

Sustainability Committee Meeting

Minutes: November 3, 2009

Present: Anjanette Baker, George Boehlert, Devin Brakob, Christina Folger, Ken Hall, Judy Mullen, Sharon Nieukirk, Tom Wainwright, Randy Walker, Curt Whitmire

Minutes online at: <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/content/minutes.html>

Next Brownbag: Thursday, November 19th at noon in the HMSC Dining Hall (by housing)

–David Ellis, from *A Greener Globe, LLC* (topic: LED lighting solutions)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 1st in Barry Fisher Room, 10:30-noon

I. Ken Hall: Review of committee works in progress

a. Environmental Management System (EMS)

The committee has begun to create a framework for an Environmental Management System (EMS) by identifying seven focus areas for our site: energy consumption, fuel consumption, solid waste/recycling, water consumption, electronic stewardship, chemical and hazardous waste, habitat stewardship. Ken has put these on a spreadsheet and we plan to add specific steps and benchmarks to meet goals within each area. The idea is to log our incremental improvements toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming climate neutral.

b. HMSC Commuter Survey:

Our first commuter survey was taken during Spring of 2009. We plan to take another survey during Winter, 2009-2010. Results, comparisons and improvements can be shared with HMSC staff, students, faculty to encourage carpooling, ridesharing, bike riding, bus rides.

c. New request for LED streetlights for HMSC light poles

Randy Walker submitted HMSC lighting data to Mark Sleight (PUD) for new LED fixtures for HMSC light poles; we hope to benefit from grant money for the implementation of LED streetlights at HMSC. PUD will forward our application to Bonneville Power Administration. The pilot program's incentives will dramatically reduce the cost of each fixture. Our goal is to be "dark sky" compliant. Dr. Boehlert suggests we get "before and after" photos of HMSC from the other side of Yaquina Bay to demonstrate the light reduction improvement. He also suggests getting Mark Floyd from campus to write a press release about it-- should we succeed.
<http://www.darksksociety.org/handouts/LightingPlanGuidelines.pdf> ,
<http://www.darksksociety.org/>

We discussed the possibility of asking Mark Sleight to add solar panels to our light fixture request. We also wondered if the solar panels (HMSC kiosk) could be linked to lights?

Action: Randy will ask PUD if these ideas are possible

d. More Solar panels for HMSC: possibilities

The committee wants to have HMSC placed on OUS's list of potential sites for solar panels.

Action: Ken will ask Dr. Boehlert to contact Bob Simonton about this possibility

Action: Ken will send the committee members the online link to HMSC kiosk solar panel information

II. Sustainability Committee to meet with HMSC Management Committee

Dr. Boehlert expressed his support for the Sustainability Committee and its efforts, reminding us, however, of constraints that may apply in these difficult fiscal times. He asks that the Sustainability Committee present an update to the HMSC Management Committee in mid-January, 2010; he asks that all members of the Sustainability Committee attend.

Dr. Boehlert believes we must garner more commitment from across the HMSC campus and make sure that all agencies and OSU work together on issues regarding sustainability. He reminds us that it may be more cost-effective to work together on projects instead of doing them individually.

Dr. Boehlert would like the committee to create and maintain a Sustainability web-page.

III. Oregon Local Climate Protection Workshop at HMSC: Dec. 4, 2009

Sallie Schullinger-Krause, Program Director, Global Warming, Oregon Environmental Council, met recently with committee members Ken Hall, Christina Folger, and Josie Thompson.

The Council will be holding a workshop at HMSC on Dec. 4, 2009 for local municipal and county government staff. It will be a half-day workshop, starting with a lunch. It may be possible for the Sustainability Committee to host this workshop and send one or more attendees from the committee. The Oregon Environmental Council's mission is to "advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations."

(<http://www.oeonline.org/about-us/strategic-plan/>) Other workshops such as this one have been held in Bend, Hillsboro and Clackamas. Here are minutes from a previous workshop held in Clackamas www.ci.corvallis.or.us/council/mail-archive/ward4/docdEhXpOoPPr.doc

IV. HMSC Sustainability Committee's Brownbag Series

The next brownbag will Thursday, November 19th at noon in the HMSC Dining Hall (by housing). David Ellis, of *A Greener Globe, LLC*, will be our speaker. (not Laura Uhler, as previously discussed by committee). David will speak about LED lights for parking lots and other outdoor areas. All attendees will receive a free compact fluorescent bulb, courtesy of Central Lincoln PUD.

Christina also brought some other incentives for the committee to hand out: magnets, thermometers, notepads.

Action: Ken Hall will forward the template for creating brownbag flyers to committee members

V. Using SurveyMonkey for Next HMSC Commuter Survey: Devin Brakob

Devin drafted an online commuter survey using SurveyMonkey; some committee members tried it and thought it was very usable. Devin found that each survey is limited to 100 responses and that no names or email addresses of survey takers are recorded. We may have to remake a new survey each time we have collected 100 responses; one way to gather names of participants would be to have survey-takers type in their names in order to receive a free CFL bulb. The program can calculate the number of responses received and the average of all responses, plus some other totals.

VI. Worm Bin

The worm bin has been moved to the courtyard because it was attracting fruitflies. The committee would like to give it away. We discussed the possibility of giving it to a local school or possibly using it as a prize at a brownbag. We decided to ask the Montessori School if they would like to have it.

VII. Sustainability Committee: new leadership and new work plan

The group discussed the need for a new committee leader to replace Ken Hall, who is moving to California in November. We want to make HMSC's director aware that we need a strong new leader who, like Ken, is authentically interested in sustainability issues. Ken Hall's job description does not include heading this committee. No committee member has stepped forward as yet. We need new committee members, too, since Devin and Ken are both leaving.

We also discussed the possibility of dividing into several subcommittees which could then focus on particular topics and tasks. Potential topics for subcommittees might include: energy, waste, water, local foods, brownbags (outreach), communications, EMS group to calculate Greenhouse gas emissions, webpage, solar, and other topics.

VIII. Future agenda topics:

Getting new committee chair; preparing for meeting with HMSC management committee in January(powerpoint); Sustainability webpage; Commuter Survey; Wormbin; next brownbag; Dark Sky update; Oregon Local Climate Protection Workshop; Building the EMS; Earthtub