

HMSC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes: April 6, 2010

Members Present: Maryann Bozza, Rick Brown, Todd Cross, Judy Mullen, Jay Peterson, Candace Rogers, Tom Wainwright, Lynne Wright

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 4th, 10:30 am – noon, Barry Fisher Room, Guin Library

Next Brownbag: Friday, April 30 – Phil Barbour, OSU School of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering
“Wind Power in Oregon: History and the Role of OSU”
Tuesday, May 11- Bob Emmanuel, Oregon Sea Grant Extension, “Rain Gardens”

Minutes

1. Battery Recycling/ Battery Recharging (Rick)

Rick notes that NOAA is recycling a lot of batteries of varying kinds; it is costly to recycle them and takes space to store them. Would it be more cost-effective to buy battery chargers and use rechargeable batteries only? The group had mixed reviews on how well chargers work, but it may be worth a try. Currently, NOAA’s batteries are taken to Portland for recycling.

Actions to find out more about recycling/recharging of batteries:

Rick: Ask for volunteers in the three NOAA buildings to seek answers to the following questions: Who uses batteries? Can the number used be reduced? Can rechargeables be used? Does recharging them work well?

Rick: Ask Thea Smith (NOAA/NWFSC- Montlake) if rechargeables are used at other NOAA sites and if they work well after recharging.

Todd: Ask Brandon Trelstad where OSU batteries get recycled, if there are charges, and if alkaline and rechargeables are disposed of differently? Ask if anyone on campus is recharging and if it works well or not.

Lynne: Call Thompson’s Sanitary Service in Newport to ask where they recycle the batteries, if there is a charge, and if alkaline and rechargeables are disposed of differently.

Judy called North Lincoln Sanitary Services who recommended we look at this website for recycling of rechargeables: <http://www.call2recycle.org>

Call2Recycle.org is a free rechargeable battery and cell phone collection program which sends free “collection boxes with pre-paid, pre-addressed shipping labels, safety instructions and plastic bags for used rechargeable batteries and old cell phones.” They accept the following battery types: Nickel Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride, Nickel Zinc, lithium Ion, Small Sealed Lead Acid. (They do not accept alkaline batteries) This may be a good way for NOAA to recycle rechargeables; there is no charge. And because NOAA is a public agency, it will not need to be listed as a recycling location open to the public. This may be the cheapest way to dispose of the non-alkaline batteries since *Call2recycle* pays for the shipping as well.

2. Transportation Survey (Maryann)

The subcommittee met during April to draw up questions for the HMSC transportation survey; we'll include a brief justification to survey-takers relating why it's important and how information will be used. Links to the bus schedules and pricing information will also be attached for browsing. The survey will ask for names and zip codes, but none of the fields actually will be "required" fields. We plan to offer a prize to participants via a drawing. Maryann will ask Dr. Boehlert to write a letter of support and send it to Department Heads asking them to encourage staff to take the online survey.

Maryann submitted the survey to Brandon Trelstad for feedback and will forward it to the committee after Brandon makes his suggestions. Hopefully he will implement the "PRO Plan" version of SurveyMonkey which includes advanced features and customization; that way we'll glean more information from the data we collect.

We decided to incorporate an "Earth Day" theme with the survey by either sending it out on Earth Day (April 22nd), or by sending out an advance message on Earth Day telling folks the survey will be coming soon.

Action: Maryann will create a "timetable for series of email reminders" to be sent to potential survey takers.

Maryann will ask Dr. Boehlert to write a letter of support aimed at department heads.

Maryann will forward the revised version of the survey to committee for final review.

Maryann will send a short bulleted email to management committee about committee activities in March/April.

3. HMSC Sustainability Webpage (Candace)

Kudos to Candace Rogers; the committee is extremely pleased that Candace offered to create a webpage for the Sustainability Committee. She notes it may need approval from the HMSC web group. We discussed the HMSC template and brainstormed potential sections and links that we might include on the site: photos, mission statement, minutes, agendas, contact, tips-of-the-month, the committee's powerpoint presentation, Community Resources (farmer's market, Thompson's recycling, thrift stores) and transportation (ride-share, etc.) We discussed sections for both internal and external audiences. What information can we provide for new people to HMSC? Anjanette and Sharon have photos that we may want to post.

Action: All committee members will email Candace with suggestions for the webpage

4. Brownbag for April & May (Judy/ Jay)

Friday, April 30 – Phil Barbour, from the OSU School of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, will speak about "Wind Power in Oregon: History and the Role of OSU"

Action: Judy will make flyer.

Tuesday, May 11- Bob Emmanuel, Oregon Sea Grant Extension, "Rain Gardens"

Action: Jay Peterson will make a flyer.

5. Delegate to Newport Sustainability group (Anjanette)

Lou Brusselback, Newport City Councilor, contacted Anjanette because the City Council is setting up a sustainability Task Force which will meet four times over a two-month period. The task force will “help articulate and clarify sustainability goals for functions and services performed by the City and to assist in the development of a sustainable policy for Council consideration”. Lou Brusselback would like someone from the HMSC Sustainability Committee to step forward as the Public Citizen member. Tom Wainwright and Maryann Bozza are considering being the delegate; they will discuss this with Anjanette and decide who will attend.

Action: Tom or Maryann will attend Newport’s Sustainability Task Force as our delegate.

6. Setting Committee Priorities

Maryann believes the Environmental Management System (EMS) that the committee created can be used as a strategic plan and as a tool to help us identify, focus on and achieve specific goals. It includes many potential projects, both long and short term. We discussed the possibility of pursuing one long term goal, one medium-length goal, and several smaller, more easily-attainable goals. We will talk about this further at the next meeting; in the meantime group members will each think of one long-term goal to which the group could commit energy.

Action: Each group member will identify one worthy, potential long-term goal to which the group might want to commit its energy.

7. Changing Computer Power Settings

Todd asked Dann Cutter if he thought it was a good idea to shut computers off at night to save energy. Dann did not feel this was a good idea; he said computers are frequently updated at night. Many of us have changed our power settings to turn off monitors and hard drives after a 10 or 15 minute period of inactivity in order to save energy, and to “sleep” the computer after a half-hour of non-use.

For Next Agenda:

Discuss goals, strategic plan (EMS) and focusing on a few specific commitments.