

Minutes
Sustainability Steering Committee
September 14, 2011

Attendance: John Albano, Donald Appiarius, Steven Beach, Jorge Coartney, Paul Fink, Andrew Floy, Dennis Grady, Stacey Jewel, Jeffrey Orzolek, Richard Roth, Joseph Rudolph, William Dixon for Debra Templeton, Julio Stephens, Mark Wagstaff. Recorder: Sandra Steele

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at Noon in Heth 045 by Chair, Dennis Grady. A quorum was determined.

Minutes:

Minutes from the previous steering committee meeting (April 15, 2011) were approved with a minor rewording change to the *Energy/Water Conservation and Use* section as requested by Chair, Jorge Coartney.

Introductions: Chair, Dennis Grady welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions followed. Stacey Jewell and Paul Fink were introduced respectively as the new President and Co-President of the Environmental Club. It was noted that Jorge Coartney and Don Bowman were unable to attend the meeting due to a meeting about the new COBE building with WDBJ-7.

Dennis Grady announced that the Sustainability Steering Committee would not be meeting as a group each month during the fall semester. Much of the work this semester will be done in sub-committee groups to prepare the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The goal is to present a doable carbon neutrality plan to the Board of Visitors in November.

Working Group Reports:

Curriculum - Chair, Mark Wagstaff

We now have a Certificate of Environmental Studies.

Public Awareness – Chair, Don Bowman

Jo Ann Alger received the Keep'n It Green Award. Jo Ann is the Building Automation Engineer for Facilities Management.

Grounds/Habitats – Chair, Rick Roth

Dennis Grady reported that Joseph Rudolph did a wonderful job coordinating activities for Earth Day. The grant funded balloon to do aerial micro-mapping was a success.

Technology – Chair, John Albano

Dennis Grady asked if lab paper usage was staying flat. John Albano will provide actual numbers at a future meeting.

Food Services/Contracts – Chair, Pamela Simpkins

Pam Simpkins was not present. The new beverage contract was awarded to Coke. Jorge Coartney reported that energy conservation boards are included in the Coke vending machines. Basic discussions are ongoing with Coke regarding recycling.

Energy/Water Conservation and Use – Chair, Jorge Coartney

Jorge Coartney reported that the university saved \$50,000 during the summer as a result of the installation of new chillers. Jo Ann Alger is working on information for seven more Energy Star building ratings. The information submission date is October 1st. If those ratings are achieved Radford University will have the most Energy Star college campus buildings in the United States.

Climate Action Plan – Julio Stephens:

Julio Stephens reported that there were 40 in attendance at the Climate Action Plan (CAP) workshops to solicit mitigation strategies and starting ideas.

Transportation Initiatives – Julio Stephens:

Julio reported that on August 8th the Radford Transit began running two of five buses eventually added. Students returned to campus the last five days of the month and there were over 8,000 customers from the City and University during the month of August. During the first month there was no fare charged. A fee of \$1.00 will ride customers one-way anywhere including transfers to other buses. Customers with RU ID's ride free. Additional promotion will be done on campus next month. There has been expressed interest in connecting Radford Transit and the Smart Way Bus to Amtrak in Lynchburg.

Other – Grants/Community Steering Committee:

The joint grant application submitted to the National Science Foundation to fund flood mitigation was not funded. In a follow-up meeting of the National Committee for the New River the main focus was on the asset of the New River. Andrew Foy reported that he met with the New River Valley Planning District Commission's new steering committee where they discussed a \$1 million dollar sustainability community planning grant. There were nine sustainability planning hubs to include, housing, transportation, energy, food, etc. Radford University was not on the community planning list and Andrew suggested Julio Stephens attend some of the steering committee meetings. Julio Stephens stated he attended the initial kick-off at Claytor Lake. Andrew stated that the steering committee is putting together a needs assessment based on,

“What do you think makes you more sustainable?” The steering committee is holding workshops and hiring employees.

ACTION: A suggestion was made to invite the New River Valley Planning District Commission’s new grant coordinator to attend a Radford University Sustainability Steering Committee meeting. Dennis Grady suggested that Andrew provide information to coordinate that to Sandra Steele.

Andrew Foy reported that he received a grant for cigarette liter prevention in the amount of \$1,000. The intended use of the grant is to purchase materials to reduce liter, smoking, etc. Andrew stated that the money needs to be spent soon and asked for suggestions and ideas.

Climate Action Plan – Julio Stephens:

Julio Stephens presented a PowerPoint presentation of the process, timeline, and expectations for the Climate Action Plan (CAP). A handout, *Review of CAPS Best Practices* was discussed and available for review. A handout was distributed to include the CAP proposed timeline, process, strategies, and CAP members and meetings. Two technical working groups will meet during the fall semester; Mitigation, Chair - Jorge Coartney; and Education, Research and Outreach, Chair - Mark Wagstaff. Both working groups will need additional help in suggestions and ideas to move the process along during the fall semester.

Julio Stephens will present the Climate Action Plan to Staff Senate tomorrow with plans to meet with Faculty and AP Senates and the Board of Visitors. Dennis Grady asked if there are plans to make any campus-wide announcements. Julio Stephens stated that brief information will be presented prior to a series of sustainability movies scheduled in the Bonnie, and additional information will be available on the Radford University and Sustainability websites.

Dennis Grady commended Julio Stephens, the Sustainability Steering Committee, and the Radford University community for development of the Climate Action Plan. He added that everything is right on target, and noted that President Kyle is very enthusiastic about sustainability efforts at Radford University and in the community.

ACTION: Dennis Grady will contact Don Bowman in Radford University Public Relations to develop a CAP news story.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.