

HMSC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes: July 6, 2010

Members Present: Maryann Bozza, Judy Mullen, Tom Wainwright, Todd Cross, and
Melissa Murphy

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 3, 10:30am-noon, Barry Fisher Room, Guin Library;
Agenda/Maryann and Minutes/Maryann

August Agenda: To be determined

Upcoming Brownbags:

July 21: Wade Carey, Energy Services Administrator of Central Lincoln PUD on their
Wind Power Program

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

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

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

November: John from Gathering Together Farms (not confirmed)

Potential Speaker: Bob Castanza (sp?) of Portland State's Sustainability Program. May be
appropriate to co-host between the Seminar and Sustainability Committees.

Minutes

1. Welcome to new members from ODFW: Melissa Murphy is relatively new to
ODFW and to Newport, but as a socioeconomist brings valuable skills to both the HMSC
and the Sustainability Committee. She has interest and academic background in
sustainability issues from her time as a student in Portland studying environmental
economics and policy. Anna Pakenham, who was not able to attend and will serve as a
back-up for Melissa, is the legislative liaison for ODFW in marine resources.

2. Review action items

All were otherwise on the agenda; this item skipped.

3. Updates on projects:

- Rain Garden workshop report (Todd): Todd reported on the Stormwater
Solutions/Rain Garden workshop he attended last month. Sea Grant is doing quite
a bit of outreach to communities to highlight stormwater problems, i.e. the cost of
treating stormwater as sewage, and the problems of sewage leaking into the
watershed in the event of excess stormwater during heavy rains. The goal is to
prevent stormwater from entering the stormwater drains, and instead route it into
porous earth that will provide a natural filter, allow the water to be used by trees
and other plants, and increase the water table. The City of Gresham presented
their model system and serve as a resource for what works and what doesn't.
Some of the ways stormwater management may apply on campus is to increase
pervious surfaces, especially when repaving (issues with truck traffic were
acknowledged), use of rain catchments, and use of rain gardens. Todd is
following up on possible ways to solve our sediment buildup problem in the
seawater system through a modified rain garden. Also discussed was the

possibility of partnering with schools and other groups to create some high profile rain gardens in the community. Outreach is a critical component of any such project, on or off campus.

- **Brownbags:** There has been quite a bit of activity on the Brown Bags (Go Team!) and we are now set through September, with tentatives for October and November. Please see the list above.
- **Transportation Survey (Maryann):** Your comments on the survey were appreciated; a slight change in the wording of ‘How many days per month...?’ was requested by several reviewers and will be incorporated. Two issues came up with getting the transportation survey out. First, its now July and not a good time to expect widespread participation. Second, the Management Committee has requested that Maryann send out a survey about the annual HMSC picnic. It was decided that she would use the picnic survey to get any bugs out of the process, and save the transportation survey for September. There is no rush to get the survey out that we know of, although the Port *may* have a deadline on their request for bus transportation data, as it was linked to the LEED certification for the NOAA site. If they ask we may speed up the process, but otherwise, we’ll wait for September to send it out.

4. **Website development (Candace):** Candace was not able to attend, so this item was tabled for a later meeting. Everyone is encouraged to submit their website comments by email to Candace, and to continue to check back when Candace makes edits to the site.

5. **Report on the Strategic Planning Meeting (Maryann):** Maryann presented a summary of the meeting for discussion, which included lists of SC accomplishments, as well as ‘big’, ‘medium’ and ‘small’ projects for the group to tackle. Many are familiar, either in progress, ongoing, or stalled. We identified three ‘medium’ and one ‘big’ project at the planning meeting to pursue in the short term by developing implementation plans or doing more research. It is envisioned that the document will be continually updated as priorities change and project move from ‘planned’ to ‘ongoing’ to ‘accomplished’. The plan is for the group to spend time this summer gathering information in advance of a ‘prioritization and implementation planning meeting’ in the fall. All are asked to review and comment on the document, and add items to any of the lists b sending them to Maryann.

6. **Other issues, and Green info-share round-robin (All):**

- a. Discussion about potential new buildings on campus; what is the role of the SC in the LEED design point choices? Can we get in on the planning process? i.e. for the Marine Mammal and Marine Genomics building, if its funded (we’ll know in September). The question was raised if LEED is still state of the art.
- b. Bobby from Oregon Coast Aquarium’s ‘Green Team’ mentioned that he is getting two Earth Tubs, which HMSC may be able to share. Their volume would be much higher than ours, but we may be able to use our biodegradable cups and plates in it, that are right now in storage. Todd will speak to him.

- c. Maryann brought up the possibility of Lisa Mulcahy joining our group as staff of the Mid Coast Watersheds Council. Lisa attended our strategic planning session and is anxious to partner on stormwater management issues. It was decided that we should keep group membership limited to members of the HMSC Community, and invite Lisa and perhaps other community partners in the future to serve as members of subgroups working on specific projects (i.e. the rain catchment).
- d. Judy passed on info about AES (solar panels) to Maryann for follow-up.
- e. Corvallis recently got a large transportation grant, which will likely result in expanded public transportation between Newport and Corvallis. Someone from the SC should probably engage with the Sustainability group on campus so we can get plugged into the process. Any takers?

Action Items (All)

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: Read and edit planning meeting summary (attached).

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

Maryann: Contact AES.

Todd: Contact Bob at OCA for Earth Tub info.

Anyone? Follow up on Corvallis bus plan.