

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

July 16, 2010

Members: Noted at 11 members present

The minutes from the June 18, 2010 meeting were acknowledged as corrected

Lennis Pederson reported that the alternative energy project was moving forward. Additional crews will be on site July 19 to accelerate installing the solar array in the parking lot. The goal is to complete that phase of work by August 10th. The tracker panel south of the Lied Education Center will be under construction in two weeks and that will go quickly. The delivery date for the wind turbines continues to slip because the manufacturer can not get his supply of magnets.

A sub-committee will soon be name to develop programs that promotes car pooling. Volunteers for the committee are being accepted. Known to be on the committee are Cec Halstrom, Ken Juhl, and Mark Simanek. Two others will be added. A “kick off” meeting will be set up later in August.

Rose Hill has agreed to chair the committee that will draft guidelines for small grant projects. The work of the committee also includes:

- Review grant requests and recommend approval
- Monitor outcome as compared to scope of grant request
- Audit the completed project

Joining her on the committee will be Joe Zaborowski, Frank Reida, and Richard Jehlik. A “kick off” meeting will be convened soon.

Lennis Pederson updated the group on the art display known as Global Water Crisis. A sculpture and other visual art regarding the water crisis in Nebraska and around the world will be on display in mid September. The artist has not gotten as much volunteers as hoped for so the sculpture display will be contained in the Lied Education Center.

Joe Zaborowski explained the Zip Car concept. The contract will be sent to Zip Car in a few days. The program at Creighton will be in operation in mid-August. He explained some of the rules for use of the car.

Jessica reported that the Community Garden is doing okay. Involvement by the 20 or so involved in the garden is doing well. She is learning as it progresses and will have some ideas about how to do more and better. Andrew Waltke is new to the council and desires to have expertise added to the program. He has developed gardens in other parts of the world. There will be a meeting set to do more planning for next year.

Stephanie Wernig could not be at the meeting. Had she attended she would have reported that she has completed the Sustainability Report Card. This year’s effort was much greater than previous years. It is understood that Rich Rossi will submit for the University on Residence and Dining. Lee Galles is submitting regarding the endowment.

Frank Reida updated the Council on new legislation and regulations. He stressed five points of interest:

1. Oil spill liability provisions. Other options could include such items as - the Bingaman renewable energy standard; a “low-carbon” or “diverse energy standard”, which could nuclear power or natural gas as permissible forms of compliance; and various versions of carbon pricing. Environmentalist and liberal Democrats have expressed dissatisfaction with the Bingaman renewable energy standard,

and are gearing up to oppose any curbs on EPA authority that are de-linked from carbon pricing. Another report cleared the “Climategate” scientists of any wrongdoing.

2. EPA Publishes Proposed Data Confidentiality Rule: Under the proposed rule for direct emitters, the location and amount of GHG emissions, inputs to emissions equations, emissions calculation methodologies, and information for periods with missing data must be publicly disclosed.
3. Industry and States File 18 New Lawsuits Challenging GHG Fuel Economy Rule: The joint GHG emission and fuel economy standards recently promulgated by EPA and the Dept. of Transportation, 18 new petitions were filed - bringing the total number of challenges to the joint rulemaking to 25. Petitioners filing new challenges included the Energy Intensive Manufacturers’ Working Group on Greenhouse Gas Regulations; the Portland Cement Association; the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; the Utility Air Regulatory group; the National Mining Associations; Peabody Energy Co.; the American Farm Bureau Federation; the Coalition for Responsible Regulations; the National Association of Manufacturers; the American Chemistry Council; the American Forest and Paper Association; and the Clean Air Implementation Project. The states of Texas, Alabama, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota and Virgin also filed a point petition.
4. CBO Analysis Finds \$19 Billion Deficit Reduction From Kerry-Lieberman Climate-Energy Bill. According to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the American Power Act (APA), sponsored by Senators John Kerry (D-MA) and Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), would generate \$751 billion in government revenues and direct spending of \$732 billion between 2011 and 2020, resulting in a \$19 billion deficit reduction.
5. Report Clears British “Climategate” Scientists of Wrongdoing: Last fall, a large number of e-mails from the scientists were hacked and published, along with allegations that the scientists had manipulated or suppressed data in order to refute the theories of climate change skeptics. The report concluded that there was no reason to doubt the rigor or honesty of the scientists or their work, but criticized the scientists for not being open enough when responding to request that they disclose raw data and computer codes.

Lennis explained the idea of having a team set up to periodically test pressure and inflate tires on campus person’s cars. The event might take place monthly. People from Facilities Management will need to be part of the on-site team.

George Tangeman spoke about the need to monitor temperatures to minimize the use of wasted air conditioners. He is also listing out 100 spaces/areas on campus that could be a target for occupancy sensors for lighting control.

The Swap and Share event will need to be further developed. Cheri Ammin will be part of the committee that sets this up. A larger working committee will be established to plan and execute the venue, ideally later in the fall.

Peter Maas spoke to the council about expanding the single stream recycling program. He listed several buildings that will be added to the program in the next few weeks. He also is progressing with a single stream recycle program outdoors. He has arranged a gift of containers that could be placed around campus when the free containers are cleaned and painted.

Peter expressed frustration about the lack of participation in recycling at the recent exhibition soccer match. There will be more events to have this program fleshed out but announcing the availability is seen as key.

Jessica Heller informed the group about recent developments with a blossoming bike program. Recent meetings about a program have indicated the student involvement could grow. The city has grant money available to help expand any program that may be developed. Bike security and bike storage are important pieces of the program.

It was explained that the Brendle Group will be starting the greenhouse gas analysis that will help the University define the carbon foot print. The kick off meeting is anticipated in August.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2010 at 2:00 pm in the Union Pacific Room in the Alumni Library.