tracking system** (Judy): Judy brought information about a sustainability tracking system offered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Ed (STARS) (<http://stars.aashe.org/>). It's a framework for planning, tracking and rating the progress of participating campuses toward sustainability. It's a voluntary, self-reporting system. OSU has signed-on to participate as a charter member along with at least 175 other colleges and universities. Participant schools will earn a rating and use a common set of measurement tools; results will be made public in the STARS report. This system may provide our committee with a way to organize our project list (next item) and gauge our progress. Judy will take a deeper look at this system and report to the group with ideas we may want to incorporate.

5. **Review potential project list**: While we did not specifically review the project list, there was a discussion of long-term planning focused on how to integrate projects throughout the HMSC campus to achieve specific goals. Committee members should look at the AASHE system (above) as one possible way of organizing this. Concerns were expressed about the problems with multi-agency coordination, potentially conflicting mandates, and budget constraints that generally put sustainability as a last priority in facilities planning. Two suggestions were made:

- It was noted that the HMSC seawater system is effectively managed by multiple agency cooperation, partly because of a strong commitment, including the NOAA/OSU MOU. Perhaps we could work on a campus-wide Sustainable Facilities MOU among the various entities at HMSC that could define common goals and specify needed resources.
- Randy presented a potential scenario for developing energy-related projects, starting with a BPA-funded study of campus-wide energy savings that could recommend integrated campus-wide projects. These projects could then be priced as part of an initial scoping by an energy service company (ESCO) followed by grant-writing for specific projects.

6. **Other issues, and Green info-share round-robin** (All): No items.

7. **Action Items** (Several carried over from last meeting)

All: For the website, think about 1) what we the committee need the website to be, and 2) what do we want visitors to get out of it?

All: Send links of interest for the website to Candace

All: Review the AASHE STARS tracking system for possible use in long-term project planning. See Technical Manual (pages 11-13 in particular) at:
http://www.aashe.org/files/documents/STARS/STARS_1.0_Technical_Manual.pdf
About STARS program: http://stars.aashe.org/pages/faqs/4101/?root_category=about

Maryann: Prepare transportation survey to send out campus wide in September.

Maryann: Contact AES; let committee members know when Seawater tour will occur

Maryann??: Confirm October brownbag with Matt Spangler.

Randy: Prepare design documents for rain water system and e-mail them to Committee by August 31st for review before submitting proposal to HMSC management.

Todd: Confirm November brownbag with John from GTF.

Tom: Prepare agenda for next meeting.

Judy: Read the AASHE Technical Manual for ideas.

Curt: Follow up on Corvallis bus plan.

Next Meeting September 7th at 10:30.